

A meeting of the Dedham Retirement Board having been duly noticed, was held on Thursday, April 15, 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/92022913588?pwd=aGp0ZGQ3d3pMdDdNT0JaZHR1MVRCdz09>. They could also dial in using their phone. Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US, Meeting ID: 920 2291 3588, Passcode: 824969. The following were present in person:

Thomas Rorrie

John (Rosco) Maloney

Michael Butler

Kevin McCarthy, Asst. Administrator

Stephen MacDougall

Shannon MacKenzie

Barbara Isberg, Administrator

James Quirk, Attorney

Chairman Rorrie called the meeting to order at 11:00 A. M.

Accounting/Reconciliation:

Chairman Rorrie indicated that the Cash Book binder on the table with a copy emailed prior to the meeting, had been reviewed and all is in order through February, 2021.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. Butler seconded, and it was unanimously

Voted: To approve the Cash Books through February 28, 2021.

Minutes:

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. Butler seconded, and it was unanimously

Voted: To approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Executive and Special Meeting Minutes:

Due to the fact the Executive and Special Meeting Minutes could not be sent via email, the review of them during the pandemic had been tabled.

Ms. MacKenzie moved, Mr. MacDougall seconded, and it was unanimously

Voted: To approve the executive minutes from the March 12, June 25, and October 21, 2020 meetings along with the special meeting minutes of June 15, 2020.

Warrants:

The members reviewed and approved the April warrants.

Mr. MacDougall moved, Mr. Butler seconded, and it was unanimously

Voted: To ratify the April 2021 vouchers as prepared.

Town of Dedham Finance/Warrant Committee Discussion:

To ensure no one was left out of the discussion, it was noted that there were still no attendees of the public joining remotely. Ms. Isberg had sent an e-mail response to Assistant Town Manager, Nancy Baker, regarding a request from the Town's Finance/Warrant Committee (Fin Comm) for the board to present the Board's 2021 Operating Budget. The following response was sent to Nancy Baker and forwarded to the Finance/Warrant Committee along with a copy of the 2021 Operating Budget:

We have never presented our budget to the Finance/Warrant Committee, as you know our budget is solely funded from our systems investment income and there is no appropriation from the town. If there is a particular question, they have the board will be happy to answer any questions. Our next board meeting is on Thursday, April 19, 2021 If they would like to attend our meeting, I can put them on the agenda.

Unfortunately, Finance/Warrant Committee misinterpreted the reply, considering it dictatorial. This, in turn, required a follow-up email that was sent to the Finance Warrant Committee from Ms. Isberg apologizing if there was any misinterpretation on their end.

Dear Finance/Warrant Committee:

Please accept my apologies for the confusion my response of April 8th may have caused in responding to Nancy Bakers email. The original request on April 7th was for the Retirement Board to present its FY'22 budget at your next meeting on April 13th.

It was never my intention to offend or disregard your request. I do want to clarify that the retirement board historically has not presented the operating budget to the Finance Warrant Committee. The one exception to this was in 2019, when the Retirement Board appeared in front the Finance Warrant Committee to discuss the FY'20 appropriation payment and a copy of the budget was included. I believe some of the confusion is centered around the different uses of terminology. Attached you will find another copy of the Retirement Boards operating budget, which is on the calendar year basis. Hopefully going forward we will be able to avoid any future misunderstandings.

In an attempt to educate Finance/Warrant Committee of the operating requirements and procedures of the Board, Ms. Isberg is suggesting a training session be prepared. An inquiry should be sent to the Finance/Warrant Committee to see if there is any interest on their behalf and to seek a list of questions that they would like answered as to how the process works; especially in regards to the annual appropriation requirements.

Mr. Butler had a conversation with Finance Committee member, Mr. Heffernan, regarding the initial inquiry and the Finance Committee was wondering if the Board had any thoughts on cost savings.

Ms. Isberg indicated, and the rest of the Board concurred, that Mr. Butler performed very well at the Finance/Warrant Committee meeting on April 7, 2021 in trying to get the committee back on the topic of OPEB as the retirement board was not on the agenda that evening. Mr. Butler reiterated he was not representing the Board but was speaking as a resident of the town.

It was suggested that Finance/Warrant Committee consider appointing a liaison to attend the monthly Retirement Board meetings to obtain a better understanding of how the process works without the entire committee have to give up more of their personal time.

Mr. Maloney moved, Mr. MacDougall seconded, and it was unanimously

Voted: To have Mr. Butler approach the Town's Finance/Warrant Committee as a representative of the Board and ascertain if they would like to attend a future Board meeting to answer any and all questions they may have.

New Business:

The COLA meeting will take place during next month's regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Ms. Isberg will be meeting with the Town's new Human Resource Director.

The Retirement Board's website, www.dedhamret.com, is up and running. It still requires some tweaking but is available for the members to obtain information and forms. Ms. Isberg is seeking feedback from the Board and members alike as to what they would like to see edited or added as time goes on.

The next board meeting will be held at 11:00 A. M. on May 19, 2021.

Mr. Maloney moved, Ms. MacKenzie seconded, and it was unanimously

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

Thomas Rorrie, Chairman

Stephen MacDougall

John Maloney

Shannon MacKenzie

Michael Butler