

2022- 14  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES  
March 9, 2022

A meeting of the Hampshire County Retirement Board convened on **Wednesday, March 9, 2022** remotely via Zoom. The meeting was **called to order** at 9:01 a.m.

**ROLL CALL** showed Chairman Patrick E. Brock, Elected Members Vice Chairman Joseph A. Wilhelm, III and Harry Chadwick, Appointed Members Joyce Karpinski and Jane Wolfe, Administrator Mary G. Baronas and Assistant Administrator Patricia M. Rutkowski were present.

Mr. Wilhelm motioned and Ms. Wolfe's seconded, to approve the **minutes of February 9, 2022**.

Mr. Chadwick opened up a discussion regarding the content of the minutes in regards to the reconsideration of the retirees' health insurance contribution rate. Upon Mr. Chadwick's motion and Mr. Wilhelm's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to table the **minutes of February 9, 2022** until more information can be added.

The following **DISBURSEMENTS** were reviewed and approved. Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to direct the Chairman and Administrator to sign and pay the following warrants.

\$	2,774,515.26	<b>Retirement Allowance Payroll, February 2022 (Paid 2/28/2022)</b>		
		Annuity	\$529,204.25	
		Pension	\$2,245,311.01	
\$	24,603.07	<b>Staff Payroll, February 2022.</b>		
\$	5,500.00	<b>Board Member Stipend, Month of March 2022.</b>		
\$	7,468.42	<b>Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, March 2022 Health Insurance Premium. (Paid 2/24/2022)</b>		
\$	232.31	<b>ACSA Group Insurance, March 2022 Dental Insurance Premium. (Paid 2/24/2022)</b>		
\$	50.56	<b>Boston Mutual, March 2022 Life Insurance Premium. (Paid 2/24/2022)</b>		
\$	0.39	<b>Business Card, Membership/Subscription. (Paid 2/23/2022)</b>		
\$	271.65	<b>Comcast, For the period of 2/25/2022 – 3/24/2022. (Paid 2/28/2022)</b>		
\$	366.60	<b>Comcast, Business VoiceEdge for the period of February 2022. (Paid 2/24/2022)</b>		
\$	8,320.33	<b>Concord Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.</b>		
\$	3,867.00	<b>Conz Street Realty, Inc., April 2022 Lease.</b>		
\$	3,438.56	<b>Dedham Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.</b>		
\$	705.58	<b>Eversource, Bill date 2/15/2022.</b>		
\$	2,856.70	<b>Falmouth Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.</b>		
\$	29,234.30	<b>Holyoke Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.</b>		
\$	500.00	<b>ICS, April 2022 Server Backup Service.</b>		

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\$	1,250.00	ICS, April 2022 Monitoring Service.
\$	40.00	ICS, March 2022 O365 Agreement.
\$	1,565.00	ICS, Laptop Computer.
\$	597.00	Marcus Company, Inc., Envelopes.
\$	494.00	Mass Commercial Cleaning, Inc., February 2022 cleaning services.
\$	4,620.61	MWRA Employees' Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.
\$	442.88	National Grid, Period of 1/21/2022 – 2/17/2022.
\$	18,750.00	NEPC, Consultant Fees for the period of 10/1/2021 – 12/31/2021.
\$	4,999.12	Norfolk County Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.
\$	109.38	Patrick Brock, Supplies at COSTCO.
\$	1,500.00	Purchase Power, Postage. (Paid 2/24/2022)
\$	102.03	Staples Credit Plan, Supplies.
\$	2,640.00	Utica National Insurance Group, Property Insurance for the period of 3/15/2022 – 3/15/2023.
\$	729.25	W.B. Mason Co., Inc., Supplies & Water.
\$	15,611.22	Westfield Retirement System, 2021 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.
\$	296.82	Xerox Financial Services., Copier lease for the period of 2/11/2022 – 3/10/2022.
\$	961.42	Return of Accumulated deductions received in error for the following members/retirees: J. Coty, A. Everett, S. Jones, T. Ominsky. M. Perkins, M. Robidoux.
\$	2,217.72	Return of Accumulated deductions for the following inactive members: K. Anthony, C. Copen.

