

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of December 19, 2022

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

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

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

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

Identified Public Attendees: Ted Pendergast (remote), Cyril Espanol (remote), Thomas Caputo (remote), Thomas O'Brien (remote), Roy Epstein (remote).

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. and introduced the Board members and guests.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve the November 28, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed

Review of Investments with NEPC: Mr. Driscoll reviewed the plan's performance year to date through November. He will send a flash report to the Board when PRIM's data is complete. There have been positive results in the markets for November. Mr. Driscoll noted the bond markets poor performance in recent years; one would need to go back 10 years to see positive returns. The weakness of the dollar has helped Emerging and International Equities. Mr. Driscoll noted Atlanta Capital's performance over the benchmark in the down markets.

Mr. Quirk recommended the Board review and update investment policies in 2023.

Mr. Driscoll recommended the Board invest \$4 million of the appropriation funds in PRIM's International Equity Fund.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to invest \$4 million in PRIM's International Equity Fund.

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes

Mr. Wellman Yes

The Motion passed.

Future Meeting Dates: January 30, 2023; February 27, 2023; March 20, 2023.

Scott Driscoll exited the meeting at 9:47 am.

Review of the Financial Statements: The Board had previously reviewed the draft Financial Statement as of December 2021 and December 2020 prepared by Powers and Sullivan.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to accept Belmont’s Financial Statements as of December 2021 and 2020.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed

Review of the Actuarial Valuation for 2022: Board Members reviewed the January 1, 2022 Actuarial Valuation prepared by Segal.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to accept the January 1, 2022 Actuarial Valuation.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed

Board Counsel Report: Mr. Quirk updated the Board on a recent Superior Court Decision in *Susan Hartnett vs. Boston Retirement System & PERAC*, regarding anti-spiking.

Report of the Executive Director: Mr. Soohoo reported that one member, Robert Garber, has not completed the 2022 BVF affidavit after multiple attempts to contact him. Mr. Soohoo discussed deceased member Roland Durrell, who should have had his benefit increased under the Option A pop-up in 2021. The office will delay the payment until the family sets up an estate. Mr. Soohoo discussed the RICOH contract for the office printer. Mr. Gibson requested further research on the issue of lease v. purchase for the next meeting. The Town has advised that as of June 30, 2023, the Town will be switching their phone lines to VOIP, and the office phone numbers may need to be changed; Mr. Petto, the Town IT Director, will provide an update when available. Sarah Haff, a previous member,

transferred to MTRS in 2015 but MTRS never received the deductions check. Mr. Gibson advises that the office's due diligence has been sufficient to reissue a new check.

Motion by Mr. Castro, seconded by Mr. Vona, to suspend the benefit of member Robert Garber for December's payroll.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Castro, to send a new transfer check to MTRS for prior member Sarah Haff.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

The Board acknowledged the staff's timesheets through December 19, 2022.

Update of cash books: Cash book have been completed through September will be sent shortly. Reconciliations with the Town have been completed through November.

Review of the 2022 Expense Budget: The Board reviewed the Expense Budget through December of 2022. The Draft Budget for calendar year 2023 was reviewed by Board members. Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Soohoo to contact PTG about the Employee Self Service and ask them to do a presentation for the Board. Mr. Quirk mentioned that PTG has settled their legal case recently as well. Board members pointed out changes in the budget and the reasoning for those adjustments. Mr. Gibson suggested an increase to the budget for distribution of informational mailings to members. This was determined to be about \$1,000.00 and was added to office supplies.

Motion by Mr. Castro, seconded by Mr. Vona, to approve the draft Budget for 2023.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve the December 2022 Expense Warrant.

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

Correspondence Received: Five members have requested to continue to receive their monthly Notices of Deposit statements. The Board will allow same for any member that requests this in writing.

Public Records Requests: All requests have been satisfied.

PERAC Memos: The Board reviewed PERAC Memo #30 – Proposed amendments to PERACs CMR Regulations. Dates and Links to the Zoom hearings on these proposed amendments. PERAC Memo #31 – Annual Review of Medical Testing Fee. \$100.00 per case approval for non-invasive medical testing associated with the medical panel. PERAC Memo #32 – Updated Tobacco List.

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>
John Marshall	12/30/2022	Custodian	71	28 Years, 0 Months	SupperAnn, Option B	Library	1

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

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	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>
Marcus Batista	11/07/2022	Facilities Supervisor	Facilities	1
Slater T. Panosian	12/05/2022	Local Building Inspector	Community Development	1

Krishna J. Quigley	12/08/2022	Pro. Aide	School	1
Kevin Bouck	12/05/2022	Recycling Coordinator	Highway	1
Logan Manchester	11/28/2022	Ref. and Local Hist. Librarian	Library	1
Vincent Murphy-Tucker	TBD	Police Officer	Police	4
Matthew Leppo	TBD	Police Officer	Police	4
Francis P. Ellinwood	12/12/2022	Assistant Director	Council on Aging	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>
Matthew Leppo	TBD	Military	3 years, 4 Months	Belmont	TBD

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

Roll Call:

Mr. Castro	Yes
Mr. Vona	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>
Marguerite Doty	11/22/2022	Section 9, Accidental Death	28 Years, 1 Month	06/25/2022	\$3,929.90
Beverly Soul	11/21/2022	Section 9, Accidental Death	20 Years, 7 Months	03/27/2018	\$2,333.82

Chair's Report: Mr. Gibson discussed Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022, which provides a one-time FY 2023 5% COLA. The Board requested SEGAL to prepare a cost analysis. If the Board approves the COLA, it would then be sent to the Select Board for its approval. The State has maintained the assumed rate of return rate at 7%, and updated the mortality tables. Mr. Gibson noted the reduction in the assumed rate of investment return over the past several years, as well as changes to the funding schedule. The Board has PERAC's approval of the System's new funding schedule. This will be disseminated to the

member units. Waivers on retiree post-retirement employment limitations will end on December 31, 2022. Magistrate Edward McGrath will be leaving DALA for the DIA. The change in Governor and Auditor will likely lead to changes on PERAC's Board. Mr. Gibson also updated the Board on Bill H5217. DALA has granted a 60-day show cause extension in the DALA appeal in *Belmont v. PERAC*

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

Roll Call:

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

The Motion passed.

No Executive Session was entered.

Meeting adjourns at 10:55 AM.

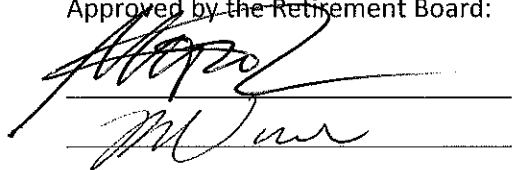
Documents Distributed:

December 19, 2022 Agenda
NEPC December 2022 Presentation
PERAC memos #30-32 of 2022
Belmont FY2023 Funding Schedule

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:



Two handwritten signatures are present, each followed by a horizontal line. The first signature is more stylized and appears to be 'A. Castro'. The second signature is 'M. Vona'.

December 19, 2022

January 30, 2023 (RS)