

*Apr 06 2023 8:39 am*

February 14, 2023 10:02 a.m.

A special meeting of the Fitchburg Retirement Board was held in the North Meeting Room located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Fitchburg City Hall at 718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

Fitchburg Retirement Board members present: Calvin D. Brooks (Chair), John Brown, Mary Cringan, Thomas Dateo Jr., and Anna Farrell

Staff present: Tina Schneider, Retirement Administrator and Steffani Santiago, Administrator Assistant

**Revise Vacation Buyback Guidelines to comply with M.G. L. c.32, §106:**

Calvin Brooks advised the Board, Representative Kushmerek and Senator Cronin's District Director, Susan C. Templeton would be present at the Board's next public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 so the Board may discuss their intentions relative to addressing personal time buybacks. Mr. Brooks stated, during the February 21, 2023 public meeting the Board would have the opportunity to inform Representative Kushmerek and District Director Templeton of their intentions to address personal time buybacks and inquire as to how they felt it would be best to pursue the endeavor – by simultaneously filing a Home Rule Petition and Petition to Amend M.G.L, or by focusing efforts on the Home Rule Petition. Mr. Brooks advised he had spoken with Representative Kushmerek who had suggested the Board reach out to PERAC to inform them of the Board's intentions and to inquire as to what PERAC's stance might be relative to pursuing either avenue.

Thomas Dateo Jr., stated he would reach out to a contact at PERAC to discuss the matter and inquire as to their position. Board agreed knowing PERAC's stance would help guide whether the Board should proceed with a Home Rule Petition or M.G.L. amendment.

Mr. Brooks advised that after the Board's January 24, 2023 meeting, he had forward the drafted vacation buyback guidelines to Attorney Gibson via e-mail for his review. Attorney Gibson responded and advised the guidelines as written, did not abide by the statute. As such, Mr. Brooks stated he revised the guidelines based on Attorney Gibson's response to address concerns. Mr. Brooks provided printouts of the "Newly Revised Guidelines" and projected the document on the overhead screen. The Board reviewed the document in its entirety and made live edits to the document.

Thomas Dateo Jr., recognized the magnitude of the work that had been created as a result of the vacation buybacks, recently adopted 5% COLA for FY23 in addition to the day-to-day work and end of year reporting the Retirement Office was responsible for. Mr. Dateo Jr., stated that he believed the Board should consider granting overtime or compensatory time if Retirement Office Staff would like to work above and beyond their scheduled hours.

Tina Schneider advised the Board that PTG had just released the 2% COLA module to calculate the FY23 5% COLA for those Boards who adopted Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 (amending G.L. c.32, §103).

February 14, 2023 (cont'd)

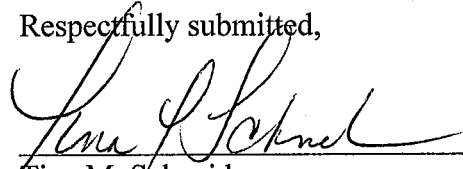
Mr. Brooks stated he would forward the "Newly Revised Guidelines" to Attorney Gibson for his review and comment. Pending Attorney Gibson's comments, the Board would review the guidelines again at their February 21, 2023 meeting to adopt the guidelines.

On a motion made by Mary Cringan and seconded by Anna Farrell, to adjourn the February 14, 2023 Special Meeting of the Fitchburg Contributory Retirement Board. Voted 5-0.

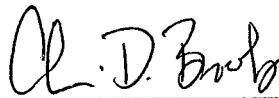
The next public meeting of the Fitchburg Contributory Retirement System is scheduled for February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

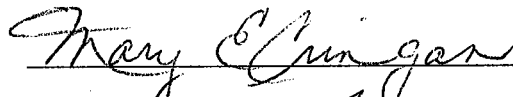
Meeting Adjourned 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

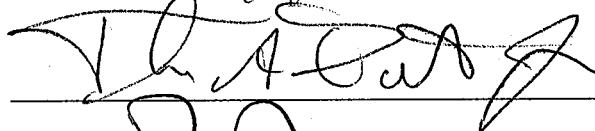
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina M. Schneider  
Board Administrator

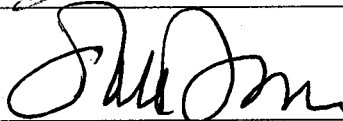
The Retirement Board attest to the accuracy of the minutes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_