

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of November 28, 2022

Meeting Conducted Pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022

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

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

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

Identified Public Attendees: Ted Pendergast, Operations Manager, Public Safety Communications (Remote); Kevin Balaod, With.Intelligence (Remote); Gar Chung, Financial News (remote); Matt Taylor, Warrant Committee.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and introduced the Board members and guests.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the October 19, 2022 Board Meeting and Executive Session Minutes.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed

Floyd Carman joined meeting at 9:19 AM

Review of Investments with NEPC: Mr. Driscoll reviewed the plan's performance year to date through October. Discussed how efforts to fight inflation may affect the economy negatively and lead to further down markets. Mr. Driscoll detailed performance by class and manager to show the net returns. Real estate and hedge funds have both done well in this down market. Mr. Driscoll does not expect real estate to continue as strongly going forward. Private Equity is still positive for the year but returns not as strong as in the past. Mr. Driscoll reviewed the Q3 performance relative to peers. YTD the System ranks in the 13th percentile.

PRIM's Vintage Year 2023 Commitment was discussed by Mr. Driscoll. Mr. Driscoll reviewed how much we would be committing over the next decade. He detailed how this may affect the plan going forward.

Mr. Driscoll also mentioned that Rothschild is being acquired by Wintrust. NEPC will do their due diligence on the acquisition and will report their findings to the Board.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to commit 1 million to the PRIT Private Equity Vintage Year 2023.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Future Meeting Dates: December 19, 2022; January 30, 2023; February 27, 2023.

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 10:16 am.

Board Counsel Report: Mr. Quirk advised of an upcoming change at DALA as the Chief Magistrate has been nominated for a judgeship at the Department of Industrial Accidents. Mr. Quirk reported that the response to the show cause in the Board’s appeal to DALA to retain Dispatcher’s in Group 2 has been extended 60 days. Mr. Vona provided an update on the House Bill 5217 and said that it has moved forward with no issues. Mr. Gibson discussed the one-time 5% COLA increase which has been signed by the governor for FY 23. This requires approval by the Retirement Board and the Selectboard. Mr. Gibson has contacted Kathy Riley for a report on the cost of the increase if accepted. This must be voted within FY 2023 and will be retroactive back to July 1, 2022.

Report of the Executive Director: Mr. Soohoo reported that the draft budget for CY 2023 will be presented at the December Board Meeting. The PERAC audit for 2017-2020 will begin soon (TBD). Mr. Gibson discussed the 2013-2016 audit follow up report received from PERAC. The findings on Group 2 classification for dispatchers is being addressed and the issues with school employee enrollment has been drastically improved. All other findings have been resolved and Mr. Gibson thanked the staff for their efforts. Mr. Soohoo discussed payment to the estate of retiree Roland Durrell who passed away without an adjustment for the Option C pop-up upon the earlier death of his beneficiary. Mr. Soohoo discussed the updated GASB report.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Castro, to acknowledge the revised GASB report and its distribution to the town and other parties.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Update of cash books: Cash book have been completed through August; September will be done soon. Reconciliations with the town with the cash account has been completed through October. The payroll account will be up to date next month.

Review of the 2022 Expense Budget: The Board reviewed the Expense Budget through October of 2022. Draft Budget for calendar year 2023 will be reviewed in December.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the November 2022 Expense and Payroll Warrants.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Correspondence Received: No Correspondence this month.

Public Records Requests: All requests have been satisfied.

PERAC Memos: The Board reviewed PERAC Memo #27 – Schedule for cyber security training. PERAC Memo #28 – Option for electronic signatures for Boards, this will have to be discussed by the board to decide on what would require wet signatures still as well. The board will have to adopt a supplemental regulation to change their signature policies. PERAC Memo #29 - 5% Local COLA option which was discussed earlier.

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>
Janice Sparks	1/2/2023	Sargent	53	35 Years, 6 Months	SuperAnn, Option A	Police	4

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve retirements as listed.

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>
Stephanie Wise	10/03/2022	Admin. Coordinator	Community Development	1
Mahdiehalsadat Salehi	09/29/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Doreen Cameron	11/07/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Aimee LeBrun	11/10/2022	Volunteer Coordinator	Council On Aging	1
Jose Maldonado	11/01/2022	BHA Maintenance	BHA	1

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Castro, to approve New Member Enrollment and Purchases of Service.

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 provided a PERAC update. PERAC is seeking to legislatively define regular compensation further in reference to the use of sick, personal and vacation time. Mr. Gibson discussed the new issues with emotional disability cases such as PTSD when the required injury report has not been filed. Mr. Gibson also discussed the new ASOP rules around required reporting for actuarial liability. He provided a recent article on the pros and cons of pension obligation bonds. With regard to 2023 initiatives, Mr. Gibson would like to produce a newsletter for the members, as well as a pension education forum. Mr. Gibson reported on the status of PTG's legal issues. Mr. Quirk reached out to PTG them but has not received a response at this time. Mr. Gibson suggested that Mr. Quirk send a follow up. Mr. Gibson noted a DALA appeal that the Board is a party to involving a retired member of MTRS.

Mr. Taylor exited the meeting at 11:03 AM.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to enter into Executive Session under purpose 7 of Open Meeting Law, to comply with the provisions of the public records law preventing disclosure of a member's personal and medical information. The Board will reconvene in open session for the purpose of announcing votes taken and will then adjourn.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:05 AM.

The Board voted to approve the Involuntary Disability Retirement for Matthew Benoit. Mr. Quirk will complete a finding of fact before submitting.

The Board voted to approve the Accidental Disability Retirement for Ronald Mathis.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to adjourn.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Meeting adjourns at 11:27 AM.

Documents Distributed:

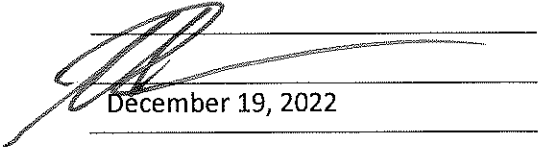
November 28, 2022 Agenda
NEPC November 2022 Presentation
PERAC memos #27-#29 of 2022
S&P Global Article – November 15, 2022
Borrowing to Backfill Public Pensions Article – November 15, 2022
PERAC Audit follow-up report 2013-2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:





December 19, 2022
