

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 30, 2025

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 8:30 AM by Board Chair Sandra Hanks, also present were Co-Chair Paul Mokrzecki with Board Members Angel Bragdon and Paula Light. Present in the Board office located at 101 Munson Street, Suite 108, Greenfield MA were, Assistant Director Ashley Manley, Member Services Accountant Nicole Gaspar, and Executive Director Kristine Mathis. Member Services Diane Wright and Data Maintenance Clerk Patricia Hume joined via Zoom.

Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Angel Bragdon, and seconded by Paula Light, the Board voted to approve the following minutes. All ayes

March 26, 2025, regular minutes

Payroll, Refunds, Transfers and Bills Warrants

A motion was made by Paul Mokrzecki to approve the following warrant totals, Paula Light seconded the motion. All ayes

Retirees		\$1,285,131.59
Refunds		\$10,423.99
Transfers		\$58,773.74
Invoices	2025	\$802,337.21
	03-25W – WB Mason credit	<u>-\$24.99</u>
For a total		\$2,156,641.54

Cash Transfer between Investments and Bank

On a motion made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paula Light, the Board voted unanimously to transfer \$900,000.00 from PRIT core general fund to cover May's warrants.

Visitors

None

Membership (new members, new positions, additional positions)

A motion was made by Paula Light and seconded by Angel Bragdon to accept the following new members, new positions, and additional positions. All ayes

<u>New Memberships</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>	<u>C.S. %</u>	<u>New %</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Bolton, Haley	4/7/2025	100%	-	STB	Town Administrator
Boutwell, Jason	4/14/2025	100%	-	HTH	Skilled Laborer/Operator
Crowningshield, Jenna	3/24/2025	60%	-	MOH	Cafeteria
Elias, Nicole	3/31/2025	100%	-	MHR	Long Term Substitute Teacher
Falbel, Aaron	4/11/2025	60%	-	SND	Librarian, Head of Adult Services
Galloway, Alexandria	3/24/2025	100%	-	DER	Planner/Economic Development Coordinator
Johnson-Mussad, Glenn	3/31/2025	100%	-	ERV	Town Planner
Martin, Ree	3/31/2025	100%	-	BER	Custodian
Phillips, Bridget	3/26/2025	100%	-	FCH	Community Development Administrative Assistant
Purinton, Rachel	3/10/2025	100%	-	OGE	Community Social Worker
Stoneham, Luke	3/6/2025	100%	-	SND	Instructional Assistant
Sutton, Andrew	3/17/2025	100%	-	MHR	Night Custodian
Tyler, Kelly	3/17/2025	90%	-	WEN	Coordinator
Velez Acosta, Yachira	3/4/2025	100%	-	OGE	Paraprofessional-Bilingual
Weber, Duane	4/2/2025	100%	-	MOH	Custodian
Weissman, Marika	3/17/2024	90%	-	MOH	Paraprofessional
Wheeler, Jasmine	3/24/2025	100%	-	MHR	Paraprofessional
Winston, Claire	3/10/2025	80%	-	FRN	Instructional Assistant
			-		
<u>New Positions</u>			-		
Kelly, Karen *	12/21/2023	50%	100%	BER	Town Coordinator
McKinley, Amanda	8/26/2024	90%	100%	FRN	Behaviorist Support
Munson, Erik	3/27/2025	100%	-	DER	Out of School Program Site Coord.
Stone, Cara	3/27/2025	100%	-	DER	Instructional Assistant
			-		
<u>Additional Positions</u>			-		
Jouannet, Jeanne	7/1/2024	100%	-	CON	Summer Custodian
Toia, Alicia	3/27/2025	100%	-	NTD	Paramedic, Per Diem
Munson, Erik	6/24/2024	100%	-	DER	Summer and Vacation Camped

* Karen Kelly – discovered position change during audit of payroll

Disability Retirement:

Paige, Clifford – The retirement packet has been submitted to PERAC to retire Clifford Paige for an Ordinary Disability retirement allowance effective December 20th, 2024. He was employed as a custodian for the Pioneer Valley School District, accruing 18 years, 7 months of creditable service.

Paul Mokrzecki made a motion to forward Clifford Paige's application for a medical panel review. Angel Bragdon seconded.

Paul amended the motion to say: "forward Clifford Paige's application for a medical panel review pending receipt of all the proper documentation." Angel Bragdon seconded again. Motion was approved with all ayes.

Accept Liability for Buybacks and Makeups Through Other Systems:

A motion was made by Paula Light to accept liability for the following Buyback through other systems as presented. Paul Mokrzecki seconded the motion. All ayes

Ainsworth, Neal – The Greenfield Retirement System has asked FRRS to accept creditable service liability if their current member, Neal Ainsworth, re-deposits a refund taken from this system. The refund, approved by the Board effective as of 1/31/1989, was for deductions of \$3,292.86. Mr. Ainsworth worked as a Highway Driver for the Town of Leyden from 10/1/1985 to 10/7/1988. Total service FRRS will accept is 3 years.

New Retiree:

A motion was made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paula Light to accept the following new retiree as presented. All ayes

Sullivan, Stephen – The retirement packet has been submitted to PERAC to retire Stephen Sullivan for a Superannuation, Option A retirement allowance. His last day of work was September 12, 2024, and his retirement benefit will begin on February 1, 2025. Mr. Sullivan was a group 1 member working as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Shutesbury.

Deaths

Fred Chase II – Inactive member whose deductions stopped December 2005. He was a police officer and constable for the Town of Gill. DOD 3/12/2025 at the age of 77. Listed beneficiary pre-deceased him. Obituary listed two children, sent letter addressed to both children to Fred's address.

General Business

1. Bay State Pension Update

Director Kristine Mathis informed the Board that training sessions with Bay State Pension have begun. The cost is better than initially discussed with savings of approximately \$9,000.00 for the first year and similar savings for the first 5 years. The next step is to have the contract signed so the data can be used to create a demo environment for training with an effective date of 4/30/2025. A termination letter to Pension Technology Group will be drafted with plans for review at the August Board meeting with the intention to send it in September.

2. Hastings & Wickline DRO

In January, a call was made by Kim Wickline regarding the effect of a remarriage on a DRO payment under her ex-husband's retirement. In reviewing the DRO, Executive Director Kristine Mathis, discovered that there was a lack of information in that regard, and an error was made in the implementation of the court approved DRO upon Mr. Hastings retirement of 9/14/2017. The Board made a motion to recalculate his retirement option based on the DRO language. Board Legal Counsel Attorney Michael Sacco, after review of the DRO, advised that Kim's remarriage would not affect her DRO payment. He also determined that Mr. Hastings agreed to choose option B according to the court-approved, DRO language. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Hastings chose option C. Board staff failed to have Attorney Sacco review the DRO prior to approving Mr. Hastings' retirement, therefore resulting in the incorrect implementation of the DRO, by allowing and approving Mr. Hastings' pension benefit under option C.

A motion was made by Paula Light and seconded by Angel Bragdon to notify Mr. Hastings of the error in the option he chose and that the Board will re-evaluate the pension benefit he receives. All ayes

The Board will also inform him an error was made in the implementation of the court-approved DRO.

3. MACRS Conference

Approval is needed to have the office closed from June 2-4 so the staff can attend the MACRS Annual Conference to be held at the Emerald Resort in Hyannis, MA June 1-4, 2025.

A motion was made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki to close the office June 2-4, 2025, so the staff can attend the Annual MACRS Conference. All ayes

4. Reallocation of last year's budget items updated

A double payment for the MEGA Insurance was made in February 2024 resulting in an overspent amount of \$518.00 in the Insurance Account (5310-000). Funds from the Management Fees line to the Insurance Account in that amount were moved.

Paula Light made a motion to reallocate all monies for the double payment from the management fees as follows. Angel Bragdon seconded the motion. All ayes

Move the funds from the Management Fees line as follows: CHANGED				
To	5308-000	Legal	\$1,210.78	
To	5310-000	Insurance	\$18.22	
To	5320-000	Education and Training	\$1,602.60	
To	5589-002	Equipment & Software Maint. Services	\$1,804.87	
To	5589-005	Postage	\$4,042.20	
To	5599-111	Computers, etc	\$455.68	
To	5599-706	Online Resources	\$1,261.72	
To	5719-000	Travel	\$2,698.76	
To	5310-000	Insurance	518.00	
		TOTAL	\$13,612.83	

5. PERAC Annual Statement

We have requested and been granted a 30-day extension by PERAC until 6/1/2025 to submit the Board approved Annual Statement.

New Business

To look into the legality and implementation of having employees who have physical positions be required to have physicals prior to employment.

Discussion topics

Michael Pellin—On April 24, 2025, an oral argument was heard at the Superior Court. Judge Bucci has affirmed CRAB's decision to award an ADR. Attorney Sacco is recommending that the Board seek the Appellate Court's review of the CRAB decision.

Paul Mokrzecki made a motion to Instruct the Board's attorney to file action in the Appellate Court regarding the Pellin disability application. Paula Light seconded the motion. All ayes

Adjournment

On a motion made by Angel Bragdon and seconded by Paul Mokrzecki, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MAY 28, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

Patricia Hume, Data Maintenance Clerk

Sandra A. Hanks, Chair and Treasurer

Paul J. Mokrzecki, Vice Chair

Angel J. Bragdon, Council Member

Gabriele H. Voelker, Board Member

Paula J. Light, Board Member