

The regular meeting of the Gardner Contributory Retirement Board was called to order by 5th Board Member/Acting Chairperson, Neil Janssens, on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 10:01 AM in Room #128, 1st Floor, City Hall, Mayor’s Conference Room. Board Chairperson, Denise Merriam and Ex-Officio Board Member, John Richard, were absent from the meeting. The Board Administrator will have Board Chairperson, Denise Merriam and Ex-Officio Member, John Richard come into the Retirement Board Office to sign all the documents from today’s Board Meeting.

On a motion by Kevin McInerney, seconded Robert Newton, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 25, 2021. The Board then signed the permanent minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2021.

On a motion by Robert Newton, seconded by Kevin McInerney, the board unanimously voted to approve the Trial Balances and General Ledger Histories for April 2021 and to accept the City Treasurer’s bank reconciliations for April 2021.

On a motion by Kevin McInerney, seconded by Robert Newton, the Board unanimously voted to approve Warrant #06/21 dated June 30, 2021, totaling \$581,812.05.

Vendor	For	Amount
Invoice #6304	Law Offices of Michael Sacco	\$ 17.00
Invoice #235853	BSE Print Solutions	\$ 172.20
Trsf ASF Shawn P. Riggins	MA State Retirement Board	\$ 8,622.85
Ref ASF to Member 1.4167 Cr Sv	Mathew C Boucher	\$ 5,086.54
Federal W/H Mathew C. Boucher	City of Gardner	\$ 1,271.63
Pension Payroll #06/21	Annuity Paid	\$ 95,272.81
	Pension Paid	\$ 464,105.36
	Veteran's Benefits Paid	\$ 273.75
	Dependents Paid	\$ 201.74
	COLA Paid	\$ 6,788.17
TOTAL WARRANT #06/21		\$ 581,812.05

The Board next reviewed the PRIM statement for the Gardner Retirement System for the month of May 2021, noting a positive \$658,192.52 Net Change in Investment Value for the month. The Management Fees for the month were \$10,262.16. The Board also reviewed the PRIM Board Quarterly Update 1st Quarter 2021.

Under “Correspondence” the Board reviewed PERAC Memo #16/2021 and PERAC Memo #17/2021. The Board Administrator notified the Human Resource Department and the Building Commission that the hours and earnings limitations are back in effect for the remainder of 2021.

The Board reviewed an email received on June 9, 2021 from MASS Retirees regarding Retiree Work Waiver Extension and *The Voice*, July 2021. A discussion was held regarding WEP Reform and if any progress will be had with the WEP reform this year.

Under “Old Business”, the Board Administrator, Cheryl Bosse, updated the Board Members on the status of the disability retirement application currently in process:

Disability Applicant #3 the Retirement Board Administrator forwarded the work accommodations to the attorneys involved in this disability application on February 23, 2021. There has been no communications received since the emails sent in February. Cheryl Bosse, Board Administrator, updated the board that she had sent an email to Attorney Sacco’s office asking if they have heard from anyone in regards to the modified work accommodations. Attorney Chris Collins from Attorney Michael Sacco’s office stated that he has not heard from anyone and that the Board will just keep this matter under “Old Business” until a resolution is reached.

Under “New Business”, the Board reviewed the COLA Notice to be included with the July 2021 retirement allowance mailings to retirees and survivors.

On a motion by Kevin McInerney, seconded by Robert Newton, the Board unanimously voted to approve the COLA Notice for fiscal year 2022 to be included with the July 2021 retirement allowance mailing to retirees and survivors.

The Board reviewed the Board Members list to be included with the July 2021 retirement allowance mailing to retirees and survivors.

On a motion by Robert Newton, seconded by Kevin McInerney, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board Member list to be included with the July 2021 retirement allowance mailing to retirees and survivors.

Board Administrator, Cheryl Bosse, updated the Board on the matter of Nicholas Gray, a current employee with the police department as a dispatcher. Mr. Gray was first hired full time on January 4, 2021. Retirement deductions were not withheld until March 15, 2021. Mr. Gray is eligible to do a make-up for the two (2) months of creditable service for the time frame of January 4, 2021 through March 14, 2021.

On a motion by Robert Newton, seconded Kevin McInerney, the Board unanimously voted to approve Mr. Gray's request to be eligible to buy back his two (2) months of creditable service with the Gardner Retirement Board that he was erroneously withheld from becoming a member.

On a motion by Robert Newton, seconded Kevin McInerney, the Board unanimously voted to grant superannuation retirement benefits to John J. Hill Jr., Option B, effective April 28, 2021.

Cheryl Bosse', Board Administrator, updated the Board that 261 Annual Affidavits will be mailed out with the June 2021 payroll to retirees and survivors.

The Board Administrator, Cheryl Bosse', also updated the Board Members about the information she learnt during the two days MACRS Virtual Conference. MASS Retirees spoke about the Bill that State Representative Zlotnik presented regarding Essential Employees that worked during COVID receiving an additional three years of creditable service or having 3 years added to their age. MASS Retirees informed everyone on the virtual conference that a hearing would not be scheduled for this bill until after a cost analysis had been done. A cost analysis of all the town and cities within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will take quite some time to be completed.

Ms. Bosse' also updated the Board that a discussion was had during the virtual conference in regards to the State of Emergency that was started in March 2020 will expire as of Tuesday, June 15, 2021. The earnings and hours worked limitations went back into effect as of June 15, 2021.

The Board Administrator also shared with the Board Members that MACRS is planning to have an in person conference this fall. The fall conference will be some time in October and will most likely be held in Springfield, MA.

The Board Administrator, Cheryl Bosse', updated the Board Members about a recent retiree, Maryann Desmarais, that had her retirement allowance recalculated by PERAC after a 3(8)c bill was processed to the MA State Retirement Board through the Prosper system. Ms. Desmarais retired under the Spousal Agreement Retirement, Chapter 32, Section 5(1)(e). This was the first retirement that Ms. Bosse has processed under the Spousal Agreement and she erroneously checked off to increase Ms. Desmarais's age in Pension Technology Group Software and she checked off the Section 5(1)(e) button. After speaking with PERAC, Ms. Bosse realized that she only had to check off the Section 5(1)(e) button in Pension Technology Group Software. After this was corrected, PERAC recalculated Ms. Desmarais' retirement allowance and her monthly retirement allowance was increased by \$3.13 a month. The June 2021 payroll reflected the \$15.65 due back to Ms. Desmarais for January to May 2021 and her June 2021 payroll had the new amounts in effect. A letter was sent to Ms. Desmarais explain the \$3.13 increase to her monthly retirement allowance.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall, 1st Floor, Room 128, Mayor's Conference Room.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 10:37 A.M. was made by Kevin McInerney, seconded by Robert Newton, passing unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

APPROVED:

***** ABSENT *****

John Richard, Ex-Officio

Kevin McInerney, Appointed

***** ABSENT *****

Denise M. Merriam, Elected (Ends 6/30/2023)
Chairperson

Robert W. Newton, Elected (Ends 6/30/2023)

Neil W. Janssens, Appointed (Ends 1/1/2024)

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