

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CITY OF LANSING POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Regular Meeting
Council Conference Room
10th Floor, City Hall
Lansing, MI

August 20, 2019
Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

The Board was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

Present: Trustees Fabus, Kehler (8:56), Rose, C. Wilcox, R. Wilcox, Wohlfert, Wood– 7.

Absent: Schor

Others: Karen E. Williams, Angela Bennett, Finance Department; Attorney Kenneth Lane (representing the City Attorney's Office).

It was moved by Trustee Ryan Wilcox and supported by Trustee Fabus to approve the Official Minutes of the Police and Fire Retirement System Board meeting of July 16, 2019.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 – 0.

There were no comments for items on the agenda.

Secretary's Report.

0 new fire member(s), 0 new sworn police members, 0 reinstatement(s), 0 refund(s), 0 transfers, 3 retired. Total: Active membership: 385. 2 death(s), John Baylis, Police, died 7/20/2019, age 81, spouse to receive 50%; Brian E. Hunter, Police, died 7/16/2019, age 58, no beneficiary. Refunds made since the last regular meeting amounted to \$0.00. Reimbursements to the System year-to-date amount to \$0.00. Retirement allowances paid for the month of July 2019, amounted to \$2,808,206.06. Total retirement checks printed for the P&F System: 756. Total retirement checks printed for both systems: 1687. Domestic relations order received: 0. Domestic relations orders pending: 0. Eligible Domestic Relations Order Certified: 0.

There were no applicants for Regular Age and Service retirements.

Karen Williams reported that Applicant #2019 – P0122 had seen the medical director for evaluation. The medical report has been received from Dr. Roth and forwarded to the disability subcommittee.

Trustee Wohlfert recessed the August meeting to allow the disability subcommittee to meet.

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The meeting recessed at 8:34 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:36 a.m.

Karen Williams reported that the disability subcommittee met and reviewed the medical report.

It was moved by Trustee Fabus and supported by Trustee Chris Wilcox to approve the request for duty disability retirement of applicant #2019 – P0122 per the medical director's recommendation.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 – 0.

Trustee Wood inquired if the applicant to be approved was submitted by the Police department.

Karen Williams reported that the request for duty disability for the applicant was submitted by the Police Department.

There were no requests for non-duty disability retirement.

Karen Williams reported that the MAPERS 2019 Fall Conference – September 21-24, 2019. Members who wished to attend should contact the Retirement Office to register.

Karen Williams also reported upcoming conference for NCPERS Public Safety Conference, October 27 – 30.

Trustee Wohlfert also indicated the IFEBP Annual Conference would be held in October.

Karen Williams reported that if the chairperson or more than 2 members wished to attend out-of-state conferences, the approval to attend must be approved by the Police and Fire Retirement Board.

It was moved by Trustee Wood and supported by Trustee Ryan Wilcox to approve members attendance at the NCPERS Public Safety Conference and the IFEBP Annual Conference.

Adopted by the following vote: 6 – 0.

There were no requests for refunds of accumulated contributions.

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Karen Williams reported that Trustee Schor's office contacted the Retirement Office to notify the Board that he would not be able to attend the August meeting. Trustee Schor is Ex-Officio and does not need a vote to be excused.

Attorney Ken Lane distributed the Frequently Asked Questions Document for the Police and Fire Retirement System.

Ms. Williams reported that a disability retiree who had been recently approved was already eligible to convert to age and service retirement. Ms. Williams explained that Ms. Sukovich became eligible to retire prior to approval for duty disability. Ms. Williams inquired about when Ms. Sukovich should be converted to age and service. The bargaining agreement states that the disability retiree should convert at full retirement but does not specify if that is at age 55 or 25 years of service. Ms. Sukovich has less than 25 years of service.

Attorney Ken Lane recommended that the Retirement Office meet with Ms. Sukovich and inform her ability to convert to age and service retirement.

Attorney Wood indicated that she was contacted by the ex-spouse of a member who stated that she was supposed to start her pension, but it had been delayed.

Attorney Lane explained that the ex-spouse submitted an EDRO that would give her a guaranteed amount. The state law does not allow the guaranteed amount as specified in the EDRO. Attorney Lane and the actuary has spoken to the ex-spouse's attorney.

Ms. Williams indicated that the EDRO that was submitted was denied by the actuary. The Retirement Office sent the ex-spouse and her attorney a denial letter that had been review by the City Attorney's Office.

Attorney Lane recommended that the ex-spouse consult with her attorney to submit an amended EDRO.

Trustee Wood was also contacted by a retiree's son who stated that he had not received his father's life insurance proceeds. Trustee Wood indicated that she contacted the Retirement Office. The Retirement Office did research by contacting Aetna Life Insurance, who indicated that the check had been issued and their records indicated that the check had been cashed.

Ms. Williams indicated that Aetna stated that they would send a copy of the check to the beneficiary for review. If the check was not cashed by the beneficiary, the family could file a police report for theft. Aetna would then be able to reissue the check.

Karen Williams indicated that the Retirement Office had not received any Request for Information (RFI) responses. She indicated that she would request the City Council Approved list and could issue the RFI with an October 1 response date.

Trustee Wood indicated that the Boards voted for the RFI to be issued to the City Council Approved List and to MAPERS at an earlier joint retirement board meeting with an August 1 deadline for responses. Trustee Wood expressed concern that the RFI had not been issued and that the Board needed to move forward.

Trustee Ryan Wilcox inquired about who generally would draft and issue requests for information. He inquired if these requests received legal review before they were issued. He expressed concern regarding the delay and recommended that the Board send out a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Attorney Lane suggested that it was unclear regarding who would issue the RFI. Attorney Lane stated that in the past, the Board has drafted the proposal and then legal counsel would review it, before issue.

The Board tabled the discussion until the Joint meeting.

Karen Williams reviewed the Quarterly Expenses Report and the Securities Lending Report for the period ending July 31, 2019.

It was moved by Trustee Chris Wilcox and supported by Trustee Rose to adjourn the Police and Fire Retirement System Board meeting.

Adopted by the following vote: 7– 0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 am.

Minutes approved on _____

Angela Bennett, Secretary
Police & Fire Retirement System

Eric P. Wohlfert, Chairperson
Police & Fire Retirement System