

**Worcester Retirement Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> 2022**

The Worcester Retirement Board met at 8:30 a.m. in Open Public Session on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the Levi Lincoln Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, Worcester, Ma. 01608 for their Annual COLA Meeting.

Board members M. Wally, E. Early, R. Stearns, and J. Mahan were in attendance. E. Early acted as Acting Chair for the meeting. Board Council C. Collins was present.

Members of the Public and City of Worcester Fire Department Retirees, Edward Pietrewicz and Donald Courtney were present and requested to speak to the Board.

K.McMahon, City of Worcester Representative, entered the meeting at 8:36.

Mr. Pietrewicz requested the Board consider accepting the 2022 COLA and requested the Board raise the COLA base from \$13,000 to \$16,000. Mr. Pietrewicz provided the board a statement citing other Boards current base amounts, and inflation rates.

Mr. Donald Courtney requested the Board vote to accept the 2022 COLA stating it would help relieve some burdens retirees are currently confronted with financially.

The Board discussed the proposals.

A motion was made to raise the base from \$13,000 to \$16,000 in \$1,000 increments over the next 3 years starting effective 7/1/2022. The Board voted in the affirmative **4-0**. The Board would then submit a petition to City Council to approve the Board Vote.

The Board voted to grant a COLA raise of 3% on the base as of 7/1/2022. **4-0**

Mr. Pietrewicz requested the Board reconsider their vote and increase the base from \$13,000 to \$16,000 in one year versus a 3 year period. The Board discussed Mr. Pietrewicz requested and denied his request for reconsideration.

The Board adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Lisa Poske, Executive Secretary

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Elizabeth A. Early Elected Member/Acting Chairman

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Matthew Wally, Appointed Member

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Robert V. Stearns, Ex Officio Member

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John Mahan, Elected Member

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Tamara Cullen, Fifth Member

**Worcester Retirement Board Meeting Minutes  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 2022**

The Worcester Retirement Board met at 9:03 a.m. in Open Public Session on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the Levi Lincoln Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, Worcester, Ma. 01608 for their Regular Monthly Board Meeting to immediately follow.

Board members E. Early, M. Wally, R. Stearns, and J. Mahan were present as well as Board attorney C. Collins and City of Worcester Representative K. McMahan.

Tamara Cullen arrived at 9:37 a.m.

The Board convened in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (1) and 21(a) (3) to conduct disability hearings and discuss litigation strategy regarding pending cases at 9:04 am by roll call vote and reconvened into open session at 10:40 am.

The Next Meeting Dates were set for: April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Financial Manager Meeting, 8:30 a.m.  
 May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m.  
 May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Actuary Meeting 10:00 a.m.

The Board accepted the March Regular Minutes (4-0)

**ALL BENEFITS APPROVED BY THE WORCESTER RETIREMENT BOARD ARE  
SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY P.E.R.A.C**

***Approved Collectively Superannuation M.G.L. c. 32 § 5***

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Dept.</i></b>	<b><i>Pos.</i></b>	<b><i>Years</i></b>	<b><i>Option</i></b>	<b><i>Effective Date</i></b>
Coakley Jr, Robert J	WPS	Sr. Custodian	36	C	04/15/2022
DiTaranto, Susan	PH	Admin Asst.	25	B	04/30/2022
Donais, Roger	DPW&P	Tree Climber	14	A	03/11/2022
Economou, Elena	WPS	IA	21	B	03/29/2022
Frascolla-Phelps, Joanne	WPS	IA	36	B	04/18/2022
Hassett, Robert	FIRE	Captain	32	C	03/31/2022
Klein, Pamela	WPS	Word Proc.	22	C	04/04/2022
Labovites, Mark	DPW&P	Parking Ctrl Off.	31	A	04/05/2022
Navarro, Reynaldo	PF	Sr. Bldg. Custodian	16	C	04/08/2022
Quinones, Katherine	WPS	Bus Monitor	23	C	03/21/2022
Qunones, Nelson	WPS	Bus Driver	26	C	03/21/2022
Servideo Sr, Darryl	WPS	Custodian	15	A	03/25/2022
Zemaitis- Coakley, Ruth	WPS	IA	24	B	04/13/2022
Zoto, Irene	DPW&P	Storekeeper	26	B	04/01/2022

R. Stearns gave summary of the monthly financials. The Board filed.

R. Stearns nominated E. Early as Board Chair. J. Mahan Seconded. A motion was made and the Board voted to elect E. Early as Board Chair. **(4-0)**

The Board discussed the recent acquisition of the WRTA into the WRS. Questions were filed with Board counsel. L. Poske will update the Board at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the upcoming MACRS conference. E. Early made a motion to allow anyone who would want to attend to do so. Voted **(5-0)**

The Board was provided and discussed the following PERAC 2022 Memos:

#10 Tobacco Company List

#11 Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR 22’

The following Retiree Evaluations came back as unable to work:

Dick, C | Gilchrist, K | Maruca, P | Standing, M | Simone, T

***Approved Collectively Warrants:***

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>PaidDate</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
22-04	03/25/2022	Office Expenses	\$ 83,682.70
22-05	03/25/2022	Member Refunds	42,290.36
22-06	03/25/2022	Member Refunds	10,778.71
	03/04/2022	Office Employee P/R	5,926.40
	03/11/2022	Office Employee P/R	5,926.40
	03/18/2022	Office Employee P/R	5,926.40
	03/25/2022	Office Employee P/R	5,926.40
	03/31/2022	Board Stipend	1,875.00
	03/31/2022	March Retiree Benefits	7,955,152.97

The Board adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by roll call vote

Lisa Poske, Executive Secretary

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Elizabeth A. Early Elected Member/Acting Chairman

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Matthew Wally, Appointed Member

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Robert V. Stearns, Ex Officio Member

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John Mahan, Elected Member

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***The Following was handled in executive session:***

***Executive Session***

***Accidental Death M.G.L. c. 32 § 9***

Widow of John Berube      WPD (PO)      02/12/1998 DOR

***Accidental Disability M.G.L. c. 32 § 7 Reports Received***

Rogers, Robin      WPS (IA)      8

***Accidental Disability M.G.L. c. 32 § 7 Evidentiary***

Mateychuk, James      FIRE (FF)      20

Sweeney, Stephen      DPW (Laborer)      16

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