TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Retirement Board

Meeting Minutes

Chairman
John Rodolico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 **10:00 AM** **Council Chambers - Hybrid Format**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodolico at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Rodolico stared the meeting by introducing David Gruszkowski to the Board. Mr. Gruszkowski will be appointed to the Retirement Board at the next Town Council Meeting on May 27, 20926.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member William Thorne
Chairperson/Market Manager John Rodolico
Board Member Roger Codding
Board Member Sharon Wadecki

Also in attendance via Zoom was Chris Rowlins, Fiducient Advisors.

Staff Present:
Mayor Fred Allyn III
Christine Dias, Human Resource Director
Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director
Christina Hostetler, Town Hall Assistant

Staff Excused:
Matt Bonin, Finance Director

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Chris Rowlins, Fiducient Advisors, will be discussing the 2026 First Quarter Investment Review.

Chris Rowlins, Fiducient Advisors started the first quarter review by saying the portfolio has a very good cushion built in to stand a bit of volatility. This marks the fourth consecutive fiscal year of actuarial gains ultimately improving the plan's funded status.

Mr. Rowlins stated that the year began on a pretty good note, January and February carried over some momentum from 2025. "Operation Epic Fury" was launched in March which was consistent with other geopolitical risks observed in the past such as Covid and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Markets typically react negatively to uncertainty. With the war kicking off in March it isn't surprising to see a sell off across the board.

Interest rates moved higher because of inflationary concerns due to impact of energy prices. The impact of energy prices has moved to center stage.

Large cap equities came under pressure, but small caps equities were positive for the quarter.

International markets were not immune to the sell-off underscoring the reliance that the Eurozone has on imported energy.

Emerging markets were off about 20 basis points due to heavy reliance on Middle Eastern oil. The AI ecosystem centered around semiconductors and microchips helped mitigate some of the downside risk.

Real Assets were up 6.7%.

In April there was significant growth led by some AI companies, which helped fuel investor optimism. A month of recovery bringing S&P up 5.7%, Small Cap up 20% and International 7.5% bringing the year-to-date S&P from negative to 5.7%, Russell small cap up 13% and International up a healthy 14.5%. This momentum carried over into May.

Putting the volatility into perspective, the fiscal year number at the end of March was 7.2% when monetized that becomes approximately 2.3 million dollars in gains, which is where it was at the end of March. Still running a 60/40 portfolio. There is adequate cash for disbursement needs. The portfolio has a very high-quality fixed income allocation of 40%. There is a very strong return profile.

Watch Status - William Blair Small Cap Value RB - The strategy was moved to Watch after numerous changes to the investment team were reported. William Heaphy, lead portfolio manager since 2010 announced that he will be retiring on June 30, 2026. Gary Merwitz who joined the team in 2004 and serves as Director of Research and Research Analyst also announced that he will be retiring in the second half of 2026. Additionally, Josh Overholt, who joined the team in 2007 as a research analyst departed the firm to pursue an opportunity outside the investment management industry. These recent changes, retirements of key leaders and the departure of a senior analyst introduce uncertainty and may impact continuity.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2025, as written.

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

AYE 4 Thorne Rodolico Codding Wadecki

V. DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

1. Director of Human Resources Update.

No update this month.

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Finance Director's Report.

No report this month.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Retirement Plan for Full-Time Employees of the Town of Ledyard (Defined Benefit Plan) revision update.

Mr. Thorne reported that he will have a teleconference with Virginia McGarrity, Robinson and Cole on May 21, 2026, and added that they are close to finalizing the plan's revisions.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to APPROVE a monthly retirement benefit for Carol Paterson in the amount of $704.89 as of July 1, 2026, payable in the form of Modified Cash Refund Annuity, based on her service and earnings through this retirement date.

It was asked what department Ms. Paterson worked in, Mayor Fred Allyn III answered that she was a School Secretary.

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

AYE 4 Thorne Rodolico Codding Wadecki

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

Mr. Thorne said that Chris Rowlins, Fiducient Advisors, did not have the most recent IPS and the coordinating Appenix A (Target Asset Allocation Table). This will be discussed further during the June meeting.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 10:46 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sharon Wadecki
SECONDER: William Thorne

AYE 4 Thorne Rodolico Codding Wadecki

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