

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Meeting of October 25, 2018**

MINUTES

On September 27, 2018, Jacqueline Dunn called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:34 AM in the Board's Conference Room.

Present: Jacqueline Dunn
 Kellan White
 Leontyne Freeman
 Christopher Rupe
 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
 Ellen Berkowitz, Adam Coleman – Law Dept.
 Christopher DiFusco, Bernard Buckley – Investment Unit
 Jim Cousounis, Tyrone Jordan – Investment Unit
 Dominique Cherry, Kristyn Bair – Investment Unit
 Jeffrey Francis, Bradley Nyce, Bina Kumar – Nationwide
 Pam McCue – Financial Investment News
 David Smith, Samantha Grant – Marquette
 Danilo A. Burgos-Shadowing Rob Dubow
 Abdel Aziz Ibrahim – Investment Unit

Jacqueline Dunn called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the Consideration of the Minutes of September 27, 2018.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 27, 2018. Brian Coughlin seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 8-0.

CONSIDERATION OF (113) PENSION APPLICATIONS AND (83) WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

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

The motion to approve carried 8-0.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS

Case of Gary Rebstock, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan A

This is an application submitted by Gary Rebstock, former Firefighter for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “A”.

According to Mr. Rebstock, on February 15, 2016 while walking back into the fire station with his captain he slipped and fell on wet apparatus floor. Mr. Rebstock states that his knees wound up under his buttocks.

Brian Coughlin made a motion to table for clarification of Dr. Weinerman’s report, specifically Page 1. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The motion to table until the December 6, 2018 meeting carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Markita P. Joel, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan B

This is an application submitted by Markita Joel, former Police Officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “B”.

According to Ms. Joel, on January 11, 2017 while qualifying at the shooting range she began to experience sharp pain in her right arm and wrist.

Ronald Stagliano made a motion to approve. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Alma Jean Mertz, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan B

This is an application submitted by Alma Jean Mertz, former Police Officer for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “B”.

According to Ms. Mertz, on July 4, 2015 while walking on a grassy surface her foot became stuck in a hole and she twisted her knee; she states that as she fell she twisted her back.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 4-2-2.

Case of Lynn Dyches, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Lynn Dyches, former Correctional Officer with the Department of Corrections for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Dyches, on January 18, 2015 while on yard patrol she slipped on “black ice” landing on her buttocks and right elbow.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion. The motion to deny failed 3-5.

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

The motion to approve carried 5-3.

Case of Boris Petrenko, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Boris Petrenko, former Building Maintenance Mechanic with the Department of Public Property for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Petrenko on September 20, 2016, while operating a vehicle he had to brake suddenly to avoid colliding with another car. Mr. Petrenko states that the gas tank struck the back of the driver’s seat causing his injury.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Robert Sambuca, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan Y

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

According to Mr. Sambuca, on January 24, 2014 while operating a dump truck during snow duty he states that a frozen and jammed auger kicked on and crushed his hand, wrist, and fingers.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 4-0-4.

Case of James Womack, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan J

This is an **administrative** application submitted by James Womack former Stockroom Technician with the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “J”.

According to Mr. Womack, on June 15, 2011 while lifting a case of copier paper he felt and heard a “pop” in his back, he further reports that the pain radiated down his left leg.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

Mr. Coughlin asked for discussion on the matter. He stated that Dr. Draper’s report says the claimant is fit for light duty only. Since the City does not have light duty status the Board decided to ask the doctor for clarification of his report and to state only if the injury is due solely or not due solely.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to table until the December Board meeting. Brian Coughlin seconded the motion.

The motion to table until the December 6, 2018 Board meeting carried 6-2.

REQUEST TO OPT OUT OF PLAN 10

Case of Syreeta Blue, Request to Opt out of Plan 10

Syreeta Blue was hired effective November 30, 2015.

Plan 10 opt out forms and documents explaining the plan differences were sent to her home address on December 30, 2015 by certified and first-class mail. A signed return receipt was received on January 5, 2016. Since Syreeta Blue did not return the form opting out of Plan 10, her pension membership was assigned to Plan 10.

On June 22, 2018 the Board received Syreeta Blue’s request to have her pension membership changed to Plan Y. On June 25, 2018 an administrative denial was sent to her home address by certified and first-class mail. She was given a deadline of July 25, 2018 to appeal.

Syreeta Blue’s appeal was received on August 6, 2018.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Neha Desai, Request to Opt out of Plan 10

Neha Desai was hired effective September 14, 2015.

Plan 10 opt out forms and documents explaining the plan differences were sent to her home address on November 6, 2015 by certified and first-class mail. A signed return receipt was received on November 13, 2015. Since Neha Desai did not return the form opting out of Plan 10, her pension membership was assigned to Plan 10.

On August 17, 2018 the Board received Neha Desai's request to have her pension membership changed to Plan Y. On August 23, 2018 an administrative denial was sent to her home address by certified and first-class mail. She was given a deadline of September 24, 2018 to appeal.

Neha Desai's appeal was received on September 7, 2018.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried unanimously 8-0.

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE PENSION CREDIT FOR PRIOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE WITH PIDC

Case of Dawn Summerville, Application to Purchase Pension Credit for Prior Government Service with PIDC

Dawn Summerville was re-hired effective July 9, 2018.

On July 18, 2018, Ms. Summerville's application to purchase pension credit for her employment with Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was received by the Board of Pensions. The employment verification form, which was received with her application, stated that PIDC is a private employer and that she was entitled to a retirement benefit from PIDC for the same period of employment. As PIDC is not a governmental entity, but a private, non-profit corporation, her application was denied.

On July 24, 2018 an administrative denial was sent to her home address by certified and first-class mail. She was given a deadline of August 24, 2018 to appeal.

Sharolyn Murphy made a motion to deny. Christopher Rupe seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 7-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Executive Director's Report** – Mr. Bielli stated that new phones will be installed at the Pension Board effective November 14, 2018. They will be part of the City phone system and will require new phone numbers. The existing numbers will ring onto the new numbers until the end of January, 2019.
- Mr. Cousounis and staff are working on the Reexamination Process for Service-Connected Disabilities and hope to present it to the Board at the December 6, 2018 meeting.
- The Business and Education Travel Report for 3rd Quarter 2018 was distributed to the Board.
- PAPERS 12th Annual Fall Workshop – November 27-28, 2018, Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District. Mr. Bielli will be making opening remarks at the conference and Mr. DiFusco will be on the panel.

Veronica Pankey made a motion to approve anyone wishing to attend the PAPERS conference. Brian Coughlin seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Board attendance at the PAPERS conference November 27-28, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA carried unanimously 8-0.

- **Litigation Summary** - There are a lot of cases in common pleas court and the Daley case is stayed pending state court proceedings.

Carol Stukes-Baylor made a motion to adjourn. Sharolyn Murphy seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.