

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
June 11, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board took place at the Agawam Corporate Center, 67 Hunt Street, Suite 202, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting was conducted in person at the Retirement Board office. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:07 A.M.

THOSE BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Karl J. Schmaelzle, Chairman/Treasurer present in office
Robert Taylor, Member – present in office
Patrick E. O’Neil, Member – present in office
Dawn M. Fonte, Member – present via zoom
Steven Castelli Member – present in office

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Atty. Edward Pikula -present in office
Karen Martin, Executive Director-present in office
Erica LeCours, Assistant Director - present in office

1. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to continue the process and request PERAC convene a medical panel for the Accidental Disability application submitted by Anthony Barbuti. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

2. **GRASSO, ANTHONY:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize legal counsel to settle the Anthony Grasso case with DALA and voted to approve the Make-up of Auxiliary Service under the provisions of Chapter 32. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

3. **MINUTES:** Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve and sign the regular board meeting minutes from the May 7, 2025, board meeting. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

4. **WARRANTS:** Mr. Castelli made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued May 30, 2025. Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

#21 Salary 1-4					\$ 36,680.10
#22 Board Member's Compensation					\$ 2,833.33
#23 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems					\$ 202,085.34
#24 Monthly Expenses					\$ 30,142.14
#25 A Monthly Retirement Allowances					\$ 4,705,455.17
#25 B 3(8)(c)'s Paid					\$ 257,409.58

5. **BALANCES:** The Board members reviewed copies of the checking & savings account statements from Peoples Bank that were provided in their packets along with reconciled records for the checking account. Mr. Castelli made a motion to approve the account balances for April 30, 2025. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Castelli - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

PEOPLES BANK: Vote to accept the reconciled balances as of April 30, 2025		
Money market Account Bal as of April 30, 2025		\$ 1,881,383.37
Checking Account Bal as of April 30, 2025		\$ 1,868,765.58

6. **TRANSFER:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the transfer of the warrants for May 30, 2025. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Castelli - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,234,605.66
B.	<u>Transfer for warrants: 5/30/2025</u>	\$ 5,230,000.00
	From Peoples Bank Money Market Account to	
	Peoples Bank Checking Account	

7. **NEW ALLOWANCES:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the new retirement allowances. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Castelli - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

Sampson, Kathleen M.	Agawam	3/28/2025	
Cressotti, Lynn A.	Agawam	4/10/2025	
Budynkiewicz, Jane	Hampden	4/17/2025	
Stearns, Bruce	Holland	4/10/2025	
Guzzo, Steven	Longmeadow	4/4/2025	
Pagan, Cruz	Longmeadow	12/27/2024	Resubmit
Graves, Melissa A.	Wilbraham	2/28/2025	

8. **APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the new retirement applications. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil - Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Mr. Castelli - Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

Name	Unit	Date of Retirement	Group	Age	Service
Perry, Dennis J.	Agawam	6/27/2025	1	67-10	20-00
Bosini, David J. (Revised Ret. Date)	Agawam	7/31/2025	1	67-05	24-07
Sampson, Kathleen (Revised Cred Svc.)	Agawam	3/28/2025	1	63-06	21-05
Hulbert, Jeffrey W.	Agawam	6/21/2025	1	59-00	27-08

Name	Unit	Date of Retirement	Group	Age	Service
Emirzian, Cary J	East Long	6/30/2025	1	66-02	23-04
Frappier, Lynne	East Long	6/30/2025	1	62-05	13-06
Pietroniro, Margaret	East Long	6/30/2025	1	67-11	25-05
Young, Concetta A.	East Long	6/30/2025	1	71-08	24-00
Atherton, Darlene A.	East Long	5/31/2025	1	66-07	10-06
Waldron, Bryan E.	East Long	9/21/2025	1	58-00	12-04
Cooney, Michael	Hampden	7/4/2025	4	55-05	32-09
Trombly, Scott	Hampden	7/17/2025	4	54-05	34-01
McMaster, Kathleen	HWRSD	6/30/2025	1	71-01	30-09
Murphy, Richard	HWRSD	6/30/2025	1	65-01	36-05
McMahon, Lorraine	HWRSD	6/18/2025	1	73-06	28-04
Rene, Denise	HWRSD	6/30/2025	1	68-01	32-09
Stierer, Marie Louise	Longmeadow	6/23/2025	1	74-08	35-05
Mailman, Marla	Longmeadow	6/30/2025	1	56-08	21-00
Severyn, Susan L.	Ludlow	6/16/2025	1	67-06	28-01
LeDuc, Lori	Ludlow	5/30/2025	1	65-06	18-00
Kornacki, David	Ludlow	7/11/2025	4	55-00	31-00
Gates, Richard	Ludlow	6/30/2025	2	66-07	12-06
Slozak, Kim E.	Monson	7/20/2025	1	64-00	26-03
Hope, Lynn C.	Monson	6/18/2025	1	72-08	24-05
Bray, William	Palmer	6/10/2025	4	53-02	29-10
Colson, Charles	Southwick	6/30/2025	1	74-06	16-01
Anderson, Suzann	Southwick	5/31/2025	1	65-00	36-09
Dittrich, Lois	STRSD	6/30/2025	1	65-01	22-06
Beaudoin, Donna	STRSD	6/18/2025	1	65-04	13-07

9. **INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS:** The board reviewed statements provided by the PRIT fund cash account and general allocation account as provided in the monthly packet each board member received prior to this meeting.

