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THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BELMONT

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roy Sacco at 8:30 A.M. in Conference Room #2, Town Hall, Belmont, MA. Members present were:

Rosario Sacco, Chairman

Tom Gibson, Vice-Chairman

Barbara Hagg, Ex-Officio

Walter Wellman, Elected

Peter Palandjian, Appointed

Also present was Attorney James Quirk who spoke on the following PERAC MEMO's

- a.#8 Investment Manager List
- b.#9 Tobacco Company List
- c. #12 2011 Limits under Section 23 of Chapter 131 of 2010
- d. PERAC's Proposed Federal Legislation Funding Schedules
- e. A proposed renewal of Consulting Contract with NEPC, LLC The Board had a few questions and Mr. Quirk will discuss them with NEPC. The Board wanted to know If the Contract could state that Doug Moseley would be our contact at NEPC and that he be required to attend our meetings.
- f. Articles on Pensions Moody's to Factor Pension Gaps in States Rating
- g. Message to Feds: Leave Public Pensions alone
- h. Case dealing with CRAB 30A Sec.11 Give notice of Appeal Rights

Discussion and vote on granting a COLA to eligible retirees was opened. Retired Firefighter Frizzell Spoke about the reasons he became a Firefighter. He left a job to work as a Firefighter because he Knew he would have certain benefits when it came time to retire. He said Social Security didn't do their Job. Their money was given to other funds.

Board Member Tom Gibson explained Social Security and their benefits and when they give a COLA it is based on the whole allowance. The COLA given by our system is only calculated on the first \$12,000 of a retiree's annual pension. He explained the CPI. Retirees spend more health insurance and are unable to buy groceries and heating oil, which are 10 to 20% higher than last year. We can support changes in the law.

Chairman Sacco explained that up to the early 1980's, the Town took all the Excess Earnings from the Retirement System. If the System had been able to invest this, our funded ratio would be close to 100%. The 3% COLA would be less than \$1.00 per day. We have a fiduciary duty. 70% of our Fund is employees money. Last year we earned 13.9%. In 2009 we earned 26%, exceeding the PRIT Fund.

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Mr. Roger Colton, a Town Meeting Member from Precinct #6 attended the meeting and read a letter that he sent to the Board in opposition to granting a COLA. He stated his reasons for the Board not to grant a COLA this year, explaining that the local budget cuts are expected. The Board explained that their earnings over the last 10 years has exceeded the State System and the cost of health insurance Increase's every year as well as food, housing and all other expenses.

Walter Wellman made a motion, it was seconded and it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to grant a 3% Cost of Living increase to eligible retirees effective July 1, 2011. The Board was unanimous and supported the reasons given by Tom, Walter and Roy. Barbara applauded everything that was said, and believes the retirees deserve this minimal increase.

Tom said the Board is truly sensitive to Mr. Colton and the Town's position, their comments have not gone on deaf ears. We have reduced our the Town's assessment to the Retirement System three time over the last few years. We have met with the Warrant Committee and are willing to work with the Town.

Voted 3/31/11
Barbaca talchtherBroadsthak Tankdid taggreat job and the Waxes to Committee and Chairman Roy Sacco also participated.

Scott Driscoll of NEPC gave out the Fourth Quarter Investment Review. He explained that investors face a lower market return in 2011. A 5% to 7% return forecast. Reduce every asset class about 7%.

Doug talked about the Real Assets Manager search. The Board has a decision to make about which of the two managers interviewed they want to hire. PIMCO and SSGA.

PIMCO is a fixed income type, more balanced. SSGA is less volatile. NEPC recommends going with PIMCO -10% or \$6M.

A motion was duly made and seconded and it was unanimously $\underline{\text{VOTED}}$ to hire PIMCO as the Real Asset Manager.

Board Member Peter recommended more investment to PRIM Real Estate and AEW Real Estate. We may need a supplemental regulation, Mr. Quirk will look into it.

The Board thanked Doug and Scott for their expertise.

There was discussion on placing an Article in the 2011 Town Meeting Warrant to increase Section 101 survivor benefit, of Chapter 32 from \$6,000 to \$9,000. After discussion the Board felt it wise not to request this increase this year after the COLA discussion today. Jim said it was a wise decision. There are many Boards not going for it.

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Roy also felt we should wait another year to increase the base and Section 101. Walter felt that we should put it on the Warrant, this is our responsibility.

Tom said he doesn't know if Social Security will go up 5% or more. We should wait another year and may have a better chance. What is best for our retiree's. The Board agreed to wait another year.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to go into Executive Session to discuss Medical and disability issues. Mr. Sacco, yes, Mr. Gibson, yes, Ms Hagg, yes, Mr. Wellman, yes and Mr. Palandjian, yes.

After review of the three Medical Panel Doctors reports, all three answered yes to the three questions stating that the member is considered physically incapable of performing the essential duties of the job, said incapacity is likely to be permanent, said incapacity is causally related to the injury of March 6, 2008. Mr. Quirk reviewed the doctors reports and could see no reason not to grant the application. A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to grant Douglas Richardson, of the Electric Light Department an Accidental Disability Retirement .

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously $\underline{\text{VOTED}}$ to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2011 regular monthly meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously $\underline{\text{VOTED}}$ to approve Warrant #1102 in the amount of \$939,507.23.

NEPC "Save the Date" - Wednesday, May 18, and Thursday May 19 2011 Annual Client Conference

Buck Consultants estimated cost of adopting increases in COLA base and amendment to Chapter 32, Section 101. (increase for certain survivors from \$6,000 to \$9,000).

Artio Global Investors newsletter Artio January statement

AEW Global update

Delaware Investments December statement

Frontegra Funds December statement

Rothschild Asset Management Year End 2010 Market Review

Atlanta Capital Investment 4th Quarter 2010

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Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to grant Superannuation Retirement to the following:

- A. Police Sergeant William Watkins, effective February 24, 2011, 33 years 6 months service, Option C.
- B. Police Sergeant Gerard Greeley, effective March 9, 2011, 33 years 6 months service, Option C.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to schedule the next regular monthly meeting for March 31, 2011

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously <u>VOTED</u> to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM

A true copy

ATTEST:

VICE-CHAIRMAN

West a

APPOINTED MEMBER

Town of Belmont Retirement Plan Investment Performance "Flash" Report - Net of Fees Periods Ending 2/28/2011

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Composite net return includes investment manager, investment consultant, custody, actuary, legal, and retrement staff fees

* Roturns only available on a quarterly basis

** Globol Balancod Banchmark: (50% EAFE) (50% WD GOV)

*** AEW Partnors IV was funded in July, 2010. Returns only available on a quarterly basis

