

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of May 31, 2022

Meeting Conducted Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022

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

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

Guests (remote): Scott Driscoll, NEPC; James H. Quirk, Jr., Board Counsel; Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator.

Identified Public Attendees (remote): Ted Pendergast, Operations Manager, Public Safety Communications; Jim Riccio, Public Safety Communications Dispatcher; Kevin Balaod, With.Intelligence; Tom O'Brien, Public Safety Communications Supervisor; Chris Doyle, Warrant Committee; Zack Cziryak, Financial News; Madeline Katz, Mandatewire.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. The Chairman expressly welcomed Jennifer Hewitt, the Town of Belmont's new Assistant Town Administrator, to the Board meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the April 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Carman suggested a minor modification.

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve the April 25, 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 April 2022, noting how different asset classes have been impacted in the recent months, especially because of interest rate hikes. He reviewed gross and net returns for the plan under the current economic issues. PRIM is down 7.5% on a net of fees basis YTD, and the System's plan is down 5.8% YTD. Mr. Driscoll then reviewed the responses to the RFP for a passive S&P 500 index fund manager. Of the two applicants, the incumbent Rhumblin Advisors and Amalgamated Bank, Rhumblin has more experience in Massachusetts with public retirement and both plans have a similar fee structure. With reference to the RFP for a Private Debt manager, Mr. Driscoll reported that 15 responses have been received. He will present recommendations to the Board in June or July. Mr. Driscoll suggested the Board begin the annual investment manager reviews in June.

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to retain Rhumblin Advisors as the Large Cap Manager (Passive S&P 500) for a period not to exceed 7 years (amended).

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Jim Quirk will review the previous side letter and recommend any changes. Mr. Driscoll will inform Rhumblin of the Board's decision.

Future Meeting Dates: June 27, 2022; July 25, 2022; August 29, 2022; September 19, 2022.

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 10:00 am.

\*Mr. Carman voted yes to approve the April Board minutes.

**Review of the 2021 Annual Statement.** The Board reviewed the 2021 Annual Statement that was submitted to PERAC at the end of April.

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve the 2021 Annual Statement.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

**Board Counsel Report:** Mr. Quirk inquired whether the Board if they would like to adopt a policy on electronic signatures after some decisions were made by PERAC. The Board will have this as an agenda item next month and Mr. Quirk will discuss it with them. Mr. Gibson noted the positive results that have come from having the Board and public participate at meetings remotely. The board will be prepared to handle any changes in the near future to Open Meeting Laws.

**Report of the Executive Director:** Mr. Soohoo updated the Board on the 3(8)(c) invoices. Mr. Soohoo reported that Benefit Verification Forms will be mailed tentatively in June. Mr. Soohoo updated the Board on the issue with the new FIRE IRS system, noting that he was able to log on and submit the file on May 23, 2022.

**Election update:** Mr. Horan updated Board Members on the status of the Board election. Ballots will be tabulated on 6/24/2022. Mr. Horan will invite the candidates to observe, and members are invited as well.

Update of cash books: Cash Books have been submitted to PERAC through April 2022.

**Review of the 2022 Expense Budget:** The Board will discuss staff salaries and COLA at the next board meeting.

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

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Mr. Castro discussed the May 2022 NEPC Conference that he attended, noting that it was informative and helpful to him in better understanding the worldwide investment landscape.

Correspondence Received: None.

**Public Records Requests:** Fundwire and Madeline Katz and With.Intelligence submitted requests and were provided NEPC reports.

PERAC Memos: The Board reviewed PERAC memo #12 of 2022. Memo #12 is an updated list of individuals who have been criminally convicted and are not eligible for membership in the retirement system.

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>
Carrie Oteri	04/23/2022	Beneficiary	79	NA	Option C Survivor	Facilities	NA
Mary Oteri	07/22/2022	Secretary	65	24 Years, 0 Month	SuperAnn, Option B	School	1

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve New Retirement Benefits.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes

Mr. Carman            Yes  
 Mr. Gibson            Yes  
 Mr. Wellman           Yes

The Motion passed.

Enrollment of New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mem Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group</u>
Peter Maher	04/25/2022	Plumbing & Gas	Comm. Development	1
Elham Safarali Najjar	04/26/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Jake Reed	05/02/2022	HMEO/Laborer	Highway	1
Ayse Humeyra San	05/03/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Paivi Albaiti	03/03/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
David Neylon	05/01/2022	Public Health Nurse	Gent Govt	1
Colleen Burke	05/16/2022	SHMEO/Laborer	Cemetery	1
Jennifer Hewitt	05/23/2022	Asst TA/Finance Director	Selectmen	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.

Buy Backs

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pay Date</u>	<u>Service Type</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Retirement Board</u>	<u>Amount of Purchase</u>
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William Watkins Jr.	TBD	Makeup	0 Years, 4 Months	Belmont	\$980.19
Leanne Fierro	TBD	Makeup	0 Years, 6 Months	Belmont	\$2,353.84

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve purchase of prior service.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Member Deaths

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Benefit</u>
Michael Salvo	04/20/2022	SuperAnn, Option A	11 Years, 6 Months	05/02/2005	\$613.60
Janet Lee	05/12/2022	Survivor Option D	NA	06/19/1982	\$831.96
Gregory Oteri	04/22/2022	SuperAnn, Option C	37 Years, 8 Months	07/31/2000	\$2,267.61

**Chair’s Report:** Mr. Gibson reviewed the Town Meeting’s approval of Article 10 seeking special legislation to retain the Belmont Emergency Response personnel in Group 2. Mr. Gibson was grateful for the overwhelming affirmative vote, but expressed disappointment with the opinion of a few Town Meeting members who felt the Board and the Select Board were disingenuous regarding the cost of the article. He then discussed actions going forward with the approved special act. Mr. Gibson discussed the Warrant Committee’s FY23 Budget Report, and acknowledged that some changes were incorporated based on the Board’s response to the draft report. He reiterated the importance of having an open and collaborative relationship with all stakeholders in the System. Next, Mr. Gibson discussed recent reports suggesting changes to the assumed rate of investment returns and the increases to the COLA base approved by other municipalities. A proposed outside section of the state budget will provide a one-time 5% COLA to retired State and State Teacher employees, and provide a local option for municipalities to do the same. He provided further actuarial and legislative updates.

James Quirk leaves the meeting at 11:13 am.

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to enter into 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.

The board accepted an Involuntary Disability Application filed by the town of Belmont on behalf of Matthew Benoit.

**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 11:26 AM.

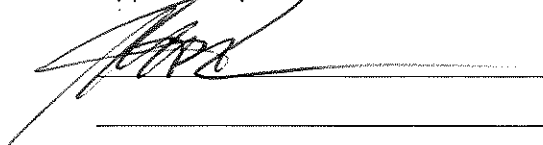
Documents Distributed:

May 31, 2022 Agenda  
NEPC May 2022 Presentation  
PERAC memo #12 of 2022  
Warrant Committee Report FY 2023  
Forensic Analysis of Pension Funding: A Tool for Policymakers

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo  
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:



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June 27, 2022

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