10. **PRIT FUND TRANSFER:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to vote to reaffirm the transfer from PRIT to Peoples Money Market account for \$4,000,000.00. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

11. **NOTICES OF INJURY:** Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the Notices of Injury reports. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

Name	Unit	Department	Injury Date
DaCosta, Geovanny	Ludlow	Police	4/29/2025
Santana Jr. Isaac	Ludlow	Police	5/31/2025
Malone, Ernest	Southwick	Police	5/14/2025
Pinette, Steven	Southwick	Police	4/28/2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Injury Date</u>
Brown, Kevin	Wilbraham	Fire	4/2/2025
Glenn, Steven	Wilbraham	Police	5/9/2025
Johnston, Vincent	Wilbraham	Police	5/7/2025
Moore, Charles	Wilbraham	Police	5/13/2025

12. **NEW MEMBERS:** Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve and file the new members. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzie – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>AGAWAM</u>		
Batista, Ailany	1	3/12/2025
Navarro, Isabel	1	4/7/2025
Porter, Scott	1	4/7/2025
Stewart, Michael	1	3/31/2025
<u>BLANDFORD</u>		
Carr, Michael	1	4/2/2025
Keach, Ryan	1	4/7/2025
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
Gauthier, Angela	1	3/31/2025
Horton, Israel	1	3/24/2025
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
Boulia, Jason	1	4/8/2025
Corliss, Viki	1	3/31/2025
Cruz Sostre, Genesis	1	3/27/2025
Juda, Lily	1	4/7/2025
Sheldon, Margaret	1	4/22/2025
Tiago, Joshua	1	4/7/2025
Vandal, Jack	1	4/18/2025
<u>LUDLOW</u>		
Hernandez, Elliot	1	3/12/2025
<u>MONSON</u>		
Charpentier, Julia	1	3/24/2025
<u>MONTGOMERY</u>		
Valente, Anthony	1	3/3/2025

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>PALMER</u>		
Kearney, Jennifer	1	3/31/2025
Rouleau, Cameron	1	3/19/2025
Trombley, Zachary	1	4/9/2025
Vautrain, Jacob	1	3/31/2025
<u>PATHFINDER</u>		
Parker, Marissa	1	3/31/2025
<u>SOUTHWICK TOLLAND</u>		
Yensen, Deborah	1	3/31/2025
<u>WALES</u>		
LePage, Hannah	1	2/24/2025
<u>WESTCOMM</u>		
Ball, Heather	1	1/25/2025
Fortin, Elizabeth	1	1/25/2025
Herman, Grant	1	4/1/2025
Miller, Shantoy	1	1/15/2025
Ocasio, Alyssa	1	1/15/2025
Ryan, Penny	1	3/31/2025
<u>WILBRAHAM</u>		
Bechthold, Andrew	4	3/24/2025

13. **EXPENSE BREAKDOWN** – The Board reviewed and filed the expense breakdown.

14. **STAFF PAYROLL** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the weekly payrolls issued to the staff for June 2025. Mr. O'Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

15. **DIRECTORS REPORT** – The items reviewed by Ms. Martin for the month of May were: staff attended a PTG webinar for the New Pension Pro system, staff listened to a PERAC webinar regarding Federal Taxation and all of the Appropriation bills were sent out to all the member units.

16. **TRIAL BALANCE** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the trial balance for April 30, 2025. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

17. **IT** – Mr. Taylor made a motion to table any discussion on hiring a new IT Consulting Service to get more research done and discuss at the next month's board meeting. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

18. CAMERA – Mr. Castelli made a motion to have cameras installed by Beacon in the office for the security of the office staff. Ms. Fonte seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

19. WORKERS COMP INSURANCE – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the new Workers Compensation rates from MIA. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

20. BANKING – Mr. Castelli made a motion to use Berkshire Bank for the retirement boards banking needs. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Abstained. Motion approved 4-1.

21. PERAC MEMOS – The Board reviewed and filed PERAC memo #15.

22. HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS – No new comments

23. OLD BUSINESS – No old business was discussed.

Ms. Fonte left the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

24. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Castelli inquired on the COLA base and what would it take to increase the retirement boards base. Chairman Schmaelzle explained how some boards a fully funded and that is why they can have a larger COLA base.

25. LEGAL UPDATE – No legal update

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 A.M. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Absent; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 4-1.

 By: *[Signature]*

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
