



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Retirement Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman
John Rodolico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

10:00 AM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rodolico called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member Roger Coddling
Board Member Sharon Wadecki
Chairman John Rodolico
Alternate Member Minna DeGaetano

Excused Board Member William Thorne
Board Member Daniel Panosky

Also in attendance:
Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council Chairperson.

Staff Present:
Matt Bonin, Finance Director
Marisa Iannella Rodriguez, Human Resource Director
Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director
Christina Hostetler, Town Hall Assistant

Staff Excused:
Mayor Fred Allyn III

Minna DeGaetano was appointed as a voting member

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Chris Rowllins, Fiducient Advisors - First Quarter 2024 review.

Chris Rowllins, Fiducient Advisors was unable to attend the meeting. Chris Kachmar, Fiducient Advisors presented the First Quarter Review.

Mr. Kachmar started by saying that Mr. Rowllins sends his regrets and provided a guideline and framework to catch the Board up on the portfolio.

Highlights - In terms of governance the task is twofold. One is the investment review. The

Board's Investment Policy Statement (IPS) is in good working order and abides by all the statements put forth by Fiducient Advisors. The only edits that are suggested are confined to the recent re-allocation the Board approved and is undertaking (considering higher interest rates the Board moved a bit more into fixed income). Mr. Kachmar suggested bringing the allocation exhibit table up to the new targets. The second is governance oversight. Mr. Kachmar said the Board is in good working order from a governance standpoint and follows all best practices. The Board is engaged, meets regularly, takes minutes, and follows the governance calendar and protocols. No action is needed to improve best practices.

Markets - This was an interesting year in markets. 2023 ended with a good deal of momentum in both the equity and fixed income markets, with a very strong fourth quarter. There was a lot of expectation that the momentum would continue for 2024. However, the narrative around the Feds changed completely. In the beginning of the year thoughts were that four or five interest rate cuts would occur, but it may only prove to be a single rate cut at the end of the calendar year, if at all. Although inflation rates started to calm down, it's still not at the 2% level that Feds targeted. The economy has proven to be more resilient. Fixed income markets were under a bit of stress over the quarter. Global equity markets continued to do well, especially AI related companies. April was a difficult month; May was good, and June is faring well to date.

Portfolio - The quarter is up just under 4%, the fiscal year to date is up approximately 9%, the one-year number is up close to 12%. The portfolio has investment gains of around \$2.4 million for the fiscal year and \$3.2 million for the one-year mark. Longer-term returns align well with the Board's actuarial expectation of 6.25%. Mr. Kachmar said that Mr. Rowlins intends to speak to the Board about the complexion of the International Equity Program. T. Rowe has been elevated to watch status after the announcement that Ray Mills, Portfolio Manager is retiring.

Chairman Rodolico said he was very pleased with the report. He then asked for recommendations regarding T. Rowe. Mr. Kachmar said no action needs to be taken at this point, but Mr. Rowlins will make recommendations in the next quarter. He added that the Manager retirement isn't occurring until the end of the calendar year.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki

SECONDER: Minna DeGaetano

AYE 4 Coddling Wadecki Rodolico DeGaetano

EXCUSED 2 Thorne Panosky

V. DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE UPDATE

1. Director of Human Resources update.

Marisa Iannella Rodriguez, Human Resource Director said a brainstorming session is being formed to discuss Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System, (CMERS), pension

and 457 options with the Unions. She is looking for a volunteer from the Board to participate. Once the group has been formed a session date will be determined collaboratively. The session will be held prior to January 2025.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Finance Director's Report.

Matt Bonin, Finance Director reported that the FY24 contribution check was cut last week. Once Webster receives the check, they will meet with Mr. Rowlin to determine how to allocate it accordingly.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion on a review of applicable labor contracts and retirement documents for Town of Ledyard employee groups with applicability to retirement eligibility and benefits continued.

Chairman Rodolico said since Mr. Thorne is absent this item will be put on hold until the next meeting.

2. Any Other Old Business to come before the Board.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to APPROVE payment of invoice #609_06302024, to Fiducient Advisors, dated June 6, 2024, in the amount of \$12,475.39, for consulting costs for the Town of Ledyard Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the billing period April 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 4 Coddington Wadecki Rodolico DeGaetano

EXCUSED 2 Thorne Panosky

2. Motion to approve a monthly retirement benefit for Karen Goetchius in the amount of \$3,207.60 as of September 1, 2024, payable in the normal form of a Modified Cash Refund Annuity based on her service and earnings through this retirement date.

This Motion was TABLED on June 18, 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 4 Coddington Wadecki Rodolico DeGaetano

EXCUSED 2 Thorne Panosky

Ms. Wadecki said this calculation has a caveat that the calculations are based on expected pay and contributions and may need to be recalculated. She suggested that the Board wait to vote on the retirement benefit until closer to the actual retirement date. Ms. Iannella Rodriguez said that Ms. Goetchius is a fixed salary not an hourly employee. Ms. Wadecki added that normally votes are held closer to the retirement date, not three months in advance. After this discussion Chairman Rodolico held a vote to table the vote until August.

Chairman Rodolico asked Ms. Iannella Rodriguez if she reviews the calculations once she receives it from the actuaries. She answered that she does not perform calculations but verifies that the actuary used the data that she provided to them, and that the data aligns correctly.

Motion to TABLE the vote until Board's meeting on August 20, 2024.

RESULT: TABLED
MOVER: John Rodolico
SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 4 Coddington Wadecki Rodolico DeGaetano

EXCUSED 2 Thorne Panosky

3. Any other New Business to come before the Board.

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 10:27 a.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED
MOVER: Sharon Wadecki
SECONDER: John Rodolico

AYE 4 Coddington Wadecki Rodolico DeGaetano

EXCUSED 2 Thorne Panosky

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.