

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of Business Meeting

June 14, 2012

The Hampshire County Retirement Advisory Council held its regular business meeting on June 14, 2012 at the Hatfield Town Hall, Main Street, Hatfield, MA. Chairman John Lillis called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

The following Council members were present: Chairman John Lillis (Hampshire Council of Governments), Vice Chair Karen Karowski (Town of Williamsburg, Foothills Health District), Denise LeDuc (Amherst Housing Authority), Mary Wallace (Amherst-Pelham Regional School District), Denise Cashin (Hampshire Regional School District, Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School District), Sandra Selkirk (South Hadley Fire #2), Claire McGinnis (Town of Amherst), Lisa Banner (Town of Belchertown), Margaret McWherter (Town of Chesterfield), Constance Mieczkowski (Town of Hadley), Anne Marie Knox (Town of Huntington), Carlene Hamlin (Town of South Hadley) and Margaret Parsons (Town of Westhampton). Count: 14 voting members representing 16 of 36 units. Other individuals present were Council Secretary and Retirement Administrator Mary Baronas, Retirement Board Chairman Patrick Brock, and 5 others.

A Public Hearing was conducted on the Proposed Supplemental Regulations. Chairman Lillis noted that no written comments were received during comment period of May 7, 2012 to June 14, 2012. Mary Baronas read through the proposed supplemental regulations and responded to questions from attendees. No public comments or objections were made to proposed regulations. Final Supplemental Regulations will be forwarded to PERAC for approval.

Discussion was held relative to increasing minimum pension for survivors of members who have died in service from \$3,000 (\$250/mo) to \$6,000 (\$500/mo). May 7, 2012 memoranda was reviewed and cost/benefit data for current eligible survivors distributed. Of 72 Option D survivors, 33 survivors will be eligible for an increase with aggregate annual cost of \$39,063. Upon Karen Karowski's motion and Denise LeDuc's second, the Advisory Council unanimously voted to accept sections 29 and 30 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011, increasing minimum pension under c. 32, section 12(d) to \$500 per month.

Discussion was held relative to new educational and financial disclosure requirements imposed on Retirement Board Members by Chapter 176 of Acts of 2011. Discussion was also held relative to increasing Retirement Board Member compensation from \$3,000 to \$4,500 annually. Upon Karen Karowski's motion and Lisa Banner's second, the Advisory Council unanimously voted to accept section 34 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011.

Brief discussion was held relative to increasing COLA base and c. 176 provision to accept minimum pension for superannuation retirees. Decisions on these issues will be postponed until completion of actuarial study of costs. More information will be forthcoming in the fall.

May 23, 2012 memoranda relative to new documentation requirements for submitting employment contracts to the Retirement Board, employer certification of shift substitution, and post-retirement earnings was discussed.

Summary of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011 by section was distributed and discussed. June 14, 2012 memos relative to provisions of c. 176 affecting existing members (pre-April 2, 2012) and new members (on or after April 2, 2012) was distributed and briefly reviewed.

Upon Karen Karowski's motion and Denise Cashin's second the Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary G. Baronas
Advisory Council Secretary

Certified as accurate record of proceedings:


Chairman John J. Lillis