

AMESBURY RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 28, 2022 @ 1:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury, Massachusetts

Board Members: Donna Cornoni; Craig Bailey; Bonnijo Kitchin; Marisa Batista; David Van Dam
Retirement Administrator: Kevin A. Caira

Meeting Agenda:

New Member Enrollments

City of Amesbury/Police Department: Ryan P. Devaney, Patrol Officer (State/Essex).

City of Amesbury/School Department: Paul Mullin, SPED Van Driver.

City of Amesbury/Library: Ashley E. Montano, Youth Services Assistant.

Buybacks/Redeposits

None.

Refunds

The Board received an Application for Withdrawal of Accumulated Total Deductions from Caitlin R. Thayer, former Communications Director with the City of Amesbury. She has 2 years and 4 months (2.3333) of creditable service. The amount of the refund will be \$13,463.80. Federal tax withheld will be \$2,692.76. Member will receive \$10,771.04. Member did not request rollover.

Transfers

The Board received a transfer request from the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System for Leif P. Dugan. According to School records, Mr. Dugan was employed as a Substitute Teacher and contributed to OBRA.

Retirements

The Board received an Approval letter from PERAC through PROSPER for William A. Scholtz (DOR 04/01/2022).

The Board received notification on the death of Member Jeanne M. Sheehan. Her date of death was June 01, 2022. An Application for Survivor Benefits has been received from spouse Peter A. Sheehan.

The Board received notification on the death of Retiree Margaret C. Estabrook. Date of death was July 5, 2022.

Items to be reviewed and approved

- July 2022 Payroll Warrant.
- July 2022 Cash Disbursements Warrant.
- July 2022 Vendor Payment Warrant.
- June 2022 PRIT Report.
- June 2022 MM Bank Reconciliation.
- June 2022 Checking Account Reconciliation.
- June 30, 2022 Minutes.

PERAC Memorandums to review:

- PERAC #17.....June 30, 2022...Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training - 3rd Quarter, 2022.
- PERAC #18.....July 12, 2022....Expiration of Open Meeting Law Waiver.
- PERAC #19.....July 19, 2022....Expiration of Open Meeting Law Waiver (follow-up to July 12th Memo).
- PERAC #20.....July 20, 2022....Reinstatement to Service under G.L.c.32 § 105.

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from PERAC through PROSPER dated July 11, 2022, regarding Section 3(8)(c) of Chapter 32 of the General Laws. Amesbury Retirement System shall reimburse the Newburyport Retirement System \$23,640.63 a year toward the retirement allowance of Laurie A. Pierce, who retired February 21, 2022.

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Email received June 30, 2022 from Amesbury Mayor, Cassandra Gove announcing the retirement of Amesbury Fire Recue Chief Kenneth E. Berkenbush and thanking him for his years of dedicated service.

Email received July 07, 2022 from Denise Cattoni of American Transparency requesting Public Records Information on all retired employees of the Amesbury Retirement System. Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request was completed and sent electronically on July 20, 2022.

Email received July 15, 2022 from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) regarding a webinar on Thursday, July 21 at 10:00 AM on Fiduciary Duty for Board Members/Fraud Awareness. Board Members can receive three educational credits upon completion.

Reminder emails received July 17th and 19th 2022 from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) regarding a webinar on Thursday, July 21 at 10:00 AM on Fiduciary Duty for Board Members/Fraud Awareness. Board Members can receive three educational credits upon completion.

Email received July 20, 2022 from Denise Cattoni of American Transparency acknowledging receipt of information as the report “fully satisfies our FOIA requirements, and you can consider this request closed.”

The Board received copies of email exchanges dated July 7, 10, 19, 20, 2022 between Attorney Jacqueline Hartley, representing Heather Ryan in her application for an Accidental Disability Retirement and Amesbury Retirement Board Attorney Michael Sacco. The correspondence referenced the clarification requests and related documents sent by Attorney Hartley to the Regional Medical Panel physicians. Communication on a clarification request can only be between the Board and the Medical Panel. On July 20, 2022, notification was sent by Attorney Sacco to PERAC Attorney Kenneth Hill to contact the Medical Panel and ask them to disregard Attorney Hartley’s letters. Attorney Hill was able to flag the letters from Attorney Hartley before they were sent (received by) to the Medical Panel physicians.

Email received July 21, 2022 from Angela Cleveland, Director of Community & Economic Development announcing a new Rental Assistance Program in Amesbury.

Email received July 22, 2022 from Amar Dzelilovic, Accountant for Melanson, Auditors for both the City of Amesbury and Amesbury Retirement System. They are requesting a list of Retirement testing selections for the 2021 audit.

The Board received three emails dated July 05, 15, 22, 2022 from the Mass Retirees regarding *Local COLA approvals*, *COLA news*, and *5% COLA approved by legislature*.

Old Business

- 2022 Annual Affidavits for Retired Members and Survivors.
- Update on July 01, 2022 COLA.
- Update on 3(8)(c) billings and reimbursements.
- Discussion regarding Valuation Report.

New Business

Francesco Daniele, Director of Client Services from the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (PRIM) is scheduled to attend the August 25, 2022 meeting to review the investments of the Amesbury Retirement System.

COLA discussion for nonunion Retirement Staff.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, August 25, 2022.

Discussion of topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours before the meeting.