

**COUNTY REGIONAL
RETIREMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 6, 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 10:00 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:

Barry Syniec-in office
Brain Shameklis- in office
Teresa Turcotte- in office
Attorney Casartello Jr.- in office
Logan Martel- via zoom
Attorney Kathleen Fitzgerald-via zoom
Dale Lafayette- in person
Chief Brennan- via zoom
John Fitzgerald-via zoom
Lisa Vandermark- in person

1. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY-** Brian Shameklis/ Town of Ludlow. The board voted to approve to move forward with PERAC to schedule the medical panels. Mr. Castelli motioned to approve the accidental disability benefits and 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.
2. **RETIREMENT HEARING-** Barry Syniec/ Town of Agawam. Hearing was initiated and tabled until June 10, 2026 due to the board seeking legal advice. Mr. Taylor motioned to approve the decision to table the hearing until the next board meeting on June 10, 2026 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.
3. **ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY-** Teresa Turcotte / Town of Longmeadow. The board voted to approve the Accidental Disability Benefits submitted by Teresa Turcotte after the review of all 3 medical panels. Mr. Castelli motioned to approve the accidental disability benefits and 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.

4. ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY- Logan Martel / Town of Agawam. The board voted to approve the Accidental Disability Benefits submitted by Logan Martel after the review of all 3 medical panels. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the accidental disability benefits 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.

5. ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY- Dale Lafayette/ Town of Agawam. The board voted to approve to move forward with PERAC to schedule the 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.

6. SEGAL- Lisa Vandermark presented to the board the 01/01/2026 preliminary actuarial results. The board voted to approve resetting the administrative expense back to \$1 million. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the reset of the administrative expense back to \$1 million 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. The board also voted on approving the funding schedule for 2026. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the 2026 Funding schedule and 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.

7. MINUTES: Mr. O’Neil motioned and Mr. Castelli seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2026, Board Meeting, 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.

8.WARRANTS: Mr. O’Neil made a motion to reaffirm the warrants issued April 30, 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.

#16 Salary 1-5				\$ 41,567.87
#17 Board Member's Compensation				\$ 2,833.33
#18 Refunds and Transfers to Other Systems				\$ 206,499.57
#19 Monthly Expenses				\$ 46,550.97
#20 A Monthly Retirement Allowances				\$ 4,988,943.37
#20 B 3(8)(c) Payments				\$ 365,629.10

9. 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 April 30, 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.

Money market ACH Account Bal as of April 30, 2026	\$ 420,194.47
Money market Account Bal as of April 30, 2026	\$ 341,693.85
Checking Account Bal as of April 30, 2026	\$ 1,508,439.69

10. TRANSFER: Mr. O'Neil made a motion to reaffirm the transfer amount for the warrants for April 30, 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.

TRANSFER-	Vote to reaffirm transfer amount for Warrants	
A.	Needed for warrants:	\$ 5,652,024.21
B.	Transfer for warrants:	\$ 5,100,000.00
	From Beacon M.M. to Beacon Ckg	

11. NEW ALLOWANCES: Mr. Taylor made a motion to reaffirm the new retirement Allowances paid on 04/30/2026. 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.

NAME	TOWN	DATE OF RETIREMENT
Kramer, Angela M.	Ludlow	2/18/2026
Handzel, David M.	Palmer	2/27/2026
Littfield, Robert M.	Tolland	2/28/2026
Nascembeni, Tina M.	Agawam	3/1/2026
Lawrence, Marcus A.	Agawam	3/8/2026
Moore, Steven W.	East Long	3/11/2026

12. 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.

