



CITY OF STAMFORD
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
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DRAFT MINUTES

Classified Employees Retirement Fund
Quarterly Meeting held remotely on Thursday, July 21, 2022 via a Zoom meeting

Those in attendance were:

Mary Lou Rinaldi, Acting Chair, Trustee	James Lavin, Retirement Benefits Specialist Human Resources	Patricia Koulouris, Northern Trust
Mayor Caroline Simmons	Angelo Sestito, Assistant Director Human Resources	David R. Javaheri, Morgan Stanley
Eric Newman, Trustee	Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources Processing Technician	Joseph J. Matthews, Morgan Stanley
Joyce Sun, Trustee	Janet Vaccaro, President – Retiree Association	Lindsay Pereguda, Morgan Stanley
David Yanik, Controller	Rick Petersen, Retiree Association	Other members of the public

With a Quorum present, Mary Lou Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m.

I. Minutes:

- A. A motion to approve the June 9, 2022 CERF Board meeting Minutes was made by Eric Newman and seconded by Joyce Sun. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

II. Public Participation:

Janet Vaccaro introduced herself to the Trustees as the newly appointed Retiree Association President, while also thanking those in attendance for their efforts in the administration of the Fund. Ms. Vaccaro stated that she was eager to view the report from the actuaries regarding a possible COLA increase due to concerns about inflation and the effect on retirees.

Rick Petersen from the Retiree Association also requested an update on the COLA report from the actuaries, which was reported to be with Corporation Counsel pending a legal opinion. Lastly, Mr. Petersen requested that the Trustees verify that all investments are free from any Russian involvement, and if so, look into divesting.

Chair, Mary Lou Rinaldi responded to both inquiries regarding the COLA, stating that Director Cava would continue to provide updates as they become available, which should be at the September meeting. Chair Rinaldi deferred the question regarding Russian investments to Morgan Stanley, which they would address during their presentation.

III. New Business:

A. Administrative Report – Patricia Koulouris, Northern Trust

Patricia Koulouris, reviewed the Administrative Report for the month dated, June 30, 2022, noting both the monthly and fiscal year opening balances, contributions, distributions, fees, expenses and end balances. According to the report, the Fund experienced a loss for the month and the fiscal year to date. However, the Fund received the employer contribution this month, (July) of approximately 7.2 million, which will be reflected in the monthly Administrative Report for the next meeting.

B. Wealth Management Update & Investment Performance Report – Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley team members in attendance included Lindsay Pereguda, David R. Javaheri, Managing Director/Senior Institutional Consultant, and Joseph J. Matthews, Vice President.

Vice President, Joseph J. Matthews provided a Capital Market review with information on current indicators, market expectations and current themes. David R. Javaheri, Managing Director/Senior Institutional Consultant presented the Investment Performance Report, which included a summary of the total Fund as of June 30, 2022. The report provided detail on Asset Allocations by Manager and a summary performance of the Fund.

Both Mr. Javaheri and Mr. Matthews indicated that the market has been extremely volatile, but the intentionally created defensive posture put in place was designed to protect and preserve the portfolio. Mr. Matthews highlighted that sixteen (16) out of twenty (20) managers in the portfolio outperformed benchmark.

Mr. Matthews presented a recommendation that \$4.5 million of the \$7.2 million employer contribution received this month be allocated across the board pro-rata. A motion was made by Mary Lou Rinaldi to approve the recommendation as presented by Morgan Stanley. Mayor Caroline Simmons seconded the motion. Hearing no objections or abstentions, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Caroline Simmons had an inquiry regarding the status of the Fund. To which Mr. Matthews reported, that the Classified Employees Retirement Fund was in the second quartile compared to other Connecticut Municipalities.

Mayor Caroline Simmons reported to all in attendance that the City of Stamford's AAA bond rating has been reaffirmed by credit rating agencies Fitch and Standard & Poor's (S&P), which reflects the city's fiscal health and sound fiscal management.

C. Vested Pensions:

- i. Michael Indelicato \$679.52

Mary Lou Rinaldi made a motion to approve the vested term retirement request for Michael Indelicato. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- ii. Kathleen Nanos \$698.19

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the vested term retirement request for Kathleen Nanos. Joyce Sun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- iii. Suzanne Sheridan \$868.23

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the vested term retirement request for Suzanne Sheridan. Mary Lou Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Return of Contributions:

- i. Lionardo Palermo \$23,162.17

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for Lionardo Palermo. Mary Lou Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- ii. Teresita Serrado \$8,103.77

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for Teresita Serrado. Joyce Sun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- iii. Gilberte Toussaint \$2,158.17

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for Gilberte Toussaint. Joyce Sun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- iv. James Visser \$18,762.29

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for James Visser. Mary Lou Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Retirements:

- i. Laurie Albano \$6,000.86

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the retirement request for Laurie Albano. Joyce Sun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- ii. Jennifer D'Amico \$466.44

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the retirement benefit request for Jennifer D'Amico. Mary Lou Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- iii. Angela Mitchell \$3,602.91

Eric Newman made a motion to approve the retirement request for Angela Mitchell. Mary Lou Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- iv. Frank Vonella \$4,234.11

Mary Lou Rinaldi made a motion to approve the retirement for Frank Vonella, with the understanding that the paperwork would be updated with the correct number of sick days indicated as (75). Joyce Sun seconded the motion as stated. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Disability Retirements: NONE

G. Buy Back: NONE

H. Bills: James Lavin, Retirement Benefits Specialist presented the invoices to the Board as one vote.

- i. CliftonLarsonAllen Invoice# 3312606 \$6,500.00
(Audit of Plan financial statements for year-end June 30, 2021)
- ii. Milliman Invoice# 0054SCE0622 \$13,530.00
(Quarterly Retainer and Benefit Assistance)
- iii. Robinson+Cole Invoice# 50382397 \$396.00
(Legal Service Fees)

Mary Lou Rinaldi moved to approve the bills as presented by James Lavin. Joyce Sun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Matthews addressed the inquiry presented by Rick Petersen, Retiree Association regarding divesting the Fund of any Russian securities. After a brief discussion, the Trustees would like to hold a vote on this matter. Meanwhile, Mr. Matthews at Morgan Stanley will research and report to the Board at the September meeting.

Joyce Sun made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eric Newman seconded. Mary Lou Rinaldi adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Please note that the Board is on summer recess for the month of August. Therefore, the next Meeting of the Trustees for the Classified Employees Retirement Fund will be a Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.