



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Retirement Board

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
John Rodolico

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodolico at 10:06 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member William Thorne
 Board Member Roger Coddington
 Board Member Sharon Wadecki
 Chairman John Rodolico
 Board Member Daniel P. Panosky

Also present:
Chris Rowlin, Fiduciary Investment Advisors.
Mr. Panosky and Mr. Rowlin were both present via Zoom.

Staff present:
Mayor Fred Allyn III
Don Steinhoff
Matt Bonin
Ian Stammel
Christina Hostetler

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Chris Rowlin, Fiducient Advisor
4Q Investment review

Fourth Quarter Investment Review/January Performance Flash Report:

2023 Investor Conference September 26-27, Boston. Mr. Rowlin invited the Board to attend. He said if unable to attend both days, the best day to go would be the 27th. This year there will be less breakouts and more guest speakers.

There is evidence that inflation is falling. While inflation is unlikely to drop to the Fed's target rate of 2% within the coming calendar year, a continued downward trajectory will likely have a positive impact on market sentiment

Solid January, good quarter.

2022 was a difficult year on a number of fronts, higher inflation, fiscal policies, a good deal of volatility which has not been seen since the financial crisis of 2008-9. It was the first year on record where both the Bloomberg AGG and the S&P 500 indices experienced negative returns. One of the worst bond markets on record.

Tight labor market, causing wage increase pressure.

Strong U.S. dollar. The International allocation was one of the better performances in the portfolio.

Asset Class returns - Numbers were good, positive returns. Good quarter for bonds. Some sizable returns in small and mid-cap. Good data points in the Euro zone. Energy prices started coming down. Real Assets were up 7.6%.

Portfolio was up 6.6% for the quarter. Running a 60/40 portfolio, 55% in global equities, 4% in Real Assets, approximately 40% in fixed income. Portfolio allocation has remained relatively static.

There are two managers on "discuss" status; PGIM Total Return Bond R6 and Black Rock Strategic Income Opportunities Class K. Both statuses are due to retirement announcements. Fiducient wants to see that the transitions are seamless and verify that the strategy retained is not being impacted, hence the status.

Touchstone outperformed their peers by approximately 140 basis points, a very good manager to have in the portfolio.

Invesco did well in January and in the quarter.

January was a good month for the portfolio which will help the fiscal year to date numbers.

Next Presentation:

April for a first quarter review.

Mr. Rowlinson offered to present in March if a discussion is needed after the Board reviews the February Flash Report.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2022 as written.

Ms. Wadecki had comments on the minutes, specifically New Business I and II (the payment of invoices to Robinson & Cole for legal services and USI for calculations for pending grievance). She said typically the Board doesn't pay invoices related to arbitrations/negotiations or labor contracts. She asked if that is still the Retirement Board's philosophy. She added that invoices of this nature should be paid out of the Town's Legal budget not the Retirement Board's budget. Chairman Rodolico asked Mr. Steinhoff what was done in the past, he replied that he doesn't ever recall a situation similar to this. Chairman Rodolico said that going forward Ms. Wadecki's point will be considered.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Thorne Coddington Wadecki Rodolico Panosky

V. DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

1. Director of Human Resource Update

No update.

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

1. Finance Director's Report

Nothing to report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Board

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to APPROVE payment of invoice #609_12312022, to Fiducient Advisors, dated January 31, 2023, in the amount of \$12,112.03, for consulting costs for billing period October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Thorne Codding Wadecki Rodolico Panosky

2. Discussion and possible vote on updates to the Investment Policy Statement - continued.

Mr. Thorne led the discussion by saying that any updates the Board makes to goals or funding time tables, etc. should be reflected in the IPS document not just in the Board's minutes. He also noticed that the IPS still refers to the "Pension" Board not to the "Retirement" Board, this should also be updated. He said he will make a draft of his suggested changes and send it to the Board for review during the March meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Thorne could not find 401A IPS. He noted that the Forms & Document Library on the Town's Website is outdated.

RESULT: TABLED

3. Motion to APPROVE retirement benefit for Pauline Ash in the amount of \$905.44 in the form of a modified cash refund annuity effective February 1, 2024.

Ms. Ash is taking an early retirement but she will not commence her retirement benefits until age 65.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Thorne Codding Wadecki Rodolico Panosky

4. Motion to APPROVE retirement benefit for Regina Brulotte in the amount of \$1740.47 in the form of a modified cash refund annuity effective April 1, 2023.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Thorne Codding Wadecki Rodolico Panosky

5. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Board

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 11:01 a.m.

A motion was made by Chairman Rodolico, seconded by Board Member Wadecki, that this be Approved and so declared. The motion carried by the following vote:

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: John Rodolico

SECONDER: Sharon Wadecki

AYE 5 Thorne Coddington Wadecki Rodolico Panosky

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