

At a meeting of the Dedham Retirement Board having been duly noticed, was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. at the office of the Retirement Board, 202 Bussey Street. Pursuant to the March 12, 2020 Order of the Governor Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Board members and members of the public have access to the meeting via Zoom: [https://zoom.us/j/91367507389?pwd=OTlhK0ppc0VVNHVjenFub1UxTUJRUT09](https://zoom.us/j/91367507389?pwd=OTlhK0ppc0VVNHVjenFub1UxTUJRUT09;); Meeting ID: 913 6750 7389 Passcode: 163827; Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866. The following were present:

Thomas Rorrie (remotely)	Stephen MacDougall (remotely)
John (Rosco) Maloney	Shannon MacKenzie (remotely)
Michael Butler (remotely)	Barbara Isberg, Administrator
Kevin McCarthy, Asst. Administrator	James Quirk, Attorney

Chairman Rorrie called a roll call to ensure the Board members listed above were all present either in person or online:

Mr. Rorrie	Present	Mr. MacDougall	Present
Mr. Maloney	Present	Ms. MacKenzie	Present
Mr. Butler	Present		

Mr. Rorrie called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M.

Accounting/Reconciliation:

Chairman Rorrie indicated that the Cash Book binder on the table with a copy emailed to those participating remotely, had been reviewed and all is in order through December.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. Maloney seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To approve the Cash Books through December.

Budget-to-Actual:

The Final 2020 Budget-to-Actual was reviewed. It was noted that the Total Operating Costs for the year were 6% under budget.

Mr. MacDougall moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To accept the Budget-to-Actual Operating Costs for the Year Ended December 31, 2020 as prepared.

Annual Statement:

The Annual Statement has been completed and was emailed to each Board member. This will be submitted to PERAC before the due date.

Mr. Maloney moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To approve the 2020 Annual Statement as prepared.

Minutes:

Mr. MacDougall moved, Mr. Maloney seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To approve the minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting.

Warrants:

The members reviewed and approved the March warrants.

Mr. MacDougall moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To ratify the March vouchers as prepared.

Member Survivor Allowance:

Former Dedham Deputy Fire Chief, Robert Krug, was retired per an Accidental Disability, Option C, under the presumption clause. As per his death certificate, the immediate cause of death was cardiac arrest; therefore, leaving his wife entitled to a survivor's allowance. Attorney Quirk will provide the findings of fact.

Mr. MacDougall moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie Yes
Mr. Maloney Yes
Mr. Butler Yes

Mr. MacDougall Yes
Ms. MacKenzie Yes

Voted: To grant a survivor allowance benefit to Edna Krug, spouse of Robert Krug.

Former Dedham Firefighter, Frederick Loewen, was retired under an Accidental Disability, under the presumption clause. However, he retired prior to November 7, 1996 before there was an Option C benefit. According to his death certificate, the immediate cause of death was cardiac arrest. As such, his wife Lorraine is entitled to a survivor's allowance. Attorney Quirk will provide the findings of fact.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. MacDougall seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie Yes
Mr. Maloney Yes
Mr. Butler Yes

Mr. MacDougall Yes
Ms. MacKenzie Yes

Voted: To grant a survivor's benefit to Lorraine Loewen, spouse of Frederick Loewen.

Old Business:

As stated at last month's meeting, Ms. Isberg received an email under the Open Records Act/Freedom of Information Act from Denise Cattoni of American Transparency out of Boca Raton, Florida as did many other Boards in the Commonwealth. Ms. Isberg provided a sample report that she will respond with that details the name, date of hire, retirement date, gross allowance, employer, and zip-code of the employer.

Mr. Maloney moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie Yes
Mr. Maloney Yes
Mr. Butler Yes

Mr. MacDougall Yes
Ms. MacKenzie Yes

Voted: To provide the report to American Transparency after they provide the minimum payment as allowed of 4 (four) hours at the rate of the lowest paid employee of the Retirement Board.

New Business:

Ms. Isberg had provided a copy of PERAC MEMO # 3 / 2021 regarding *2021 Limits under Section 23 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010* dated January 8, 2021. Within, it states that "the 2021 limit on regular compensation under G.L. 32 for persons who became members after January 1, 2011 is \$185,600." After previously reviewing the Town's current salary structure with Ms. MacKenzie, it was determined that the only current employee who exceeds this limit and date of hire is the Town Manager, Leon Goodwin. It is incumbent upon the Town to establish an alternative investment vehicle for the

excess withholdings of Mr. Goodwin. Ms. Isberg and Ms. MacKenzie will have a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the situation. Ms. MacKenzie will ensure that the Town stops withholding the excess funds going forward immediately.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. MacDougall seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To refund the excess withholdings to date to the Town on behalf of Mr. Goodwin to start the funding of the new investment vehicle.

Former school custodian, James Gately, retired February 5, 2018 under a Super Annuation, Option C. Mr. Gately passed away on August 20, 2020 leaving his wife Karen as the beneficiary entitled to two-thirds of the allowance he was receiving. However, after many attempts, Mrs. Gately cannot be located. Attorney Quirk will send a certified letter to her last known residence.

Mr. MacDougall moved, Mr. Maloney seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes
Mr. Butler	Yes		

Voted: To place a hold on the Gately's account until Mrs. Gately can be located.

Mr. Maloney inquired as to how timely, if at all, the various departments were providing injury reports to the Retirement Board. As Ms. Isberg indicated, it varies by department. Mr. Maloney believes that a reminder should be sent to all department heads of the importance of them providing the information. Not only would it help the individual members that may have a future claim, but it would also help the Board members when voting on future applications, to have all the facts timely. Ms. Isberg and Ms. MacKenzie will setup a meeting with the new HR Director for the week of April 5 to discuss a process of providing this information at the time the Town is notified.

Administrator's Report:

Ms. Isberg informed the Board that it is time to begin the affidavit process. It is required to be completed bi-annually and, due to Covid-19, the procedure was not performed last year. As the office is currently closed to the public, as is PERAC's, and they have not issued a waiver as of yet on this requirement, a lengthy discussion followed as to how best complete the task this year.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. MacDougall seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie	Yes	Mr. MacDougall	Yes
Mr. Maloney	Yes	Ms. MacKenzie	Yes

Mr. Butler Yes

Voted: To provide a pre-paid return address envelope with the affidavits in which notarization is not required.

Ms. Isberg indicated that the annual COLA meeting will be held on May 19th at 11:00 A.M.

Ms. Isberg distributed a draft of the Spring 2021 newsletter. With no changes requested, it will be sent off for production.

The website is ready for launching if anyone would like to review for any last minute changes beforehand.

Then Annual Statements will be sent to the members next month.

An article published 2/26/2021 on the Worcester Daily Voice website entitled *Audit: \$800K Suspiciously Spent by County Retirement Board on Raises, Travel, Scams, More* written by Kristin Palpini was reviewed. Although PERAC's, John Parsons, is not quoted in the article, he has stated that the audit did not find any wrong-doings on behalf of the Retirement Board staff.

The proposed House Bill #1794, an act relative to providing a COVID-19 retirement credit to essential public-sector workers, was reviewed. New language would be added to section 4 of Chapter 32, including, but not limited to: "COVID -19 Essential Employee Retirement Credit Bonus," three years added to age or years of service or a combination thereof for the purpose of calculating a retirement benefit; notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary of administration and finance shall identify all employees who have volunteered to work or who have been required to work at their respective worksites or any other worksite outside of their personal residence during the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 10, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Although the Act provided additional provisions, Attorney Quirk does not believe anything could be passed without a cost-analysis being performed and it would be a long time before there would be any final resolution.

Ms. Isberg concluded with an article discussing the agreement for M&T Bank Corp. to acquire People's United Financial Inc. in an all-stock deal valued at \$7.6 Billion. Although this should have no impact on the Dedham Retirement Board, the Town is in the process of hiring a new Treasurer/Collector and they may try to move accounts as the individual who previously held the position had.

The next board meeting will be held at 11:00 A.M. on April 15, 2021.

Mr. Maloney moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and on a roll call vote:

Mr. Rorrie Yes
Mr. Maloney Yes
Mr. Butler Yes

Mr. MacDougall Yes
Ms. MacKenzie Yes

Voted: To adjourn at 12:27 P.M.

Thomas Rorrie, Chairman

Stephen MacDougall

John Maloney

Shannon MacKenzie

Michael Butler

BOARD APPROVED