

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Meeting of December 3, 2020**

MINUTES

On December 3, 2020, Jacqueline Dunn called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:39 AM. The meeting was conducted by Microsoft Teams Conference App due to the State's recommendation to close the City due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

Present: Jacqueline Dunn
Ronald Stagliano
Carol Stukes-Baylor
Kellan White
Vanessa Garrett-Harley
Leontyne Freeman
Brian Coughlin
Veronica Pankey
Sharolyn Murphy
Marsha Greene-Jones

Also Attending: Francis Bielli, Bill Rubin -- Board of Pensions
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
Nick Hand, Sara DeNault -- Office of the City Controller
Brad Nyce, Bina Kumar, Jeff Francis -- Nationwide
Tom Ginsberg -- PEW Trust
Will Green -- Loop Capital
Lindsay Saienni -- FIN News
Dave Smith, Kweku Obed, Brett Graffy -- Marquette Associates
Nat Kellogg
Robert McDermott
Don Triveline

Jacqueline Dunn called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the approval of the Virtual Procedures for the Board of Pensions Benefits meeting.

The motion to approve the Virtual Procedures carried unanimously 8-0 on a roll call vote.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2020

The motion to approve the Minutes of December 3, 2020 carried 7-0-1 on a roll call vote. Ms. Garrett-Harley voted to abstain as she is a new Board member and was not present at the December meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF (113) PENSION APPLICATIONS AND (45) WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0 on a roll call vote.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS

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

This is an application submitted by William Maude, former Fire Lieutenant for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “A”.

According to Mr. Maude, on May 17, 2009 while fighting a two-alarm fire he sustained an injury. According to Mr. Maude, on November 1, 2010 while working in an ambulance he suffered another injury while lifting a patient. Mr. Maude states that on September 14, 2017, while a part of the RIT team he suffered another injury.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve	Veronica Pankey - Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve	Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve	Kellan White - Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny	Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

Case of Lamont Ballard, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits -Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Lamont Ballard, former Equipment Operator II with the Streets Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Ballard on July 24, 2018 while exiting the assigned vehicle he was pre-checking he fell to the ground. Mr. Ballard states that it was raining, and the metal handle was wet causing his grip to slip resulting in injuries.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve	Veronica Pankey - Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Deny	Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny	Kellan White - Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny	Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 5-3.

Case of Karen Butler-Brown, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Karen E. Butler-Brown, former Deputy Sheriff Officer with the Sheriff’s Office for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Butler-Brown, on September 26, 2016 she was involved in a vehicular accident. Ms. Butler-Brown states that she was a passenger in a stationary Sheriff’s van that was rear-ended by a SEPTA Connect Transit van. Ms. Butler-Brown states that she sustained multiple injuries as a result of the impact.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Deny
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 5-3.

Case of Demetra Eleftheriou, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Demetra Eleftheriou, former Claims Adjuster II with the Office of Risk Management for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Eleftheriou, on October 5, 2018 she reported experiencing pain in her hand and elbow, and numbness in her fingers which made it difficult to write and type. Ms. Eleftheriou states that she was examined, and it was discovered that she required surgery. Ms. Eleftheriou further states that her typing eight (8) hours a day on her computer for nearly twenty (20) years attributed to her injuries.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

Case of Kevin Farrington, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Kevin S. Farrington, former Laborer with the Streets Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Farrington, on June 5, 2018 while taking two heavy trash bags to the truck he bumped his right knee against the car fender of a parked car. Mr. Farrington states that he immediately felt pain.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Deny
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Deny
Ronald Stagliano – Approve
Jacqueline Dunn - Deny

The motion to approve tied 4-4. The Chair voted to deny. The motion fails 4-5.

Case of Samuel Howard, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan 16

This is an application submitted by Samuel Howard, former Water Operations Repair Helper with the Water Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “16”.

According to Mr. Howard on July 15, 2017 while shoveling debris, the shovel struck the curb and became stuck. Mr. Howard states that it was during his attempts to unstick the shovel that he felt something pull in his back.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Deny
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 5-3.

Case of Patrick Heron Jr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits –Plan B

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

According to Mr. Heron, on January 10, 2017 while responding to a burglary alarm he slipped on the ice and fell to the ground causing an injury. In addition, according to Mr. Heron, on November 10, 2018 he fell on the cement stairs outside his workplace hitting his head and knees. Mr. Heron states that he continues to suffer the results of the incident.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Deny
Marsha Greene-Jones – Deny
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 5-3.

Case of Timothy P. Coleman Sr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan B

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

According to Mr. Coleman, on December 10, 2017 he slipped on ice and snow behind the 24th District. Mr. Coleman states that as a result of the fall he sustained multiple injuries.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

Case of Steven Killian, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan A

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

According to Mr. Killian, on August 17, 2018 while unbuckling the high-rise bag of a fire hose one of them became snagged, and he applied more force to free it suffering an injury in the process.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

Case of Salvatore Ruggieri, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan "B"

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

According to Mr. Ruggieri, on June 2, 2017 while on a funeral detail he fell over the curb, fracturing his right elbow. Mr. Ruggieri states that as he braced for the eventual impact, he sustained an injury.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve	Veronica Pankey - Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve	Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve	Kellan White - Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny	Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

Case of Alfred E. Frierson, Jr., Request for Survivorship benefits for medically dependent adult child – Plan D

This is a request by Alsonia Mordecai for Survivorship benefits on behalf of Alfred E. Frierson, Jr., medically dependent adult child of Alfred Frierson.

Alfred Frierson, worked as Police Officer for the City of Philadelphia with a total of 29 years, 11 months, and 21 days of credited service.

Mr. Frierson retired on July 26, 1985 and chose Survivorship Option 4. His monthly benefit was \$1,649.11. Mr. Frierson passed away on August 5, 2010. His widow, Bernice Frierson, began receiving a monthly survivorship benefit in the amount of \$824.56. Bernice Frierson passed away on July 28, 2020.

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On August 19, 2020, Alsonia Mordecai contacted the Board of Pensions to request survivorship benefits on behalf of her brother, Alfred E. Frierson, Jr.

In a letter submitted by Ryan Erwin, MD, Alfred E. Frierson, Jr. suffers from a disability related to an accident sustained at the age of nine (9).

The Board reviewed letters and documentation submitted by the applicant along with the pertinent information in the file.

The Board voted as follows:

Brian Coughlin – Approve
Vanessa Garrett-Harley – Approve
Marsha Greene-Jones – Approve
Sharolyn Murphy – Deny

Veronica Pankey - Approve
Carol Stukes-Baylor - Approve
Kellan White - Approve
Ronald Stagliano - Approve

The motion to approve carried 7-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director’s Report – Mr. Bielli stated the virtual hearing process is in place and ready to launch. Notification letters will go out in the next two weeks. Staff and medical doctors have been moving cases along quickly.

The Auditor Subcommittee will meet in the next couple of weeks to review the RFP responses for presentations to the Board. The GASB 67-68 Draft is close to being finished and should be done soon.

Litigation Summary – Ms. Berkowitz stated that oral argument in the Guadalupe (disqualification) case was held on November 12, 2020 and awaiting decision.

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously at 9:55 AM.