

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Meeting of March 23, 2017**

MINUTES

On March 23, 2017, Paula Weiss called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Pensions and Retirement to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Board's Conference Room.

Present: Paula Weiss
William Rubin
Brian Abernathy
Brian Albert
Carol Stukes-Baylor
Ronald Stagliano
Brian Coughlin
Veronica Pankey
Pedro Rodriguez
Francois Dutchie

Also Attending: Francis Bielli - Board of Pensions
Shamika Taliaferro – Board of Pensions
Ellen Berkowitz, Jo Rosenberger Altman, Law Department
Brendan O'Rourke, Adam Coleman – Law Department
Christopher DiFusco, Bernard Buckley – Investment Unit
James Cousounis, Tyrone Jordon, Kristyn Bair – Investment Unit
Dominique Cherry, Eryn-Ashlie Bailey – Investment Unit
Will Greene – Loop Capital
Matthew Coyne – Torrey Cove
Kweku Obed, Dave Smith – Marquette
Emanuel Mahand – Nationwide
Pam McCue – Financial Investment News
Arnold West – GIA Partners
Mitchell Hollin, