

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL
GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT BOARD**

August 13, 2020

A Regular meeting of the General Government Retirement Board was held on **August 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Bristol, CT. Members present: Chairman Tom Barnes, Jr., Vice Chairman David Preleski, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Comptroller Diane M. Waldron, Commissioners, Orlando Calfe, Peter Dauphinais, Thomas DeNoto, Rose Parenti, Frank Rossi and William Veits. Absent Commissioners Butkus & Keegan. (Note: Chairman Barnes via Web-Ex).

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m by Chairman Tom Brnes, Jr.

2. Item 3 - Minutes for the Regular meeting of July 9, 2020 were approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeNoto and seconded by Comptroller Waldron and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the minutes of the General Government Retirement Board meeting of July 9, 2020 and place on file."

3. Item 4 -Treasurer's report July 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner DeNoto and seconded by Comptroller Waldron and it was unanimously voted to:

"Accept the Treasurer's report for July and place it on file."

4. Item 5 –Consideration of a request for Normal Retirement from Richard Lacey Corporation Counsel NonBargaining effective June 27, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dauphinais and seconded by Comptroller Waldron and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Richard Lacey Corporation Counsel Non Bargaining effective June 27, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$86,877.21 or \$7,239.77 monthly."

5. Item 6 – Consideration of a request for Normal Retirement from John Neveu Building Department Local 233 effective July 18, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dauphinais and seconded by Comptroller Waldron and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from John Neveu Building Department Local 233 effective July 18, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$73,498.26 or \$6,124.86 monthly."

6. Item 7 – Consideration of a request for Normal Retirement from Janet Lewis Assessors Office Local 233 effective June 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossi and seconded by Commissioner DeNoto and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Janet Lewis Assessors Office Local 233 effective June 30, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$26,910.27 or \$2,242.52 monthly.”

7. Item 8 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement of Jeffrey Morin Public Works Local 1338 effective July 18, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossi and seconded by Commissioner Veits and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Jeffrey Morin Public Works Local 1338 effective July 18, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$57,650.34 or \$4,804.20 monthly.”

8. Item 9 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement of Gerard Bourbonniere Public Works Local 1338 effective July 25, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Veits and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Gerard Bourbonniere Public Works Local 1338 effective July 25, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$32,740.23 or \$2,728.35 monthly.”

9. Item 10 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement with 66.6% Contingent Annuitant Option from Fred Haines Board of Education Local 2267 effective July 1, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner DeNoto and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement with 66.6% Contingent Annuitant option from Fred Haines Board of Education effective July 1, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$40,960.83 or \$3,413.40 monthly employee benefit or \$2,275.37 monthly spousal benefit in the event of the employee’s death.”

10. Item 11 – Consideration of a request to approve the Early Retirement from Sallie Roberts Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 13, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Veits and seconded by Commissioner DeNoto and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Early Retirement from Sallie Roberts Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 13, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$11,503.15 or \$958.60 monthly.”

11. Item 12 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Kathryn Middleton Board of Education Local 3551 effective June 25, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Veits and seconded by Commissioner Parenti and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Kathryn Middleton Board of Education Local 3551 effective June 25, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$13,493.00 or \$1,124.42 monthly.”

12. Item 13 – Consideration of a request to approve the Early Retirement with 100% Contingent Annuitant Option from Wayne Johnson Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 19, 2020.

A motion was made by Comptroller Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Veits and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Early Retirement from Wayne Johnson Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 19, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$5,073.21 or \$422.77 monthly employee benefit or \$422.77 monthly spousal benefit in the event of the employee’s death.”

13. Item 14 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Claudia Senetcen Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 19, 2020.

A motion was made by Comptroller Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Veits and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Claudia Senetcen Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 19, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$13,984.60 or \$1,165.38 monthly.”

14. Item 15 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Stephen Krenicki Contingent Annuitant ½ beneficiary of Deborah Krenicki Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 23, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossi and seconded by Mayor Zoppo Sassu and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for the Normal Retirement from Stephen Krenicki Contingent Annuitant ½ Beneficiary of Deborah Krenicki Board of Education Local 2267 effective June 23, 2020 with an annual pension amount of \$5,228.39 or \$435.70 monthly.”

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Preleski and seconded by Commissioner DeNoto to move Item 17 before Item 16.

16. Item 17 – Investment Review by Beirne Wealth Consulting, LLC.

Mr. John Beirne provided an overview of current markets. John Oliver Beirne presented the numbers and indicated approximately 18% of the portfolio was unpriced as of June 30, 2020. He noted that some of the portfolio funds had been moved into lower risk funds to protect most of the portfolio.

He noted the current value of the portfolio is approximately \$666 million. The multi credit portfolio is missing some pricing and once all the pricing is in John Oliver anticipates most numbers will have a stepped up value.

Commissioner Calfe asked about pricing – why is there such a delay and when can we expect to get full pricing?

John Oliver explained that some funds are priced monthly, some quarterly and there is typically a 30 day delay with some funds being 30 to 45 days past month.

Comptroller Waldron noted that pricing for the June Report is complete mid-September and possibly even in October.

John Oliver noted that 60% of Equity in the portfolio was up a little over 7%. Equity being up was brought on by a number of factors including having good managers, noting most managers have done pretty well with their benchmarks.

Beirne reduced the riskier portions of the equity proponent which have helped the portfolio. The goal is to have the portfolio maximally diversified. Commissioner DeNoto commented that they also have to be certain to be following the investment policy statement specific to page 12 of the Beirne report. Commissioner Calfe asked how we are doing compared to other Municipalities? John Oliver indicated this is a pretty unique subset and that comparing across clients is difficult to do – very different investment structures of funds making it difficult to compare. The City of Bristol is in a place of being significantly overfunded. Bristol is probably one of the few pension funds that are fully overfunded.

17. Item 18 – To receive communications from the Board of Finance recommending the Retirement Board issue an RFP for investment advisor for the City’s Employee Pension Plan and to take any action as necessary.”

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Prelseki to receive letter of recommendation from the Board of Finance regarding RFP for investment advisor for the City’s Employee Pension Plan and it was seconded by Commissioner Veits and it was unanimously voted to:

“To receive letter of recommendation from the Board of Finance regarding RFP for investment advisor for the City’s Employee Pension Plan.” Commissioner Calfe read the Letter from John Smith of the Board of Finance into the record and is attached to these minutes for reference.”

Chairman Barnes explained to the Board that there are fees based on contracts the City signed with individual managers as well as the advisor fee Beirne Wealth receives. Commissioner DeNoto asked Chairman Barnes if he feels they are competitive? Chairman Barnes indicated for our size fund and with the type of investment structure these fees are typical. Chairman Barnes did state that he wants John Beirne to come in to a future meeting to explain their fee structure.

Chairman Barnes is very concerned about the timing of an RFP, with capital calls still outstanding, it could potentially cost the City money if the contracts were canceled. Some contracts are not yet six months old with capital calls still outstanding. The Mayor asked Chairman Barnes when would be a better time to go out for an RFP that would insulate the City from potential loss and he indicated it would be best to wait a couple of months.

Chairman Barnes said that it is not possible to turn an RFP around overnight and that it would require interviewing advisors which is very time consuming. Chairman Barnes would like help with this process so as not to be doing it alone. The Mayor said that an RFP is due since Beirne charges close to a million dollars per year in fees and this has not been out for an RFP since 2012. The City is overdue with this process. Over the last few years the City has issued RFP’s for all consulting services, health benefits, workers compensation, actuarial and auditors. This is one of the last services to market. Chairman Barnes is not against an RFP but recommends maybe waiting until things calm down in the world.

The Mayor asked if we move ahead with asking Beirne Wealth for a reduction of fees that they also understand the City still plans to issue an RFP. She also stated that when this is done the Retirement Board would support and assist with the advisor interview process. Chairman Barnes suggested bringing Beirne Wealth in to the next meeting to explain the fee structure. Chairman Barnes wants to insure the City gets the best price but there are a lot of components to consider.

A motion was made by Commissioner Calfe and seconded by Vice Chairman Preleski to table the discussion regarding the request from the Board of Finance recommending the Retirement Board issue an RFP for investment advisor for the City's Employee Pension Plan until later in the year and it was unanimously voted to:

"Table the discussion regarding the request from the Board of Finance recommending the Retirement Board issue an RFP for investment advisor for the City's Employee Pension Plan until later in the year."

Vice Chairman Preleski answered the question of a time limit for the City to go out to RFP that there is no limit to do this within a certain timeframe.

8. Item 9 – No other business to come before meeting.

9. Item 10 – Adjournment.

At 6:15 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Rossi and seconded by Mayor Zoppo Sassu and it was unanimously voted to: "Adjourn."



Diane M. Waldron
Comptroller and Secretary, Retirement Board