

**HAMPDEN COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 1, 2026**

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 10:02 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
Alahna Seymour, Assistant Executive Director- present in office

Also, in attendance was:

Kelly Miller-in office
Atty. Leigh A. Panettiere- in office
Chief Rhett Bannish- via zoom
Anthony Barbuti- in office
Atty. Earl Seeley-in office

1. ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY- Kelly Miller/Town of Southwick. The Board, after first having convened in an open session pursuant to section 21, based on a unanimous roll call vote to go into executive session, and the vote of each member as recorded by roll call and entered into the minutes, maintained pursuant to section 23, and before the executive session, the chair stated the purpose for the executive session, stating all subjects that may be revealed without compromising the purpose for which the executive session was called, specifically, a hearing on the employee's application for accidental disability retirement benefits, pursuant to purpose (1) under Chapter 30A, Section 21, and the chair publicly announcing whether the open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session, voted to approve the application for accidental disability retirement benefits pursuant to Chapter 32 of the General Laws. The roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

2. ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY- Anthony Barbuti/ Town of Ludlow. The board voted to approve the Accidental Disability Benefits submitted by Anthony Barbuti after the review of all 3 medical panels. Mr. Castelli motioned to approve the accidental disability benefits and Mr.O’Neil seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

3. MINUTES: Mr. Taylor motioned and Mr. O’Neil seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the Feb 4, 2026, Board Meeting.

4. WARRANTS: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued March 31, 2026. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

#11 Salary 1-4	\$ 30,429.06
#12 Board Member's Compensation	\$ 2,833.33
#13 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems	\$ 404,910.05
#14 Monthly Expenses	\$ 57,739.08
#15 A Monthly Retirement Allowances	\$ 5,069,763.62
#15 B 3(8)(c) Payments	\$ 61,989.67

5. BALANCES: The Board members reviewed copies of the checking & savings account statements from Beacon Bank that were provided in their packets. Mr. O'Neil made a motion to approve the account balances for February 28, 2026. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

BEACON BANK Vote to accept the reconciled balances as of Feb 28, 2026

Money market ACH Account Bal as of Feb 28, 2026	\$ 288,119.64
Money market Account Bal as of Feb 28, 2026	\$ 2,618,807.66
Checking Account Bal as of Feb 28, 2026	\$ 2,064,907.85

6. TRANSFER: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer amount for the warrants for March 31, 2026. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte - Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle - Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

TRANSFER-	Vote to reaffirm transfer amount for Warrants	
A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,627,664.81
B.	Transfer for warrants:	\$ 5,300,000.00
	From Beacon M.M. to Beacon Ckg	

7. NEW ALLOWANCES: Mr. Castelli made a motion to reaffirm the new retirement Allowances paid on 03/31/2026. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O'Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

NEW ALLOWANCE SUPERANNUATION -			Vote to reaffirm the following New Retirement Allowances paid on 3/31/2026		
NAME	TOWN	DATE OF RETIREMENT			
Ayotte, Pamela A.	Agawam	1/6/2026			
Mountain, Erin M.	STRSD	2/17/2026			
Foucher, Sheila M.	Monson	1/9/2026			
Salerno, Michele P.	Monson	1/5/2026			
Kozak, Kim	Longmeadow	1/11/2026			
Calabrese, Lori B.	Longmeadow	3/3/2026			
Fortunato, Bernadine M.	HWRSD	1/31/2026			
Shameklis, Brian J.	Ludlow	1/31/2026			
Goff, Hope P.	Agawam	1/30/2026			
ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY					
Burt, Sean D.	Ludlow	1/17/2026	*ADR		

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

APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT -							Vote to consider new Applications for Retirement						
Name	Unit	Date of Retirement	Group	Age	Service								
Calabrese, Lori B.	Longmeadow	3/3/2026	1	61-05	16-08								
Goncalves, Alexander A.	Ludlow	5/4/2026	4	54-00	25-05								
Keenan, Kathleen	Agawam	6/26/2026	1	67-03	21-00								
Lovechio, Diane M.	Agawam	4/26/2026	1	65-06	10-00								
Buffington, Kris A.	East Longmeadow	6/1/2026	1	61-05	10-00								

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: This month there was no transfer from the PRIT Fund.

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. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

Name	Unit	Department	Injury Date
David Squires	Wilbraham	Public Works/Water Dept	3/3/2026

12. NEW MEMBERS: Mr. Castelli 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. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes; Motion approved 5-0.

<u>Unit/Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
<u>AGAWAM</u>		
Venturino Valeriani	1	3/16/2026
Marcolina Perez	1	3/16/2026
Susan Staples-Holt	1	1/22/2026
Georgia Vacirca	1	3/16/2026
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW</u>		
Emily Constantino	1	12/1/2025
<u>EAST LONGMEADOW HOUSING</u>		
Gregory Vatrano	4	1/26/2026
<u>LONGMEADOW</u>		
Abigail Stone	1	3/2/2026
James Peetz	1	1/23/2026
Jennifer Klamm	1	2/23/2026
<u>LUDLOW</u>		
Hanna Minardi	4	3/2/2026
Carla Thompson	1	3/2/2026
<u>PALMER</u>		
Kerrie Morley	1	2/23/2026

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

14. **DIRECTORS REPORT** – The items reviewed by Ms. Martin for the month of April were: That the staff and her are continuing to work on balancing the end of the year. They also were in the process of sending out the year end statements. The staff was also working on gathering information that was requested for the upcoming audit. CBIZ will be coming in April to do their 2025 Audit.

15. **COLA INCREASE**- The board approved granting a 3% cost-of-living increase in July 2026. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept the cost-of-living increase and 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.

16. **TRIAL BALANCE** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the pre-close and post-close trial balance for December 31, 2025. Along with January and February 2026 trial balances. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

17. **ANNUAL STATEMENT**- Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Statement and Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

18. **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**- Chairman Schmaelzle made the board aware that there was an error on the agenda that the Holy Cross conference is now known as the PERAC Forum. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve that the board and staff attend the 2026 Conferences. Mr. Taylor seconded the

motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – Yes and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

19. MACRS FIDUCIARY INSURANCES- The board reviewed the statement for this year’s MACRS Fiduciary Insurance.

20. PERAC MEMOS – The board reviewed the PERAC memos #11, #12, #13 and #14. During the board meeting Attorney Pikula would like to mention that for PERAC memo #11, PERAC would like us to add a partial HIPPA release to our new member enrollment packets. He stated that he will write one up for us along with a cover letter for us to send to all the towns to let them know that this form needs to be added to all the new member enrollment packets. The form will also state that the new member has the option to sign it or decline it, but it still must be sent back to us with their determination in the new member enrollment packet.

22. HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS – Mr. Schmaelzle would like to state that he is thankful to let the board know that we will have a new employee starting with us this month. He would also like to state that all the employees here are doing a great job.

23. OLD BUSINESS – No old business was discussed.

24. NEW BUSINESS – No new business was discussed.

25. LEGAL UPDATE – Attorney Pikula’s state he has no legal update at this time.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. O’Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 A.M. Mr. Castelli second the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil – Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor - Yes; Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.