The following **SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Mr. Wilhelm's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the applications for Superannuation Retirement as follows:

	Unit	DOR:	Creditable Service	Annual Allowance
<b>Margaret E. Kelleher Bernard</b>	South Hadley	12/31/2021	12.4167	\$15,091.68
<b>Katherine A. Hannon</b>	Belchertown	2/1/2022	28.4167	\$47,039.28

PFB JF [Signature] JK  
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The following **PAYMENTS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS** were reviewed and approved for disbursement: Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to direct the Chairman and Administrator to sign and pay the following warrants.

\$	1,690.41	<b>Lenore M. Baker</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of January 2022 – February 2022.
\$	349.94	<b>Bridget E. Roy</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of January 2022 – February 2022.
\$	5,839.01	<b>Richard T. Downie</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of December 2021 – February 2022.
\$	2,556.62	<b>Margaret E. Kelleher-Bernard</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of December 2021 – February 2022.
\$	1,396.01	<b>Lauren M. Croce</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of January 2022 – February 2022.
\$	3,919.94	<b>Katherine A. Hannon</b> , Retroactive payment for the benefit of February 2022.

The following **PAYMENTS TO BENEFECIARIES** were reviewed and approved for disbursement: Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to direct the Chairman and Administrator to sign and pay the following warrants.

\$	17.15	<b>Kenneth S. Kowal</b> , Beneficiary of <b>Dorothy Kowal</b> Payment for the benefit of February 2022. (Paid 2/9/2022)
\$	1,199.61	<b>Joanne Tomaszewski</b> , Beneficiary of <b>John Tomaszewski</b> Payment for the benefit of February 2022. (Paid 2/28/2022)

The following **DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATION** was reviewed and approved.

Ms. Baronas provided the Board with proposed Findings of Facts for **Terry Giroux-Stolpinski** in regards to her Application for Accidental Disability. Ms. Baronas reminded the Board that the original denial was based on a matter of law that 1) she was not in the performance of her job duties when claimed injury occurred; 2) she was not going from one job assignment to another job assignment; 3) she failed to file a report of injury with her employer and denies filing an injury report with the workers' compensation insurer nor with Division of Industrial Accidents; 4) she claims she is workers' compensation for the same injury, but her award of workers' compensation occurred more than 2 years after claimed injury and is unable to provide documentation relative to injury for which she is receiving workers' compensation; 5) the incident of injury claimed and award of workers' compensation benefits occurred more than 2 years prior to her filing for Accidental Disability Retirement Ms. Baronas consulted with Attorney James Quirk and is in agreeance with the document. Upon Mr. Chadwick's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to accept the recommended Board's Findings of Facts.

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Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to deny the Application for Accidental Disability for Terry Giroux-Stolpinski.

The list of **PENDING RETIREMENTS** was distributed for Board review.

The following **MAKE-UPS AND REDEPOSITS FOR CURRENT MEMBERS** were reviewed.

Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the following make-up for the current member as noted:

**Robert K. Reinke**, (Worthington) request for a makeup of 4 years 5 months for service with the Town of Worthington during the periods of 7/1/2001 – 6/30/2004, 8/1/2005 – 10/31/2005, 5/1/2018 – 8/31/2020, and 9/1/2020 – 2/28/2021.

The following **TRANSFERS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Mr. Chadwick's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the following transfers as individually noted and to direct the Chairman and Administrator to sign and pay the following warrants:

Transfer to <u>Franklin Regional Retirement System</u>		
\$	53,726.57	<b>Jennifer A. Reynolds</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 12 years 7 months for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 5/12/2008 – 1/3/2022.
\$	2,895.11	<b>Bolat A. White</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 3 months for service with the Foothills Health District during the period of 7/1/2021 – 1/20/2022.
Transfer to <u>Springfield Retirement System</u>		
\$	4,637.06	<b>Nicole D. Vezina</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 year 8 months for service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 8/26/2013 – 8/19/2015.
Transfer to <u>Hampden County Regional Retirement System</u>		
\$	64,344.59	<b>Cathy A. Barnes</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 9 months for service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 3/1/2021 – 12/1/2021.
\$	23,704.86	<b>Deborah J. MacCannell</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 8 years 7 months for service with the Town of Hatfield during the period of 8/25/2018 – 2/10/2017 and 8/25/2018 – 10/15/2020.
\$	884.02	<b>Athena M. Fleury</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 5 months for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 1/4/2021 – 7/30/2021.
Transfer to <u>Massachusetts State Retirement Board</u>		
\$	1,606.08	<b>Jaime S. Williams</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 7 months for service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 6/16/2017 – 1/19/2018.

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Transfer to <u>Chicopee Retirement System</u>		
\$	2,291.41	<b>Traci M. Lamica</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 9 months for service with the Town of Southamptton during the period of 1/20/2021 – 12/31/2021.
Transfer to <u>Holyoke Retirement System</u>		
\$	2,615.21	<b>Analiz R. Monzon</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 year 7 months for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 8/28/2019 – 8/9/2021.
Transfer to <u>Northampton Retirement System</u>		
\$	751.25	<b>Madison L. Flueckiger</b> , transfer with liability acceptance of 3 months for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 8/30/2021 – 1/22/2022.

The following **MAKE-UPS AND REDEPOSITS FOR FORMER MEMBERS** were reviewed. Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the following make-up/redeposits for former members as individually noted:

**Chicopee Retirement System** is requesting liability acceptance for **Jesse E. Page**, who wishes to redeposit a prior refund. Accept 2 years 5 months for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 4/17/2007 – 10/7/2009.

**Massachusetts State Retirement Board** is requesting liability acceptance for **Jose A. Cabrera**, who wishes to makeup non-membership service. Accept 1 year 2 months for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 5/1/2015 – 8/31/2015, the Town of Hadley during the period of 8/17/2016 – 5/23/2017 and the Town of Pelham during the period of 7/24/2019 – 12/27/2019.

Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to deny the following make-up/redeposit for former member as individually noted:

**Massachusetts State Retirement Board** is requesting liability acceptance for **Jose A. Cabrera**, who wishes to makeup non-membership service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 1/15/2010 – 8/31/2014. Deny, Earnings were less than \$5,000 a year therefore not eligible for purchase.

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Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to accept **22 new members** for March 9, 2022, as summarized:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 4	Total
20	0	2	22
*note: dual or reinstated members not included in count of new members			

The following **INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL STATUS REPORTS** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

The Board reviewed the **PRIM Performance Report** for January 2022.

The Board reviewed the **Investment Custody Reports** for the Months of January 2022 – March 2022.

The Board reviewed the **Cash Flow Report & Administrative Budget Report**.

In accordance with 840 CMR 16.07, the Board met with Mr. Kevin Condry and Mr. Harry Contos of **Dahab Associates, Inc.** for discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 Investment Performance Review. Presentation materials were distributed and discussed.

The following **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

Ms. Baronas reported that the candidate that was offered the Retiree Services Specialist position had declined the offer. Two additional candidates have had their first interview. One candidate has had their second interview and the other is scheduled to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview this week.

Mr. Chadwick called up the motion to reconsider the vote on the motion voted at the July 14, 2021 Board Meeting: "Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously that effective January 1, 2022, the employer contribution rate for Hampshire County Retirement System retirees and beneficiaries currently enrolled in a health insurance plan shall be 75%." Ms. Elizabeth Sugrue and Mr. John Gauthier requested to address the Board. Mr. Gauthier stated that the Board's action to increasing retiree health contribution is against precedent set by the State in 1994 of holding retirees' percentage at rate paying at retirement. Mr. Gauthier stated that the increase is preemptive of pending legislation protecting local retirees from such increases, citing Senate bill 1712 and House bill 2613 currently in public service committee. Mr. Gauthier noted that medicare premiums just increased by 15% and this increase is an additive burden to those least able to afford such an increase. Mr. Gauthier noted that COLA increases that is limited to a \$13,000 base do not cover the cost of increased premiums. Mr. Gauthier provided list of cities and towns that offer medicare reimbursement to mitigate cost increases to retirees. Ms. Sugrue additionally stated that increasing rates on existing retirees is unnecessary, unfair and she believes was a retaliatory action due to her rejection of unwanted advances of the Board Chairman.

