

**FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Franklin Regional Retirement Board, duly posted to be held via remote participation on the above date, was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Board Chair Sandra Hanks, with Vice Chair Paul Mokrzecki, Board Members Gabriele Voelker and Angel Bragdon present. Also present in the Board office located at 101 Munson Street, Suite 108, Greenfield MA was Executive Director Dale Kowacki, Assistant Director Kristine Mathis, Member Services Accountant Ashley Manley, and Member Services Accountant Nicole Gaspar. Data Maintenance Clerk Patricia Hume joined remotely. Board member Mary Stokarski was absent.

Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Gabriele Voelker and a second by Angel Bragdon, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held November 29, 2023

Minutes of the Private Executive Session held November 29, 2023

Payroll, Refunds, Transfers and Bills Warrants

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki to approve the following warrant totals, Angel Bragdon seconded the motion.

Retirees		\$1,202,655.00
Refunds		\$10,097.78
Transfers		\$1,171.26
Invoices	2023	\$1,048,006.49
	2024	<u>\$8,777.42</u>
For a total		\$2,270,707.95

Cash Transfer between Investments and Bank

On a motion made by Gabriele Voelker and a second by Paul Mokrzecki, the Board voted unanimously to transfer \$930,000.00 from the Prit Core General Fund to cover January's warrants.

Visitors:

Natalie Whitcomb, Paula Harrison, Kevin Fox and two others identified as Kevin Fox, joined at 8:33 AM.

Membership (new members, new positions, additional positions)

A motion was made by Gabriele Voelker and seconded by Angel Bragdon to accept the following new members, new positions, and additional positions as presented. All ayes.

<u>New Memberships</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>	<u>C.S. %</u>	<u>New %</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
-	-	-	-	-	-
Dalton, Victoria	11/20/2023	50%	-	FCH	Housing Programs Asst
Dorval, Elise	11/20/2023	50%	-	WTY	Cafeteria Assistant
Dunne, Christopher	12/4/2023	100%	-	DER	Planning&Economic Dev Coord
Eggsware, Kaylah	11/20/2023	100%	-	SND	Instructional Assistant
Hanks, Brianna	11/13/2023	60%	-	FCH	Custodian
Hoyt, Sean	10/16/2023	100%	-	DER	Instructional Assistant
Hutchins, Samantha	11/13/2023	100%	-	WTY	Instructional Assistant
Jorgensen, Samantha	11/14/2023	100%	-	MOH	Paraprofessional
Koscinski, Mandi	11/6/2023	100%	-	DER	Instructional Assistant
Laureano, Diana	11/7/2023	100%	-	SND	Instructional Assistant
Lowell, Jacob	12/11/2023	100%	-	BUC	Facilities/Highway
McConnell, Erin	11/27/2023	100%	-	MOH	Paraprofessional
McGuire, Curtis	11/10/2023	100%	-	STB	Police Officer
Nickerson-Bird, Valerie	11/19/2023	50%	-	DER	Board of Health Agent
Ryan, Mackenzie	11/7/2023	100%	-	WTY	Instructional Assistant
Smith, Grinnan	12/4/2023	100%	-	CON	Instructional Assistant
Taylor, Michael	11/13/2023	100%	-	ASH	Highway Laborer
Waldron, Paul	11/27/2023	100%	-	FCH	Maintenance Laborer
Zilinski, Tina	11/1/2023	90%	-	PNR	Instructional Assistant
			-		
<u>New Positions</u>					
-					
Delaney, Larry	11/20/2023	100%		OGE	Highway Superintendent
Hartwell, Elina	11/15/2023	50%		DER/WTY	Cafeteria Assistant
Haskins, Dawn	11/28/2023	100%		MOH	Paraprofessional
Manica, Anthony	12/4/2023	100%		MOH	Asst. Dir. Of Main.& Oper.
Reardon, Madeline	10/23/2023	60%	100%	DER	Instructional Assistant

Ross, Amy	10/16/2023	100%		WTY	Admin Asst
<u>Additional Positions</u>					
-					
Andrews, Aaron	12/7/2023	100%		MOH	After School Inclusive Prog
Larson, Joseph	7/1/2020	100%		WCK	Fire Chief
McConnell, Erin	11/27/2023	100%		MOH	After School Prog. Asst
Reiter, Roberta	8/29/2023	100%		DER	Out of School Prog.
Tatro, Sabrina	11/20/2023	100%		MOH	After School Prog. Asst
Wonkka, Phillip	3/21/2023	100%		NTD	EMT-B

Deaths:

Canon, Brian – Option C beneficiary of Lydia Canon died 11/30/2023. Ms. Canon will pop-up to an Option A monthly benefit.

Fortier, Alice – Option A retiree since 09/30/2001, Ms. Fortier was the Cafeteria Manager for the Northfield Elementary School, accruing 21 years of creditable service. DOD was 11/28/2023 at the age of 87.

General Business

1. Natalie Whitcomb - Discussion of PERAC response regarding general approach to handling of late membership applications of elected officials in prior years.

To be consistent with a previous handling of late membership applications of elected officials in prior years:

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki to accept Natalie Whitcomb's membership application as of April of 1992. Gabriele Voelker seconded the motion. All ayes.

Natalie Whitcomb left the meeting at 8:52 AM.

Paula Harrison let the meeting at 8:54 AM

2. Staff evaluations

Gabriel Voelker made a motion to recommend a 2.5% merit increase. Paul Mokrzecki seconded the motion. 2 yes votes, 1 no vote, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

3. 2024 investment managers meeting schedule

The investment managers meeting schedule was accepted.

Kevin Fox left the meeting at 9:12 AM

4. Possible further discussion of additional bank to de-risk lack of DIF

Chair Sandra Hanks mentioned the Board would like to continue with the search for an additional bank to de-risk the lack of DIF.

5. Possible continuation of planning for hiring an Executive Director

Further discussion will be held at the December 22, 2023, Special Meeting.

New Business:

No new business.

Discussion topics

Executive Director Dale Kowacki explained an update to the McDonough Appeal.

He also added that the Board is still waiting for any new information from the Legislation regarding Kevin Fox's appeal of the Board denial to purchase prior elected service.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Gabriele Voelker and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED ON JANUARY 31, 2024

Patricia Hume, Data Maintenance Clerk

Sandra A. Hanks, Chair and Treasurer

Angelina J. Bragdon, Council Member

Gabriele H. Voelker, Board Member

Mary A. Stokarski, Board Member

Paul J. Mokrzecki, Vice Chair