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Northbridge Retirement Board Minutes
Date: June 21, 2023 - Time: 2:38 p.m.
Place: Northbridge Retirement Office

The Northbridge Retirement Board met on Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 2:38 p.m. in the Northbridge Retirement Office at the Northbridge Town Hall in Whitinsville. Board members present: Sharon Susienka, Sharon Emerick, Tom Frieswyk and George Murray. Also, present, Scott McGrath, Board Administrator. John Meagher was unable to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(None)

WARRANTS:

Warrants totaling \$1,452.00 for the month of May and \$541,118.85 for the month of June were carefully reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bank Reconciliations for the month of May 2023 was carefully reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Board was informed of a transfer of funds in May from PRIT to checking of \$230,000.00.

The Board was informed of a transfer of funds in May from Money Market acct. to Checking of \$88,364.22.

MINUTES:

George Murray made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2023 Retirement Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon Emerick.

The Board voted 4-0 to accept the May 24, 2023 Retirement Board meeting minutes

NEW MEMBERS:

Tom Frieswyk made a motion to deny membership for Abby Barnatt, Ashleigh Brown, Amanda Kelly, Grace Lavoie, Alicea MaKenzie, John Mignault, Tade Riordan, and Christopher Rivelli because they do not meet the minimum 28 hour regularly scheduled work week. The motion was seconded by George Murray.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to deny membership to these employees and to provide these applicants with information regarding their right to appeal.

George Murray made a motion to accept membership for Joshua Geary. The motion was seconded by Tom Frieswyk.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to grant the membership to this employee.

NEW RETIREES:

The Board didn't receive any applications for a superannuation retirement.

REQUEST FOR BUYBACK

The Board received no requests for buyback this month.

REQUEST FOR LIABILITY:

There were no requests for liability this month.

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS:

The Board received an application for the withdrawal of funds from Ms. Jacqueline Bessette. Ms. Bessette was a Behavior Tech with the Northbridge School Department. She had 11 years and 3 months of creditable service and a start date of November 10, 2011.

George Murray made a motion to approve the withdrawal of funds for Jacqueline Bessette in the amount of \$17,765.98. The motion was seconded by Tom Frieswyk.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the withdrawal of funds for Jacqueline Bessette.

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REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

The Board received a request from the Worcester Retirement Board for the funds of Julianne Fields. Mrs. Fields worked as an I T manager for the Northbridge School Department and had 11 years of creditable service. George Murray made a motion to approve the transfer of funds of Mrs. Fields in the amount of \$76,587.43. The motion was seconded by Sharon Susienka.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the transfer of funds for Mrs. Julianne Fields.

The Board received a request from the Middlesex Regional Board for the funds of Neil Vaidya. Mr. Vaidya worked as the Town Accountant for the town of Northbridge and had 18 years and 11 months of creditable service. George Murray made a motion to approve the transfer of funds of Mr. Vaidya in the amount of \$126,388.16. The motion was seconded by Sharon Emerick.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the transfer of funds for Mr. Neil Vaidya.

DECEASED RETIREES:

The Board was informed of the passing of Oscar Mooradian, who passed away on April 30, 2023. Mr. Mooradian was 89 years old and was an Accidental Disability Option "A" retiree. Mr. Mooradian retired on March 1, 1979 and had worked as an Equipment Operator for the Northbridge Department of Public Works.

LEGAL:

There were no legal issues to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no executive session issues to discuss.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Board was told the Cash Books for May 2023 will be available at the July meeting.

George Murray made a motion to open the Public Hearing for input as to whether to grant a FY24 COLA for the Retirees at 2:45 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Tom Frieswyk.

It was approved unanimously 4-0 by a roll call vote to open a Public Hearing to hear input to grant a 3% COLA effective July 1, 2023 for the eligible retirement members.

The votes were as follows:

Tom Frieswyk-yea, George Murray-yea, Sharon Susienka-yea, and Sharon Emerick-yea.

After a reading of the Public Notice from George Murray, the Board had a short discussion. There was no input from the public.

George Murray made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 2:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tom Frieswyk.

It was approved unanimously 4-0 by a roll call vote to close the Public Hearing to hear input to grant a 3% COLA effective July 1, 2023 for the eligible retirement members.

The votes were as follows:

Tom Frieswyk-yea, George Murray-yea, Sharon Susienka-yea, and Sharon Emerick-yea.

George Murray made a motion to grant a 3% COLA effective July 1, 2023 on a \$14,000 base, for all the eligible retirement members. The motion was seconded by Sharon Emerick.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to grant a 3% COLA effective July 1, 2023 for all eligible retirement members.

Scott L McGrath, the Board Administrator spoke to the Board about granting a 2% COLA for the Board Administrator. The Board Administrator is usually given the COLA in conjunction with Town Hall non-union staff who received it on July 1st when granted. After limited discussion, George Murray made a motion to grant Scott L McGrath a 2% COLA effective July 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tom Frieswyk.

The Board voted unanimously 4-0 to grant a 2% COLA to Scott L McGrath.

It was determined that George Murray was the only candidate nominated for the Third Member to be elected to the Northbridge Retirement Board. Therefore Tom Frieswyk moved that the Board vote to declare George Murray as the Third Member to the Northbridge Retirement Board and that no election shall be held. His term will commence on September 1, 2023 and expire on August 31, 2026. He shall serve in all respects as though he had been elected by election.

Tom Frieswyk made a motion to declare George Murray as the Third Member to the Northbridge Retirement Board. The motion was seconded by Sharon Emerick.

The Board voted 3-0 to declare George Murray as the Third Member to the Northbridge Retirement Board. George Murray abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

The Board was informed that the Annual Information Affidavits were still coming in from the retirees.

There were 125 sent out in April and 7 are still outstanding. Those that have not been returned this month will receive a phone call explaining that their retirement allowance will be stopped if they are not returned.

PERAC:

The Board was informed that the PERAC Auditor was here this past month and has left.

PRIM:

Summary of Plan Performance May 2023 will be available at the July meeting.

MACRS:

The Kevin J. Regan Annual 2023 Conference was attended on June 4-7, 2023. at the Conference center in Hyannis, MA. by Sharon Susienka, John Meagher, and Scott L McGrath.

They found the Keynote speaker, Shannon Sedgwick Davis, very interesting and disheartening.

Mrs. Davis is a Human Rights Activist and Author of the book "To Stop a Warlord: My Story of Justice, Grace, and the fight for Peace. She spoke about the atrocities in Sudan, Congo, and the surrounding areas. The stories of child abductions, sex slaves, and mass murders were alarming.

The presentation on Cyber Security was interesting and we were not happy to find out how hard it is to catch the people.

RETIRED STATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC. OF MA:

There was nothing to pass out or discuss this month.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

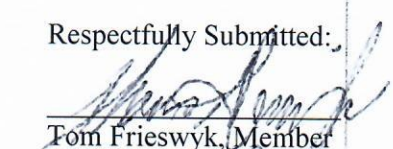
There were no correspondences this month.

George Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Sharon Emerick.


The Board voted 4-0 in support.

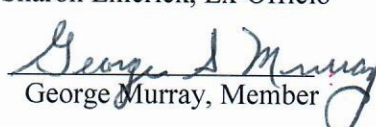
The next meeting of the Northbridge Retirement Board will be at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday July 26, 2023 at the Northbridge Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted:


Tom Frieswyk, Member


Sharon Susienka, Member


Sharon Emerick, Ex-Officio


George Murray, Member