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Mr. Chadwick motioned to reverse the Board's decision taken on July 14, 2021 for the employer contribution rate for the Hampshire County Retirement System retirees and beneficiaries. Motion was not seconded, motion failed. Mr. Wilhelm motioned to amend the July 14, 2021 motion's effective date of January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022. Motion was not seconded, motion failed. Upon Ms. Karpinski's motion and Mr. Chadwick's second, the Board voted 2-3-0 (Mr. Wilhelm, nay; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, nay; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, nay) to reverse July 14, 2021 motion regarding the employers contribution rate for the Hampshire County Retirement System retirees and beneficiaries and the current 4 retirees and 1 beneficiary receiving insurance retain the 90% contribution rate and the employers contribution rate for future retirees and beneficiaries shall be 75% effective January 1, 2022. The motion did not pass. Mr. Brock stated that the discussion on this subject has been completed and the vote taken on July 14, 2021 stands.

Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to direct the Administrator 1) for calendar year 2022, the salary adjustment, if any, shall be up to but not exceeding 4% of the employee's base salary and 2) for new employees it is expected that becoming proficient in their job may take up to three years. For becoming fully proficient in one's job the employee's salary may be adjusted by 15% totally. Partial adjustments may be awarded annually in the same ratio to 15% as the Administrator determines the employee's proficiency is compared to full proficiency.

Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted 3-2-0 (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, nay; Mr. Brock, nay) to include membership in NCPERS, IFEBP, and NPEA.

Mr. Brock reported that due to the current position vacancy, Ms. Rutkowski has been working additional hours to complete the additional duties and he has requested authorization to compensate her for those hours. Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to authorize compensation at the regular rate for Patricia Rutkowski for the extra work retroactive to January 1, 2022 and temporary authorization for compensation until new employee is trained.

The Board reviewed the Annual Performance Evaluation for **Susan Lessard**. Upon Mr. Wilhelm's motion and Ms. Wolfe's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to accept the evaluation as written and grant a salary increase of 4%.

The following **PERAC Memo/News** were noted as having been distributed, upon their receipt, for Board review.

9/2022 – Extension of Open Meeting Law Waiver  
PERAC Pension News No. 9

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**Future Board meetings** are scheduled for:

April 13, 2022 – Monthly Meeting

May 11, 2022 – Monthly Meeting

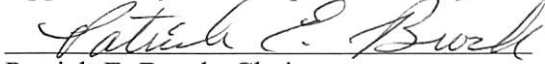
Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Ms. Karpinski's second, the Board voted unanimously (Mr. Wilhelm, yes; Ms. Karpinski, yes; Ms. Wolfe, yes; Mr. Chadwick, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to **adjourn** the meeting at 12:09 9.m.

Respectfully submitted,

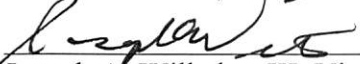


Patricia M. Rutkowski, Assistant Administrator

Approved by the Hampshire County Retirement Board:



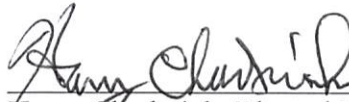
Patrick E. Brock, Chairman



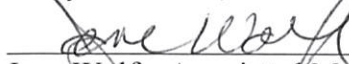
Joseph A. Wilhelm, III, Vice Chairman



Joyce Karpinski, Appointed Member



Harry Chadwick, Elected Member



Jane Wolfe, Appointed Member