Name	Unit	Date of Retirement	Group	Age	Service
Boersig, Nancy C.	Russell	6/30/2026	1	64-02	27-09
Robinson, Alan J.	Russell	6/30/2026	4	56-05	28-00
Carver, Nancy	East Long	6/30/2026	1	59-07	23-00
Coleman, Richard A.	Hamp/Wilb	6/30/2026	1	71-04	25-09
Brunt, William S.	East Long	7/3/2026	1	70-09	40-10
Moore, Steven W. (Amended Cred.svc)	East Long	3/11/2026	1	57-02	20-10
McDiarmid, Lisa M.	Hamp/Wilb	6/30/2026	1	62-04	21-00
Santore, Joseph M.	Agawam	5/29/2026	4	58-11	30-06
Randall, Kimberly A.	East Long	6/17/2026	1	66-06	19-03
Wolfenden, Catherine R.	East Long	6/30/2026	1	63-02	21-11
Matys, Wendy L.	Agawam	6/30/2026	1	66-06	27-00
Godek, Giuseppina	Agawam	6/30/2026	1	60-02	12-03
Brouillette, Cindy	Monson	6/18/2026	1	67-11	23-07
Pignatara, Ronald E.	Agawam	7/31/2026	1	67-08	18-05
Drummond, Mary M.	Southwick/Tolla	6/30/2026	1	64-05	32-08

13. 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.

14. PRIT FUND TRANSFER: There was an error on the agenda the transfer amount should of stated 7,000,000.00 The board voted on adjusting the Prit Fund transfer amount to the correct amount. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the change in the transfer amount to the correct amount 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. This month there was a transfer of \$7,000,000.00 . Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the transfer amount for the warrants for April 30, 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.

15. NOTICES OF INJURY: Mr. Taylor 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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Injury Date</u>
Karaaslan, Oguzhan	Ludlow	Police	4/18/2026
Sterling, Joshua	Wilbraham	Fire	4/10/2026
Bechthold, Andrew	Wilbraham	Police	4/28/2026

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

<u>LONGMEADOW</u>			
Jay Hayden		4	1/20/2026
<u>MONSON</u>			
Makia Giza-Bilodeau		1	2/26/2026
<u>PALMER</u>			
Joshua Rutola		4	2/16/2026
Mahayar St. Phard		4	2/16/2026
<u>SOUTHWICK</u>			
Joseph Meczywor		1	11/10/2025
<u>SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND</u>			
Margaret Dubois-Putnam		1	2/18/2026

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

18. DIRECTORS REPORT – The items reviewed by Ms. Martin for the month of May were: That the staff did great at gathering all the information that was needed for the audit. She would like the board to meet our new employee Mrs. Solivan.

- 19. TRIAL BALANCE** – Mr. O’Neil made a motion to approve the trial balance for March and April 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.
- 20. SCOTT, FELY-** The board approved to grant member survivor benefits to Fely Scott under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32 section 12(2)(d) who was the spouse of Kyle Scott who passed away on March 26,2026. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve to grant member survivor benefits to Fely Scott 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.
- 21. RANDALL, KIMBERLY-** Town of East Longmeadow/ School. Board approved member’s request for one free month of creditable service for an approved unpaid leave of absence for a period of time from Aug 14, 2020- Nov 4, 2020. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the one free month of creditable service 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.
- 22. VON HOLLANDER, FRITZ-** Town of Longmeadow/ Dept of Public Works. Board approved member’s request for one free month of creditable service for an approved unpaid leave of absence for a period of time from Sept 22,2010- January 2011. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve the one free month of creditable service 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.
- 23.HIPPA WAIVER-** Mr.Castelli motioned to approve the New Member Enrollment HIPPA waiver and 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.
- 24. PERAC MEMOS** – The board reviewed the PERAC memo #15.
- 22. HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD COMMENTS** – Mr. Schmaelzle would like to welcome Mrs. Solivan to the team. He also would like to thank the staff for their hard work on gathering the requested documents for the Audit and they did an excellent job.
- 23. OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was discussed.
- 24. NEW BUSINESS** – No new business was discussed.
- 25. LEGAL UPDATE** – Attorney Pikula’s state that we did not win the court case involving docket numbers CR-24-0605 and CR-24-0625. He recommends that we file an appeal. Mr. O’Neil motioned to approve that the board moves forward with filing the appeal for docket numbers CR-24-0605 and CR-24-0625. Mr. Castelli seconded the motion, and the roll call vote was Ms. Fonte – Yes; Mr. O’Neil- Yes; Mr. Castelli – Yes; Mr. Taylor – was absent for the legal update and Chairman Schmaelzle – Yes. Motion approved 5-0.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 P.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.

Karl J. Schmaelzle

Mr. Castelli

Mr. O'Neil

Down Fonte