

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Meeting of May 27, 2015**

MINUTES

On May 27, 2015, Paula Weiss called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:08 in the Board's Conference Room.

Present: Paula Weiss
William Rubin
Brian Albert
Carol Stukes-Baylor
Patricia Fitzgerald
Ronald Stagliano
Andrew Thomas
Francois Dutchie

Also Attending: Francis Bielli - Board of Pensions
Shamika Taliaferro, Dave Fegan - Board of Pensions
Jo Rosenberger Altman, Katharine Janoski, Law Department
Ellen Berkowitz – Law Department
Brad Woolworth, Chris DiFusco, Investment Unit
Dan Falkowski, Lavonia Jenkins - Investment Unit
Kristyn Bair, Aubrey Hassan – Investment Unit
Steve Nesbitt – Cliffwater
Will Greene – Loop Capital Markets

Ms. Weiss stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the Minutes of April 30, 2015.

Brian Albert made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 30, 2015. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 5-0-1.

CONSIDERATION OF (150) PENSION APPLICATIONS AND (67) WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

Brian Albert made a motion to approve. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 6-0.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS

Case of John J. Rasmus Jr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “B”

This is an application submitted by John J. Rasmus, former police officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “B”.

According to Mr. Rasmus on August 22, 2013 while attempting to conduct a pedestrian investigation, the suspect became combative; kicking and punching and attempted to flee. Mr. Rasmus states that during the course of this pursuit: he lost balance, extended his arms as a brace against impact, heard four distinct “pops”, and immediately felt severe pain in his left elbow.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 6-0.

Case of Ruth Slaughter, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits Plan “J”

This is an application submitted by Ruth Slaughter, former cook with the Department of Corrections, for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “J”.

According to Ms. Slaughter, she has worked as a cook in a standing position for over twenty (20) years and does not provide a specific date of injury. Ms. Slaughter further states that problems developed in both knees, she elected to have knee replacement of the right knee only.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

Mr. Albert stated that what is troubling is there is no specific incident or injury or medical reports provided.

Ms. Stukes-Baylor stated that her job was similar to that of the police or firefighter as she was cooking and servicing people all day. Dr. Allon and Dr. Weirnerman determined her disabled from work and her injury due solely.

The Board discussed her injury and Mr. Stagliano suggested tabling the case for further information.

Ms. Stukes-Baylor withdrew her motion.

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Ronald Stagliano made a motion to table. Francois Dutchie seconded the motion.

The motion to table carried unanimously 6-0.

William Rubin arrived at the meeting.

Case of Rodica Diaconescu, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Rodica Diaconescu, former librarian, for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Diaconescu, the earliest onset of her breathing problems was on or about June 1, 2009. Ms. Diaconescu states that her cold like symptoms were eventually diagnosed as multi-chemical sensitivities and chronic ailments; many persistent coughs, hoarseness, voice loss, facial swelling, congestion, and restricted breathing were among the symptoms encountered at the workplace.

Mr. Albert stated there is no evidence that there is mold in this library.

Ms. Stukes-Baylor stated that Dr. Warner’s report stated that she has chronic dermatitis and allergens associated with her place of employment. She suggested tabling the case for a building inspection based on Dr. Knox’s and Dr. Segel’s reports and because there wasn’t an air quality report done by Risk Management.

Mr. Stagliano stated that what is troubling is page 1 of 5 says that her symptoms are there regardless of her environment. He suggested tabling the case for further medical reports.

Ms. Weiss stated that there is nothing to confirm that the library was the cause or the source of her problems.

Brian Albert made a motion to deny. Patricia Fitzgerald seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 3-0-3.

Case of Darryl T. Hunter, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Darryl Hunter, former laborer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Hunter on January 4, 2013, he was throwing trash into the trash truck when it backed up and crushed him. Mr. Hunter's principal areas of complaint involve his arm, shoulder, back, ankle, foot, wrist, and hand, leg and knee.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Leslie Kletzman, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Leslie Kletzman, former heavy equipment operator for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Kletzman on June 9, 2010 while getting into the truck he was operating, he struck his head. Mr. Kletzman's vision was directly affected by this impact.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Andrew T. Lauletta, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits Plan “A”

This is an application submitted by Andrew Lauletta, former firefighter, for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “A”.

According to Mr. Lauletta, on September 11, 2012 while carrying a patient he twisted his right ankle.

Andrew Thomas made a motion to approve. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Robert Wilson III, Deceased, Application for Service Connected Death Benefits-Plan "B"

This is an application by Deja Wolf on behalf of her son, Quahmier Wolf- Wilson, minor child of Robert Wilson III, deceased, for Service Connected Death benefits in Plan "B".

Robert Wilson III entered the Police Academy effective May 22, 2006. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, he was a High School Intern Apprentice and then an Automotive Apprentice for Fleet Management. At the time of his death, he had 12 years, 10 months, and 1 day City service.

Robert Wilson III died in the line of duty on March 5, 2015.

Robert Wilson III had no spouse at the time of his death. He is the father of minor children Quahmier Wolf-Wilson and Robert F. Wilson IV.

It is Dr. Howarth's opinion that Robert Wilson III's death was service related. Attached is a copy of her report dated March 30, 2015.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Robert Wilson III, Deceased, Application for Service Connected Death Benefits-Plan "B"

This is an application by Crystal Benson-Faison on behalf of her son, Robert F. Wilson IV, minor child of Robert Wilson III, deceased, for Service Connected Death benefits in Plan "B".

Robert Wilson III entered the Police Academy effective May 22, 2006. Prior to becoming a Police Officer, he was a High School Intern Apprentice and then an Automotive Apprentice for Fleet Management. At the time of his death, he had 12 years, 10 months, and 1 day City service.

Robert Wilson III died in the line of duty on March 5, 2015.

Robert Wilson III had no spouse at the time of his death. He is the father of minor children Quahmier Wolf-Wilson and Robert F. Wilson IV.

It is Dr. Howarth's opinion that Robert Wilson III's death was service related. Attached is a copy of her report dated March 30, 2015.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Collins Miles, Request to Change Survivorship Option

This is a request by Collins Miles to change his survivorship option from 2 to 1.

Collins Miles, a former Police Officer was hired on April 17, 1989 and retired on August 13, 2007. He chose option 2 and named his wife as beneficiary.

On April 27, 2015 the Board of Pensions received a letter from Mr. Miles requesting to change his option as he is going through a divorce and his children are grown.

Mr. Miles request was administratively denied and he submitted a letter appealing the denial.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to deny. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 6-0-1.

OLD BUSINESS

Case of Daniel D. Hughes, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “A”

This case was denied at the Board meeting held on January 22, 2015. A hearing panel was held on March 18, 2015.

The hearing panel recommendations are as follows:

William Rubin: Recommend Approval
Based on report from Dr. Guagliardo; no physical evidence by
Dr. Howarth; limited physical evaluation by Dr. Weinerman

Veronica Pankey: Recommend Approval

Patricia Fitzgerald: Recommend Approval

Case Summary:

This is an application submitted by Daniel D. Hughes, former fire service paramedic for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “A”.

According to Mr. Hughes on January 7, 2012 while lifting an obese patient from a stretcher to a hospital bed he injured his shoulder. Mr. Hughes states that he felt a “pop” in his shoulder and

felt what he describes as a gush of fire down his arm along with immediate numbness in his left arm and hand.

Andrew Thomas made a motion to approve. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Bielli updated the Board on the following subjects.

- The state audit is continuing and they are asking for verification and information through the actuary.
- The Governor announced that the Auditor General is going to have a taskforce on municipal pensions. Some of the people in the room may be contacted and if the Board is interested in coordinating a meeting to let Mr. Bielli know.
- A request is being worked on for Dr. Howarth to come to the June meeting.

Medical Panel Co-Chair RFP - The Medical Sub-Committee met regarding the medical co-chairs and attended a presentation given by MMRO. There is a recommendation from the Sub-Committee to approve Dr. Brent Weinerman, Dr. David Knox and MMRO for the medical panel.

MMRO would be used on a trial basis to see how well their product works. A reduction in their start up fees and customized web-portal costs were negotiated. They have their own group of doctors that they have access to including specialists and an organized process for timeframes and coordinating with the applicants and Pension Board.

Ms. Weiss added that the Medical Sub-Committee was impressed with their presentation. They are very organized and have experience in other places. There are times when it is hard to find a specific specialist or find someone quickly so they would be useful to add to our process.

Brian Albert made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Medical Sub-Committee. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Dr. David Knox, Dr. Brent Weinerman and MMRO as Co-Chairs for the Medical Panel carried unanimously 7-0.

Business & Education Travel Authorization - Mr. Bielli stated that Ms. Stukes-Baylor and Ms. Pankey were asked to be on a panel and speak at the Atlantic Connection's 10th Anniversary Conference in Coral Gables, Florida. The costs for the conference and hotel fees have been waived.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve the travel request for Ms. Stukes-Baylor and Ms. Pankey. Andrew Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Carol Stukes-Baylor and Veronica Pankey to attend the Atlantic Connection's 10th Anniversary Conference from July 14-19, 2015 in Coral Gables, Florida carried unanimously 7-0.

FYI

Litigation Summary – Mr. Rosenberger-Altman stated that there is an addition to the Litigation Summary. The Court of Common Pleas sustained the preliminary objections filed by Ms. Berkowitz in the Rosiji case (service purchase) and dismissed the case without prejudice for Mr. Rosiji to appeal to the Board.

Fairmount Park Update – Ms. Berkowitz stated there was a question and answer session for District Councils 33 and 47 employees and Ms. Stukes-Baylor and Ms. Pankey were extremely helpful. The union attorneys were also there and able to explain some things also. Notices will be going out shortly and people should be able to start rolling over their 401A and buying their time.

Mr. Bielli thanked Ms. Stukes-Baylor and Ms. Pankey for the work that they did. Their assistance to the Law Department was appreciated.

Mr. Stagliano commented on the thank you notes from pensioners who received the pension adjustment fund and how grateful they are to receive the money.

Brian Albert made a motion to adjourn. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.