

Belmont Contributory Retirement Board

Minutes of Meeting of August 31, 2020

Conducted Pursuant to the March 12, 2020 Order of the Governor
Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Board Members Present: Thomas Gibson; Walter Wellman (remote); Chitra Subramanian (remote); Floyd Carman (remote); Ross Vona.

Staff Present: Robert Soohoo; Ryan Horan.

Guests: Doug Mosley, NEPC (remote); Francesco Daniele, PRIT (remote); Michael Trotsky, PRIT (remote); Paul Todisco, PRIT (remote); Elizabeth Herlihy, PRIT (remote); Emily Green, PRIT (remote); Kathy Riley, Segal (remote); Jack Sullivan, Segal (remote) Jim Quirk, Board Attorney (remote).

Identified Public Participants: None Identified.

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 9:17 am.

Annual Investment Manager Review of PRIM: Michael Trotsky presented a review of PRIM's operations. He updated the Board on PRIM's COVID response, recent hires, and reviewed 1st and 2nd quarter investment performances of 2020. Mr. Trotsky voiced concerns that the market may not be fully impacted yet by the effects of the pandemic. The projected assumed investment return of PRIM was discussed. PERAC will not be performing an annual valuation of the Commonwealth's pension funds this year.

PRIT's representatives exited meeting at 10:00 AM.

Presentation by NEPC: Doug Mosley presented July's investment performance. His presentation interrupted at 10:10 AM due to technical difficulties. He returned to continue his presentation at 10:53 AM. Mr. Mosley has concerns about future economic issues due to the changing environment brought on by COVID.

Presentation by Segal: Kathy Riley reviewed the System's preliminary valuation as of December 31, 2019, and presented proposed funding schedules as the Board had requested. The report does not reflect the market volatility seen in 2020, but that information may be referenced in the final report. Ms. Riley's recommendation was to lower the assumed rate of return, currently at 7.4%, to 7.15%. Interest rates will likely continue to stay low for the foreseeable future. This may add 5 million to the unfunded liability. Belmont is roughly 60% funded based on Segal's valuations. She also discussed the effects of extending the funding schedule to 2030 and 2031, and the impact of lowering the assumption upon the employer's appropriation. Ms. Riley will attend the September Board Meeting in which the Board plans to vote on the funding schedule. Mr. Gibson will provide Segal's report to the Town Administrator and invite comments from Ms. Garvin and the Select Board.

Segal Representatives exited meeting at 10:52 AM

Future Meeting Dates: September 21, 2020; October 26, 2020; November 23, 2020, December 21, 2020.

Mr. Mosley exited meeting at 11:06 am.

The Board reviewed the 2020 Budget through July 2020.

The Board reviewed Section 3(8)c payments and receipts for 2019.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Wellman, seconded by Mr. Vona, to approve the July 28, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Ms. Subramanian	Present
Mr. Gibson	Yes

The motion passed.

Report from the Board Attorney James Quirk: Mr. Quirk discussed a recent article detailing the mental health issues which have arisen from the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Quirk sent a letter to PERAC in November 2019 to clarify regular compensation at the request of a retired member and has followed up with another letter in August 2020. Staff will reach out to the Town's Clerks Office on whether the Town has adopted Chapter 32 Section 20A providing indemnification for board members. The Board requested Mr. Quirk to review PERAC Memo #27/2020 and the impact on creditable service if a member is unable to work due to COVID related issues.

Report of the Executive Director: Mr. Soohoo discussed Mr. Reilly's Accidental Disability Calculations and PERAC's Calculations. Mr. Soohoo will adjust his benefit for September's Payroll and contact Mr. Reilly about the overpayment of benefits. Mr. Soohoo will reach out to HR about reimbursement for expenses due to COVID related expenses. The Board discussed a recent active member's death. Mr. Soohoo will send appropriate forms to the Beneficiary and will further review at September's Board Meeting. The Board was informed that 2020 Affidavits, 2019 Annual Statements, and the Notice of Elections for December 2020 have been mailed to the respective members and beneficiaries.

Review and Approval of Expense and Payroll Warrants.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Wellman, to approve July and August Expense Warrant and August Payroll Warrant.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Ms. Subramanian	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes

The motion passed.

No Correspondence received for review.

Reviewed the Budget Comparison Spreadsheet to compare Belmont's Administrative Budget to other comparable Boards. Further comparisons will be sought.

PERAC Memos. Discussed PERAC Memo #27 under Presentation by Board Counsel James Quirk, Jr., Esq..

Request for Superannuation Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ret Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Group</u>
David Frizzell	8/31/2020	Chief	56	34 Years, 9 Months	SA, Option C	Fire	4

Enrollment of New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mem Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Group</u>
Ricardo DaCamara	8/24/2020	Mechanic	Highway	1
Hannah Lee	8/3/2020	Youth Librarian	Library	1

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to accept new enrollments and acknowledge the retirement application filed by Chief Frizzell.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Ms. Subramanian	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes

The motion passed.

The Board acknowledged the passing of Joanna Pecora, surviving beneficiary of Ralph Pecora on August 5, 2020.

Chairman's Report. Mr. Gibson has observed a general uptick throughout the Commonwealth in requests for retirement estimates and retirement applications due to COVID-19 concerns and political protests. Staff confirmed that there has been an increase in retirement questions.

Discussed issues with Mr. Maguranis and his retroactive date of retirement for his Ordinary Disability. The Chairman directed that staff send a letter to make clear his appeal rights. Board confirmed accepting electronic signatures with a wet signature to be followed.

Motion by Mr. Vona, seconded by Mr. Carman, to Adjourn Meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Wellman	Yes
Mr. Vona	Yes
Mr. Carman	Yes
Ms. Subramanian	Yes
Mr. Gibson	Yes

The Motion passed.

Meeting adjourns at 12:13 AM.

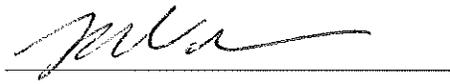
Documents Distributed:

August 31, 2020 Agenda
2020 Budget through July
2019 Budget Comparison
NEPC August 2020 Presentation
PRIT August 2020 Presentation
Segal Preliminary Valuations
PERAC Memo #27

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Soohoo
Executive Director

Approved by the Retirement Board:





September 21, 2020
