

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT  
Meeting of June 25, 2020**

**MINUTES**

On June 25, 2020, Jacqueline Dunn called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:37 AM. The meeting was conducted by phone conference due to the State's recommendation to close the City due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

Ms. Dunn asked the Board to approve the virtual procedures for motions, discussion and voting that were prepared by James Cousounis. For substantive motions the Chair will state the motion in the affirmative, the Board will consider the motion moved and seconded and then the Chair will ask for any comments or discussion before going into a roll call vote. For a procedural motion, the Chair will ask the Board for discussion, unless there are any objections, the motion will be declared and adopted unanimously. The Board adopted the procedures unanimously.

Present:                   Jacqueline Dunn  
                                Ronald Stagliano  
                                Carol Stukes-Baylor  
                                Kellan White  
                                Christopher Rupe  
                                Marsha Greene-Jones  
                                Brian Coughlin  
                                Veronica Pankey  
                                Sharolyn Murphy  
                                Francois Dutchie  
                                Marcel Pratt

Also Attending:       Francis Bielli, Shamika Taliaferro, Bill Rubin – Board of Pensions  
                                Ellen Berkowitz, Adam Coleman – Law Department  
                                Christopher DiFusco, James Cousounis – Investment Unit  
                                Bernard Buckley, Kristyn Bair, Tyrone Jordan – Investment Unit  
                                Dominique Cherry, Abdel-Aziz Ibrahim – Investment Unit  
                                Brad Nyce, Bina Kumar, Jeff Francis – Nationwide  
                                Dave Smith, Jesus Jimenez - Marquette

Jacqueline Dunn called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the Consideration of the Minutes of May 28, 2020.

**The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.**

**CONSIDERATION OF 91 PENSION APPLICATIONS AND 20 WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS**

**The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.**

**APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS**

**Case of Richard Seamen, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan B**

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

According to Mr. Seamen, on May 19, 2016, while attempting to place a juvenile female in custody, her mother pinned his ankle against the curb causing it to twist resulting in pain and swelling.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve  
Sharolyn Murphy – Approve  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Approve  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White - Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.**

**Case of Patrick Gereaghty, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan B**

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

According to Mr. Gereaghty, on March 10, 2016 he and his partner were involved in a vehicular accident. Mr. Gereaghty states that a van struck the vehicle from behind and the impact forced the police vehicle into a parked vehicle, pole, tree, bushes, and finally the Coca-Cola factory wall. Mr. Gereaghty sustained multiple injuries.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve  
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Approve  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White - Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve carried 7-1.**

**Case of Daniel T. Harte, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan A**

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

According to Mr. Harte, on December 20, 2016, while fighting a house fire the coupling (tip) of the hose caught on something. Mr. Harte states that he tried to free the tip but fell in the process, he felt a pull and heard a pop in his hip. Mr. Harte states that he sustained an injury and was rushed to the hospital.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny  
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Deny  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White – Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve carried 5-3.**

**Case of April L. Koenig, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan B**

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

According to Ms. Koenig, on June 9, 2012 she while attempting to assist an intoxicated suicidal female, she became resistant and violently combative. Ms. Koenig states that during a struggle she was thrown into a wall and dresser; the struggle continued down a flight of stairs and did not end until she was secured by the medic. Ms. Koenig sustained multiple injuries.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny  
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Deny  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White - Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve carried 5-3.**

**Case of Earl D. Morgan, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan Y**

This is an application submitted by Earl Morgan, former Semi-skilled Laborer with the Water Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Morgan, on February 4, 2014 he was walking across the parking lot when he slipped and fell on a patch of ice. Mr. Morgan states that he landed on his back and elbow, he attempted to get up and fell again causing multiple injuries.

The Board voted as follows:



Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny  
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Deny  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White - Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve carried 5-3.**

**APPLICATION TO PURCHASE PRIOR CITY SERVICE/WAIVE PORTION OF FEE**

**Case of Roslyn Henry, Application to Purchase Prior City Service with consideration to waive a portion of the interest fee**

Effective December 29, 1992, Roslyn Henry resigned from her position with the Health department. Following her resignation, she withdrew her contributions to the retirement system. She was re-hired on May 17, 1999.

On June 23, 1999 a letter was sent to Ms. Henry notifying her that she may apply to purchase pension credit for any prior period of City service. The letter also stated that her application for purchase must be received by May 16, 2000 to avoid being charged additional interest.

On June 21, 1999, Ms. Henry's application for purchase was received by the Board of Pensions. On July 21, 1999, a cost quote was mailed to Ms. Henry. This quote, which did not include additional interest, expired on May 16, 2000. Ms. Henry did not elect to purchase the pension credit.

On September 17, 2019, Ms. Henry's 2<sup>nd</sup> application to purchase pension credit from her period of prior City service was received by the Board of Pensions. On December 18, 2019, a new cost quote, which included additional interest, was mailed to Ms. Henry.

On February 20, 2020, Ms. Henry's letter to appeal the additional interest was received. Because her 2<sup>nd</sup> application was received later than May 16, 2000, her appeal was administratively denied.

Ms. Henry's appeal was received on May 22, 2020.

Mr. Stagliano requested that the case go directly to a hearing panel.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve  
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve  
Sharolyn Murphy – Approve  
Veronica Pankey – Approve

Christopher Rupe – Approve  
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve  
Kellan White - Approve  
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

**The motion to approve sending to a hearing panel carried unanimously 8-0.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Executive Director's Report** – Mr. Bielli reported on the following:

- Hearing panels – The Board has been following the lead of the court system. Further guidance will be provided next week when the City goes into the Green status. There is a possibility of reinstating the hearing panels with social distancing or crafting a virtual hearing process that will be fair and appropriate. He will report back to the Board at the July meeting.
- Board Trustee Election – The election is on schedule with the petition to be circulated later in July. The criteria for the Green phase will be examined and the Board will be informed of the status as we discover more details.

Discussion concerning the hearing panels continued. Ms. Stukes suggested having the hearings in the current stage with the hearing officer, stenographer, and applicant coming into the office. Ms. Stukes stated that Traffic Court is being held and other courts had virtual testimony. She was concerned about a lot of hearing panels being on hold.

Mr. Bielli and Mr. Cousounis reviewed the current status of trials in the PA Court system and other Courts. Both Mr. Bielli and Mr. Cousounis said it is their intent to review Covid-19 future guidance and recommend a course of action to the Board in order to keep the appeal process moving.

Mr. Coughlin stated that we will have more guidance a week from now, if not, we'll take a hard look at what Ms. Stukes is saying.

**Litigation Summary** – Ms. Berkowitz stated that Dailey (disqualification) was in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the argument was cancelled; case submitted on briefs. All other cases are resting.

**The motion to adjourn carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.**