

# Minutes of the Franklin Regional Retirement Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
at the Town of Deerfield Town Offices  
8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, Massachusetts

Chairman Herbert Sanderson called the meeting to order at 11:37 am.

Members present were:

Sunderland Treasurer – Herbert Sanderson, Chair, Advisory Council  
Deerfield Treasurer – Mary Stokarski, Vice Chair, Advisory Council  
Bernardston Treasurer – Susan Malley  
Buckland Treasurer – Linda Marcotte  
Erving Treasurer – Margaret Sullivan  
Franklin County Housing Treasurer – Robin Sherman  
Gill Treasurer – Veronica LaChance  
Leyden, and Shelburne Treasurer – Robert Taylor  
New Salem/Wendell Union School District Assistant Treasurer – Kate Woodward  
Warwick Treasurer – Terry Kemerer  
Wendell Treasurer – Carolyn Manley

Retirement Board present:

Herbert Sanderson Second Member Appointed by Advisory Council  
Mary Stokarski Third Member Elected by membership  
Paul Mokrezecki Fifth Member Appointed by Board

Retirement staff present:

Dale Kowacki Executive Director; Secretary, Advisory Council

## **Minutes Accepted**

*On a motion by Veronica LaChance and second by Susan Malley, the Council voted to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2011 meeting.*

## **Increase retiree COLA base to \$14,000**

At its January 25, 2012 meeting, the Board voted to increase the COLA base to \$14,000, thereby initiating an approval process that includes a vote by the Advisory Council.

*On a motion by Margaret Sullivan and second by Veronica LaChance, the Council voted acceptance of the Board's vote to increase the retirees' COLA base to \$14,000.*

## **Increase Option D minimum from \$3,000 to \$6,000**

At its March 28, 2012 meeting, the Board voted to increase the minimum Option D survivor benefit to \$6,000 (up from \$3,000). Option D provides a monthly benefit to the designated beneficiary of a member who dies before retiring. A minimum benefit is paid under certain circumstances (active service, spouse as the beneficiary, married at least one year, living together at time of death, completed two years of service). The minimum has been \$3,000 since 1984 (28 years).

*On a motion by Margaret Sullivan and second by Susan Malley, the Council voted acceptance of the Board's vote to increase Option D minimum from to \$6,000.*

### **Increase Board Stipend from \$3,000 to \$4,500**

The Board is asking the Advisory Council to increase the annual stipend of the four regular Board members to \$4,500 (from \$3,000). The ability to do so was given to the Advisory Council in the recent reforms to the pension system.

The approval of the increase happens with a two-step vote wherein the council votes to:

- Accept section 34 of chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011, and,
- Approve an increase to *<insert amount>*, the annual stipend of each Board member.

*On a motion by Margaret Sullivan and second by Robert Taylor, the Council voted acceptance 34 of chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011.*

*A motion was made by Robert Taylor, with a second by Susan Malley, to increase the Board Stipends to \$4,500.*

*On a motion by Margaret Sullivan and second by Veronica LaChance, the Council voted amend the original motion to read "\$3,500", with five members in favor, 4 opposed, with Mary Stokarski and Herbert Sanderson recusing themselves.*

*The council then voted to approve the amended motion and increase the Board stipends to \$3,500, with Mary Stokarski and Herbert Sanderson recusing themselves.*

### **Adjournment**

*On a motion by Susan Malley and second by Veronica LaChance, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Kowacki  
Advisory Council Secretary

These minutes were approved at the November 7, 2012 meeting.