

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2022

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

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

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

Guests: Scott Driscoll, NEPC (Remote); James H. Quirk, Jr., Esq., Board Counsel (Remote); Michael Trotsky, PRIM; Laura Strickland, PRIM.

Identified Public Attendees (remote): Elizabeth Dionne, Warrant Committee; Madeline Katz, MandateWire; Mc Cyril Espanol, With Intelligence; Ted Pendergast, Belmont 911 Communications Manager; Gar Chung, Financial News.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:21 am and introduced the Board members and guests.

Board Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the September 19, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

**Motion** by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Castro, to approve the September 19, 2022 Board Meetings Minutes.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

**PRIM Annual Review:** Mr. Trotsky and Laura Strickland appeared on behalf of PRIM. Mr. Trotsky provided a detailed report of PRIM's investment performance, comparing returns of CY2021 and CY2022 to date, citing the issues that have negatively impacted the markets and each PRIT Fund asset class. Although PRIT is down significantly for the year, it is faring favorably compared to other similar plans. PRIM believes that even though the markets are down, it has been an opportunity to see how PRIM can find new ways to change. The most intriguing asset class is the distressed debt market which has been quiet for years. PRIM has hired 11 new employees this past year and has promoted 4 high performing employees. Mr. Trostky discussed the future of PRIM's different real estate holdings. Mr. Gibson acknowledged PRIM as an investment partner for the Belmont Retirement System and acknowledged the comfort from their recent upgrades in cybersecurity. There were no findings for PRIM on their most recent PERAC Audit. PRIM was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in public investments funds.

Michael Trotsky and Laura Strickland exited the meeting at 10:06 AM.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

**Review of Investments with NEPC:** Mr. Driscoll reviewed performance through September. The plan is down 13.7 Percent net of fees YTD. Even though the plan is down, the plan is doing well when compared to other plans. Real estate is up 8.5 percent YTD which has helped stem losses in other areas. Reviewed recent capital calls for GoldenTree and reviewed returns over different time periods. Despite the recent performance, long term, the plan continues to exceed its assumed rate of return. Mr. Driscoll reported that the PRIM PEV 2023 offering will be discussed at the November Board meeting.

Future Meeting Dates: November 28, 2022; December 19, 2022; January 23, 2023 (tentatively).

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 10:30 am.

**Board Counsel Report:** Mr. Quirk reported a show cause order was issued by DALA involving the appeal of PERAC's audit finding to reclassify the Belmont Dispatchers from Group 2 to Group 1. He will work with the dispatchers in drafting a response. The home rule petition addressing the same issue, H5217, is progressing through the legislative process, and is now at the House Committee on Third Reading. With regard to investment contracts, Mr. Quirk will prepare a cybersecurity disclosure note for future side letters to protect the system from potential threats.

**Report of the Executive Director:** Mr. Soohoo discussed a purchase of service request from a former employee of the Town, Leanne Fierro. Mr. Gibson suggested that Attorney Quirk review the request and render an opinion.

**Cash Books Update:** Cash Books have been completed through August and have been submitted to PERAC. The office continues to await required reconciliation from the new Belmont Assistant Treasurer. The office has reconciled the accounts internally through September, but has not received the reconciling from the Treasurer's office for July. The previous Assistant Treasurer is assisting the new Assistant Treasurer and confirmed they will get caught up.

**Review of the 2022 Expense Budget:** The Board reviewed the Expense Budget through September of 2022. Mr. Gibson suggested that the projected IT budget should be further reviewed. The CY 2023 draft budget will be prepared for the November meeting.

**Motion** by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to approve the October Expense Warrant and September's Payroll Warrant.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Correspondence Received: Correspondence reviewed by Mr. Soohoo in Report of the Executive Director.

**Public Records Requests:** All requests received have been satisfied. Mr. Gibson advised of a first amendment group that is targeting public offices and filming reactions of employees to requests for information. Staff is aware and will make every effort to satisfy all public records requests.

PERAC Memos: The Board reviewed PERAC Memo #24 regarding Board member training for the fourth quarter of 2022. Memo #25 is an updated tobacco list. Memo #26 is a request for appropriation data from PERAC. Memo #27 is cyber security training being offered to employees of the Commonwealth. Mr. Gibson reviewed a fraud alert that was sent from PERAC.

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>
Jake Scanlon	01/20/2022	Facilities Worker	12	4 Years, 8 Months	12(2)d Benefit	Facilities	1

**Motion** by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Castro, to approve retirement(s) as listed.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Absent
Mr. Carman	Absent
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>
Leigh Hilderbrandt	10/03/2022	Admin. Coordinator	Community Development	1
Kurtis Skaife	09/29/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Yeung Hee Kim	10/05/2022	Cafeteria Worker	School	1
Satenik Barseghyan	09/14/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Thomas Brennan	09/06/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Odalys Torres	10/03/2022	Accts Payable Clerk	Treasury	1
Leonor Corbo	10/17/2022	Clerk	Treasury	1
Gerald Sullivan	10/24/2022	IT Specialist	School	1

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>
Alec Thompson		Military	4 yrs 0 mths		TBD

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

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

**Motion** by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Castro, to bill all current buybacks and recalculate buybacks when the new contracts are available.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Absent
Mr. Carman	Absent
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>
Thomas Kehoe	09/22/2022	Acc. Dis. Option B (Spouse Deceased)	13 Years, 3 Months	09/30/1973	\$1,962.20
Roland Durrell	09/10/2022	SuperAnn, Option C (Spouse Deceased)	38 Years, 7 Months	06/30/1994	\$2,868.78

The Board acknowledges the passing of members Thomas Kehoe and Roland Durrell.

**Chair's Report:** Mr. Gibson reported on the recent PERAC investigative report addressing the scam involving the Quincy Retirement System, which resulted in a loss of \$3.5 million dollars. Mr. Gibson suggested a review of safeguards and IT enhancements to protect the System. Staff will review protocols and policies and make recommendations to the Board. Mr. Gibson provided a legislative update for Board members, including the status of the one-time COLA percentage increase for FY 2023, and the military service purchase amendment bill.

**Motion** by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Castro, 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. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Absent
Mr. Carman	Absent
Mr. Gibson	Yes
Mr. Wellman	Yes

The Motion passed

Board entered executive session at 11:22 AM.

The Board voted to accept the Accidental Disability Retirement Application filed by James Gavell, and to request PERAC to convene a Medical Panel.

The Medical Panel results for Matthew Benoit and Ronald Mathis will be reviewed by Board attorney James Quirk and will be discussed at the November Board meeting.

**Motion** by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Castro, to adjourn Meeting.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed

Meeting adjourns at 11:36 PM.

Documents Distributed:

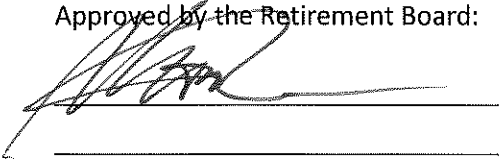
October 24, 2022 Agenda  
NEPC October 2022 Presentation  
PERAC memo #24 - #26 of 2022  
PRIM Presentation

PERAC report on Quincy Fraud incident  
Letter from member Leanne Fierro

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.

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November 28, 2022

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