

AMESBURY RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 25, 2023 @ 1:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury Massachusetts

RECEIVED
By City Clerk at 11:27 am, Jul 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

In Attendance – Board Members: Donna Cornoni; Shaunna Ring; Marisa Batista; David Van Dam

Absent – Board Member: Craig Bailey; **Retirement Administrator:** Kevin A. Caira

In the absence of the Retirement Administrator, Chair Donna Cornoni will record minutes.

New Member Enrollments

Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to accept the New Enrollment Forms for:

City of Amesbury/School Department: Jordan A. Beal, Paraprofessional.

City of Amesbury/School Department: Nina P. Dubus, Paraprofessional.

City of Amesbury/School Department: Sarah E. Calvani, Paraprofessional.

City of Amesbury/School Department: Patricia Shaffer, Student Information & Data Specialist.

City of Amesbury/Department of Public Works: Joseph W. Buckley, Director.

Unanimous vote to approve.

Buybacks/Redeposits

Buyback payment was received in full, from the family of Geoffrey R. Cyr for prior City of Amesbury non-benefitted service from 11/03/2014 to 01/29/2015. The total amount paid, \$1,075.04. Total amount of creditable service 1 month. Motion made by Shaunna Ring and seconded by David Van Dam to accept payment in full. Unanimous vote to approve.

The Board received a letter from the Middlesex County Retirement System (MCRS) in response to the Transfer/Buyback Breakdown request for Elizabeth Cormier. The MCRS will not accept liability, “individual was not eligible for membership” and “was not wrongfully excluded from membership.”

Transfers

The Board received a request from the Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System to transfer the account of Jennifer Hawrylcw, former Paraprofessional with the Amesbury School Department. The total amount of creditable service to be transferred is 13 years and 4 months (13.3333). The transfer includes service from the MTRS 2 years and 6 months and the State Board of Retirement 3 years and 9 months. The total amount in the account to be transferred is \$42,952.45. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to transfer the account and service to the MTRS. Unanimous vote to approve the transfer to the Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System.

The Board received a Transfer-In from the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS) for Jonathan A. Blinderman. The total amount of creditable service is 11 months (0.9167). The total amount of the transfer is \$2,542.19. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to accept the transfer from the ERRS. Unanimous vote to approve.

The Board received a Transfer-In from the State Board of Retirement for Angela J. Cleveland. The total amount of creditable service is 3 years and 9 months (3.7500). The total amount of the transfer is \$25,479.50. Motion made by Shaunna Ring and seconded by David Van Dam to accept the transfer from the State Board of Retirement. Unanimous vote to approve.

Refunds

The Board received an Application for Withdrawal of Accumulated Total Deductions from Katlyn M. Gauthier, former Assistant Speech Therapist with the Amesbury School Department. She has 4 years and 10 months of creditable service (4.8333). Member requesting a rollover from Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. The amount of the rollover is \$12,704.51. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to approve the rollover request. Unanimous vote to approve.

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Retirements

The Board received an Application for Voluntary Superannuation Retirement from Ann M. Mondalto, Paraprofessional with the Amesbury School Department. Ann is requesting retirement from Group 1 as of May 02, 2023. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to accept the application subject to calculation approval from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). Unanimous vote to approve.

The Board received notification on the deaths of Retiree Patricia A. Butler, Date of Death April 03, 2023, and Retiree Shirley M. Rogers, May 13, 2023.

The following Items were reviewed and approved:

- May 2023 Payroll Warrant.
- May 2023 Cash Disbursements Warrant.
- May 2023 Vendor Payment Warrant.
- April 2023 PRIT Report.
- April 2023 MM Bank Reconciliation.
- April 2023 Checking Account Reconciliation.
- April 27, 2023 Minutes.

Correspondence

Emails and attachments received April 26 and 27, 2023 from Heather Worrall, Human Resources Director for the City of Amesbury announcing the Benefits Workshop informing members/employees of the insurance benefits offered by the city. The workshop is at Amesbury City Hall Auditorium on May 09, 2023 from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Email from Amesbury Mayor Cassandra Gove announcing the hiring of Joseph Buckley, new Director of the Department of Public Works. He will start on May 15, 2023. Welcome Joe!

Email and attachment of agenda received April 28, 2023 from Francesco Daniele, Director of Client Services with Pension Reserve Investment Management Board (PRIM) announcing PRIM Investment Committee meeting (remote) on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

Email and attachment of agenda received May 01, 2023 from Francesco Daniele, Director of Client Services with Pension Reserve Investment Management Board (PRIM) announcing PRIM Real Estate and Timberland Committee meeting (remote) on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

Email and attachment of agenda received May 02, 2023 from Francesco Daniele, Director of Client Services with Pension Reserve Investment Management Board (PRIM) announcing PRIM Administration and Audit Committee meeting (remote) on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Emails and attachments received May 01, and 08, 2023 from Heather Worrall, Human Resources Director for the City of Amesbury informing members/employees that the enrollment period is now open for health, dental, and vision insurances, as well as flex spending/dependent care.

The Board received an email dated May 09, 2023 from Jean Simone, Employer & Board Reporting Unit with the State Board of Retirement, regarding submitting of COLA updates.

Emails received May 16 and 18, 2023 from the Public Employees Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) announcing a webinar on Veterans' Benefits presented by Deputy General Counsel, Patrick Charles. Board members who attend will receive three (3) educational credits.

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Email and attachment of agenda received May 16, 2023 from Francesco Daniele, Director of Client Services with Pension Reserve Investment Management Board (PRIM) announcing PRIM Board meeting (remote) on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

Email and attachment received May 17, 2023 from Christopher LaFlamme, Assistant Director with the Plymouth County Retirement System providing their Spring/Summer 2023 newsletter.

The Board received an email dated May 17, 2023 from the Communications Director with the City of Amesbury announcing Facebook Live with Mayor Kassandra Gove on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

Email and attachment received May 18, 2023 from the Pension Reserve Investment Management Board (PRIM) providing a newsletter regarding PRIM Board Quarterly Update for the First Quarter 2023.

Email and attachments received May 18, 2023 from Marcum (formerly Melanson) regarding the upcoming FY22 audit for the Amesbury Retirement System.

The Board received five emails dated April 28, May 12, 15, 16 & 19, 2023 from the Mass Retirees Association regarding COLA base and survivor health insurance news.

Received May 2023 Newsletter from Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts.

Old Business

Board to discuss the Application for Disability Retirement (ADR) from Glenn A. Fournier, former Assistant Fire Chief with the Amesbury Fire Department. Mr. Fournier retired with a Superannuation Retirement on 06/30/2015. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Shaunna Ring to deny ADR request and refer to Board Attorney Michael Sacco. Vote: David Van Dam, Shaunna Ring and Marisa Batista voted (3) to deny request. Donna Cornoni abstained. Motion to deny ADR request passed.

The Amesbury City Council voted to adopt bill #2023-036 sponsored by Mayor Kassandra Gove. This would add an additional onetime 2% Cost-of-Living (COLA) increase for all eligible retirees and survivors, effective July 1, 2022. Adjustments will be scheduled in the June 2023 retiree payroll.

New Business

Request for the transfer of funds in the amount of \$500,000 from the Pension Reserve Investment Trust Fund (PRIT) to cover payroll and vendor payments for June 2023. Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista to approve the transfer. Unanimous vote to approve. Board Administrator and Board Chairman will sign the PRIT Fund Redemption Form.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, June 29, 2023.

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

Having completed all business, Motion made by David Van Dam and seconded by Marisa Batista and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kevin A. Caira
Retirement Administrator