

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of March 28, 2022

Meeting Conducted Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022

Board Members Present: Thomas Gibson, Chair; Glen Castro (remote); Floyd Carman (remote); Ross Vona; Walter Wellman (remote).

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

Guests (remote): Scott Driscoll, NEPC; James H. Quirk, Jr., Board Counsel.

Identified Public Attendees (remote): Ted Pendergast, Operations Manager, Public Safety Communications; Tom O'Brien, Public Safety Communications Dispatcher; Jim Riccio, Public Safety Communications Dispatcher; Gar Chung, Financial News; Madeline Katz, MandateWire; Tom Caputo.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Board Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the February 28, 2022 Board Meetings Minutes.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Review of Investments with NEPC: Mr. Driscoll reviewed the System's investment performance through February 2022 and addressed the volatility in the markets due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the impact on current and future planned investments have been affected. Inflation is likely to result in multiple interest rate hikes in the near future. Mr. Driscoll discussed the System's exposure to Russian assets, which is limited to around 10 to 11 basis points. The Board asked Scott to do further due diligence on the planned emerging market investment. Mr. Driscoll referenced the NEPC conference in on May 17 & 18. Mr. Driscoll will review asset allocation at the April board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to delay funding of the emerging debt market investment with MetLife as recommended by NEPC in light of the recent conflict with Russia and Ukraine.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman to approve expenses for Board Members to attend the NEPC conference in Boston in May of 2022.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed

Future Meeting Dates: April 25, 2022; May 31, 2022; June 27, 2022; July 25, 2022.

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 9:52 am.

Board Counsel Report: Attorney Quirk discussed a recent DALA decision regarding Notice of Injury requirements for accidental disability retirement. A copy of all injury reports should be sent to the Board. Attorney Quirk and the Board discussed efforts regarding the Dispatcher's Group 2 Classification issue. Mr. Gibson submitted further information to PERAC in support of the Supplemental Regulation but has not received a response. The Chair made a presentation at the February 28, 2022 Select Board meeting regarding the possible need for a special act to allow Dispatchers to retain Group 2 status. Mr. Gibson requested the Board's approval to petition for a special act at the upcoming Town Meeting. Mr. Quirk also discussed changes with PRIM in the near future, and potential changes to the PRIM Board.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman to approve the submission of a Warrant Article for a special act for the Dispatchers to retain Group 2 status at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed

Report of the Executive Director: Mr. Soohoo presented the 3(8)C updates. The staff had one 3(8)(c) bill delayed awaiting PERAC's approval. This should be resolved completely by next month. Mr. Soohoo discussed the FIRE system the IRS now uses, and an issue with the Board's ability to log in. He has

requested a filing extension and is working with the Treasurer's Office to resolve the issue. Mr. Soohoo discussed a recent inactive member death that occurred within the system. The member has an Option D beneficiary named as a minor child. Attorney Quirk will advise on payment options. The Board discussed the recent SJC decision on regular compensation. H.R. and Payroll have been advised that deductions should cease from supplemental payments made to members who are receiving Worker's Compensation. Mr. Soohoo informed the Board of a disability retiree who was overpaid in 2020. The member will be advised on his options for repayment and possibly a hearing may be necessary. The new Website should have final changes done this week and be going live in the next month. The Board and staff discussed attending the 2022 Spring MACRS Conference.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman to approve expenses for Board Members and staff to attend the MACRS conference in June.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed

The Board Reviewed Staff timesheets.

Update of cash books: The Board acknowledged the recent submission of cash books to PERAC, 2021 has been fully submitted and we are now working on the 2021 Annual Statement.

Mr. Soohoo illustrated some changes that have been made to revise the budget.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve changes to the 2021 and 2022 budgets that will be indicated in a new column for the amended budget.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the March Expense Warrant and the March Payroll Warrants.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
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Mr. Vona Yes
 Mr. Carman Yes
 Mr. Gibson Yes
 Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

Correspondence Received: Mr. Gibson discussed an email from the Belmont Warrant Committee. They will provide the Board a draft copy of its FY 23 Budget Report, as was requested last year. The Board approved Mr. Gibson to respond.

Public Records requests: LP Analysts and MandateWire requested the February NEPC report.

PERAC Memos: The Board reviewed PERAC memos #9 of 2022. Memo #9 is an update on the open meeting law and the extension of Retirement Boards' option to host meetings virtually.

Enrollment of New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mem Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group</u>
Alicia Dwyer	02/24/2022	Building Substitute	School	1
Eric Abruzzi	03/21/2022	Rec. Program Coordinator	Rec Dept	1
Barbara Whitney	03/14/2022	Library Assistant I	Library	1

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve New Member Enrollment.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro Yes
 Mr. Vona Yes
 Mr. Carman Yes
 Mr. Gibson Yes
 Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

New Retirement Applications

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ret Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Group</u>
Rochelle Sacco	02/21/2022	Beneficiary	88	NA	Section 101	Fire	NA

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve retirement applications.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Chair's Report: Mr. Gibson discussed the actuarial valuation for the Commonwealth, noting the maintain of the reduction in the assumed rate of return from 7.25% to 7.00%. NEPC does PRIM's projections, and may recommend lowering the System's assumed rate of return as well. Mr. Gibson also reported he digitally signed the new Segal contract. He also discussed an upcoming SJC case involving vacation sell backs. A letter and NEPC reports were sent to the Select Board and Warrant Committee reporting the CY 2021 year end investment information. He discussed the recent Notice of Election that was dated February 7, 2022. Staff is waiting for the due date for applicants. Currently, there are two confirmed candidates.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to enter Executive Session under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Involuntary Application rejected by the Board.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to Adjourn Meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed.

Meeting adjourns at 11:34 AM.

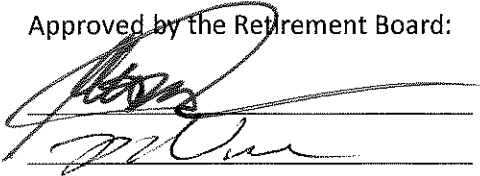
Documents Distributed:

March 28, 2022 Agenda
NEPC March 2022 Presentation
PERAC memo #9 of 2022
Letter to Select Board and NECP's 2021 Presentation

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Soohoo', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line are two more horizontal lines, which are currently blank.

April 25, 2022