

Minutes of the Franklin Regional Retirement Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2013
at the Town of Deerfield, Town Offices,
8 Conway Street, South Deerfield MA 01373

Vice Chairman Mary Stokarski called the meeting to order at 11:04 am and then turned the meeting over to Dale Kowacki

Members present were:

Deerfield Treasurer – Mary Stokarski, Vice Chair, Advisory Council
Buckland Treasurer – Linda Marcotte
Colrain Treasurer – Leah Coburn
Erving Treasurer – Margaret Sullivan
Frontier Regional School - Paula Light
Gill Treasurer – Veronica LaChance
Pioneer Regional School – Deb Mero
South Deerfield Water District Treasurer – Eunice Apanell
Shelburne Treasurer – Robert Taylor

Retirement Board present:

Sandra Hanks First member, Chair, Treasurer, Appointed by Board
Mary Stokarski Third Member Elected by membership

Retirement staff present:

Dale Kowacki Executive Director; Secretary, Advisory Council
Deborah Frentzos Member Services Accountant

Minutes Accepted

On a motion by Veronica LaChance and second by Robert Taylor, the Council voted to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2012 meeting.

Election Procedures

The following procedures for the two elections to take place during the meeting were presented and discussed – with no changes made.

Before we conduct the two elections today, we need to agree about the procedures we will follow. The bylaws state:

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

The officers of the Franklin Regional Retirement Board Advisory Council shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary each elected for a term of three (3) years and until their successors are elected. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council and shall assume their official duties following their election at the Annual Meeting.

Any member of the Council shall be eligible for election to an office, except that the Secretary need not be a member of the Council. The Secretary, if a non-member, will not have voting rights.

A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a person elected by a majority vote at a meeting called specifically for that purpose, notice of such election having been given.

Using the bylaws as a guide, the following are proposed:

Nominations – Anyone that is a member of the Advisory Council can be nominated. Nominations will be made from the meeting floor (not in advance).

Presiding officer – If the newly elected Chair of the Advisory Council is a candidate, or would prefer not to run the meeting just yet, one of the other council officers will run this portion of the meeting. Mary Stokarski is the Vice Chair; Dale Kowacki is the Secretary.

Candidate statements – It would seem appropriate to allow a few minutes for each candidate to make a statement to the group.

Voting – If there is only one nominee/candidate the election will simply be a show of hands. If there are two or more candidates, voting will be on blank slips of paper. The votes will be tabulated and the results reported immediately.

Election of a Council Chair

This position will serve to the end of the unfinished term of Herbert Sanderson until December 31, 2013. Nominations were requested from the floor.

Leah Coburn nominated VERONICA LACHANCE, seconded by Robert Taylor.

The election of VERONICA LACHANCE was unanimously approved by attending treasurers.

Election of a Council Member to the Franklin Regional Retirement Board

This position will serve to the end of the unfinished term of Herbert Sanderson until December 31, 2015. Nominations were requested from the floor.

Margaret Sullivan nominated DEB MERO, seconded by Veronica LaChance.

Mary Stokarski nominated PAULA LIGHT, seconded by Deb Mero.

DEB MERO described her background:

Town Accountant, Town of Northfield since December 1, 1989
Treasurer, Pioneer Valley School District since November 25, 2002
Town Accountant, Town of Erving since December 2, 2004

PAULA LIGHT described her background:

Bookkeeper, Union 38, and Frontier School District since June 16, 1986
Treasurer, Frontier School District since May 1, 2011

Margaret Sullivan moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mary Stokarski.

PAULA LIGHT received 5 votes by paper ballot. DEB MERO received 4 votes by paper ballot. PAULA LIGHT was elected to fill the remaining term of the Second Member of the Board.

Organize for Fall Elections

The 3-year term of David Gendron (Fourth Member) ends on December 31, 2013, and, Mary Stokarski is retiring on December 31, 2013 with one year left on her term (Third Member), thereby making it necessary to run two elections simultaneously this fall.

The paperwork to run each election was presented and reviewed by the council, and a request for volunteers from the council to certify nomination papers and count ballots was made, with Deb Mero and Eunice Apanell raising their hands to volunteer.

Adjournment

On a motion by Veronica LaChance and second by Robert Taylor, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted at the November 6, 2013 Advisory Council Meeting

Dale Kowacki
Advisory Council Secretary

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