

NEW CASTLE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' PENSION PROGRAM
Minutes of August 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on August 17, 2016 in the Government Center (Manager's Conference Room), 87 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Merrill, FOP Lodge #5
Paul Frese, Trustee Non-Union Members
Regis Yurcich, Trustee, Local #1607
Rich Piekarski, Jr., Trustee, Local #3109
Robert Barczak, Trustee, Local #459
Saul Polish, Trustee, Local #3911
Terry Stone, Trustee, Acting Chairperson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Piekarski, NCC/Finance
Lynne McIntosh, County/Audit
Bob Wasserbach, County Auditor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christine Dunning, CHRO
Daniel McFadden, Chairperson
Daryl Brown, Trustee
Michael Coupe, CFO
Michael Finnigan, Trustee, Retirees

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Lawler, Pension/Benefits Coordinator
Frank Benevento, Pension Program Analyst
Judi Mitchell, First Asst. County Attorney
Rowena P. Liles, Administrative Aide

INVITED GUESTS:

Kevin Leonard, NEPC
Will Forde, NEPC

8:04 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the July 20, 2016 meeting are attached for approval.

A motion was made by Doug Merrill and seconded by Paul Frese to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2016 meeting.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8:04 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE INVOICES

Boomershine Consulting Group	\$5,560.00	June, 2016
Income Research & Mgt.	\$39,403.07	2 nd Quarter 2016
MFS	\$121,039.28	2 nd Quarter 2016
NEPC	\$1,931.31	2 nd Quarter 2016
Northern Trust	\$16,957.86	2 nd Quarter 2016

A motion was made by Saul Polish and seconded by Doug Merrill to approve the payment of invoices.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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8:05 a.m. COORDINATOR'S REPORT by Susan Lawler

- Gross Payroll and Employer Contributions for the month of July 31, 2016.

8:05 a.m. APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFITS

Sharon Christie	\$1,177.27	July 30, 2016
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8:05 a.m. LUMP SUM BENEFITS

Christopher Tolmie (Estate of Kenneth Shortess, Jr.)	\$25,244.50	RetGen
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A motion was made by Saul Polish and seconded by Doug Merrill to approve the service retirement and lump sum benefits.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Susan – *Just a comment on benefits going forward. We (the County) and the different bargaining units in the County are finalizing union contracts; which could result in retroactive payments to some employees that have left. So we will be recalculating benefits, as applicable, for anybody that's been retired and was an active employee at the time that rates changed. We're using a one dollar a month threshold for recalculation; which means, if the recalculation results in your benefit changing by less than a dollar, we will not request a re-approval. Anything a dollar or more and we will be bringing that back to the Board for re-approval and making retroactive payments and changes in liability going forward.*

8:06 a.m. OLD BUSINESS

- Update (Judi Mitchell) – *Boomershine Consulting Group contract was provided by the firm. Changes have been made so that it conforms with the RFP and the proposal that Boomershine submitted, as well as the comments he made when he was here presenting to you. I have not heard back from them on whether the changes were acceptable. We are still in that process.*
- Update (Susan Lawler) – *Pension Section staffing we are still working on that and it will remain tabled, but perhaps we will ask Kevin and Will to talk about what they are here for and that would include Blackrock and the Soft dollar/commission recapture program.*

Terry – *On the staffing, would that be one person.*

Susan – *The addition of one.*

8:09 a.m. OLD BUSINESS (Cont'd)

- (Kevin Leonard & Will Forde) *Commitment amount for Blackrock Strategic Income Group – We will be making a recommendation on how it can fit into the Fixed Income Portfolio and a dollar amount. The target will be 6% with a \$27 million proposed allocation funded from Income Research & Management and Loomis Sayles.*

This item will be tabled until next month.

8:11 a.m. NEW BUSINESS

- Review the Preliminary Investment Performance "Flash" report for the period ending July 31, 2016 – (Kevin Leonard, NEPC).

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9:21 a.m. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

- Soft dollar/commission recap program (Northern Trust).

A motion was made by Doug Merrill and seconded by Paul Frese to remain in the commission recapture program and switch to Northern Trust Company.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Asset liability study (Oct/Nov 2016)*
- *Email HarbourVest materials before the meeting next month.*
- *Asset Allocation for HarbourVest Fund #10, if interested in pursuing.*

- Request Board approval for Frank Benevento to attend the Northern Trust – Passport/Cash Management Training Conference October 26-28, 2016 in Chicago, IL – (Susan Lawler).

A motion was made by Saul Polish and seconded by Doug Merrill to approve Frank Benevento to attend the Northern Trust – Passport/Cash Management Training Conference October 26-28, 2016 in Chicago, IL.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9:35 a.m. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Saul Polish and seconded by Rich Piekarski to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

***THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**