

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Meeting of April 18, 2018**

MINUTES

On April 18, 2018, Jacqueline Dunn called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:33 AM in the Board's Conference Room.

Present: Jacqueline Dunn
 Rebecca Rhynhart
 Pedro Rodriguez
 Carol Stukes-Baylor
 Ronald Stagliano
 Brian Coughlin
 Veronica Pankey
 Sharolyn Murphy

Also Attending: Francis Bielli - Board of Pensions
 Shamika Taliaferro – Board of Pensions
 Bill Rubin – Board of Pensions
 Kellan White – Controller's Office
 Ellen Berkowitz, Adam Coleman, Jo Rosenberger Altman– Law Dept.
 Christopher DiFusco, Bernard Buckley – Investment Unit
 Tyrone Jordon, Jim Cousounis – Investment Unit
 Dominique Cherry, Eryn-Ashlei Bailey
 Kristyn Bair – Investment Unit
 Jeff Francis, Katie Moore - Nationwide
 Bina Kumar, Emanuel – Nationwide
 Jesus Jimenez, Nat Kellogg – Marquette Associates

Jacqueline Dunn called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the Consideration of the Minutes of March 28, 2018.

Veronica Pankey made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 28, 2018. Pedro Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 7-0.

CONSIDERATION OF (116) PENSION APPLICATIONS AND (56) WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

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

The motion to approve carried 7-0.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS

Case of William Rosemiller, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan A

This is an application submitted by William Rosemiller, former Firefighter for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan "A".

According to Mr. Rosemiller, on May 26, 2014 while fighting a fire another firefighter rushing to escape the heat and fire hit his water lead line pushing them both backwards down about thirteen (13) stairs. Mr. Rosemiller states that during the fall he was in full gear with an air pack on his back. Mr. Rosemiller further states that his head struck the wall at the bottom of the stairs.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Joseph M. Barrios, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits -Plan B

This is an application submitted by Joseph Barrios, former Police Officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan "B".

According to Mr. Barrios, on or about August 2014 he was involved in a vehicular accident while operating a patrol car. Mr. Barrios states that he returned to work following the accident and reinjured his lower back while retrieving heavy equipment from a police truck. He further states that when his back went out he fell injuring both legs and his right elbow.

Sharilyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Pedro Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 3-0-4.

Case of Samuel Gonzalez, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan B

This is an application submitted by Samuel Gonzalez, former Police Officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan "B".

According to Mr. Gonzalez, on June 28, 2014 while in the operation room of the 8th Police District he attempted to stand when the chair rolled out from beneath him and he lost his balance. Mr. Gonzalez states that as he attempted to catch his balance, his upper body twisted to the right while his left knee twisted to the right causing the injury.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 5-2.

Case of Edward Merritt Jr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits -Plan D

This is an application submitted by Edward Merritt Jr., former Police Officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “D”.

According to Mr. Merritt, on August 9, 2013 while working a detail at the football stadium he became involved in a “tussling match” with an intoxicated fan. Mr. Merritt states that he was knocked to the ground during the altercation and his right ankle and left knee were injured when the disruptive fan and other officers landed on him.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Aku Abdallah, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits –Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Aku Abdallah, former Operations Repair Helper with the Water Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Abdallah, he developed injuries to the ligaments of his wrists during a prolonged period of pit excavation without the use of a pneumatic clay spade. Mr. Abdullah further states that on or about June 3, 2016 while excavating a hole with a heavy metal bar he felt pain in his wrists.

Veronica Pankey made a motion to approve. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Lori Gray, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Lori Gray, former Parking Enforcement Officer with the Philadelphia Parking Authority for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Gray she has experienced both discomfort and pain in her knees beginning in 2010 and continuing through 2015. Ms. Gray states that the excessive walking over a period of years worsened the condition of her knees. Ms. Gray further states that she underwent surgery on both knees, physical therapy, and lidocaine injections to alleviate the pain.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to approve. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Timeka M. Johns, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Pension Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Timeka Johns, former Engineering Aide with the Water Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Johns, on July 21, 2015 she was a passenger in a work vehicle that was involved in an automobile accident. Ms. Johns states that the impact occurred on the passenger’s side and she suffered injuries to neck, left foot, and left knee.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to approve. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Case of Christopher Robbins, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits-Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Christopher Robbins, former Custodial Crew Chief with the Department of Commerce for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Robbins, on May 14, 2014 he was a seated passenger on an employee shuttle bus that suddenly stopped resulting in what he described as a ‘whiplash’ effect. Mr. Robbins states that during the incident another passenger fell onto his right knee and lap.

Sharilyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Pedro Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 3-0-4.

Case of Charles Williams, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Charles Williams, former Maintenance Mechanic with the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Williams, on July 11, 2016 he was power washing a garage when he tripped and fell over a hose knocking himself unconscious. Mr. Williams further states that he awoke to a couple of guys standing over him and paramedics placing him onto a stretcher. His chief complaints include knee and back injury along with a concussion.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 6-0-1.

APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE DENIAL OF REQUEST TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INTEREST ON DROP PAYMENT

Case of Michelle T. Seidner, Appeal of administrative denial of request to receive additional interest on DROP payment – Plan J

This is an appeal by Michelle T. Seidner, former Assistant District Attorney, of the administrative denial of her request to the Board of Pensions to receive additional DROP interest for the period of January 5, 2018 through February 15, 2018.

Michelle T. Seidner entered the DROP program effective September 15, 2014. She was notified of her termination from her position on January 5, 2018. Her last day paid in the DROP was January 12, 2018. Ms. Seidner made application for her DROP/Service retirement benefits on January 17, 2018. She elected to have her taxable DROP lump sum payment rolled over to Nationwide. Her rollover payment was issued on the first available DROP payroll following her application for benefits, which was mailed on February 9, 2018.

On February 25, 2018 Ms. Seidner contacted her pension counselor, Stephen Martin, via email stating that she did not see her DROP lump sum reflected in her Nationwide balance. After checking with the City's Nationwide staff members, counselor Martin learned that, though Nationwide received Ms. Seidner's rollover payment on February 15, 2018, it had been credited to a different member's account. Upon discovery of the error, Nationwide immediately made the correction and appropriately credited Ms. Seidner's account as of February 15, 2015.

Ms. Seidner contacted Counselor Martin again and stated that she wanted interest on the payment from January 5, 2018, through February 15, 2018. Counselor Martin responded to Ms. Seidner's stating that DROP payments are distributed from the Treasurer's office and that her payment reached its destination inside of 10 business days, which is the Treasurer's office minimum period for undertaking a stop/reissue if a payment is outstanding. Additionally, her DROP payment was disbursed appropriately and reached her financial institution in a timely fashion.

On March 1, 2018, Counselor Martin followed up with a formal letter of administrative denial of Ms. Seidner's request for additional interest on her DROP payment. Ms. Seidner forwarded an email to Executive Director Francis X. Bielli on March 5, 2018 appealing her denial and also asking for the remainder of her DROP payment through September 21, 2018.

Pedro Rodriguez made a motion to deny. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried unanimously 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Case of Evelyn F. Neal, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits -Plan "J"

This case was **denied** at the board meeting held on February 26, 2015. A hearing panel was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

The hearing panel recommendations are as follows:

Marsha Greene-Jones:	Case denied
Sharolyn L. Murphy, Esq.:	Deny
Carol Stukes-Baylor:	Deny

Case Summary

This is an application submitted by Evelyn F. Neal, retired medical assistant, for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan "J".

According to Ms. Neal, on June 28, 1999 she tripped over a workman's cord and fell striking the floor with both knees. She also states that her head struck the drawer of an EKG machine. Ms. Neal's complaints include the development of heel spurs from walking across concrete and back pain associated with her duties at the Philadelphia Nursing Home.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to deny. Pedro Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried unanimously 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Executive Director's Report

The Business and Education Travel Report for the 1st Quarter, 2018 was distributed to the Board.

Business and Education Travel Request

- PAPERS 14th Annual Forum – May 22-23, 2018, Harrisburg, PA

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve any staff or trustees wishing to attend the PAPERS conference. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to approve any staff or trustees wishing to attend the PAPERS 14th Annual Forum May 22-23, 2018 in Harrisburg, PA carried unanimously 7-0.

- One Philly Project – Mr. Rich Stewart is heading the project for the City and will come to the Board in late summer to give an update and provide specifics pertaining to the pension system.
- **Litigation Summary** - Ms. Berkowitz stated there are several cases in Common Pleas court and they are waiting for a decision from Commonwealth Court on the Avery case (appeal of award of SCD).

An Executive Session was held.

Pedro Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.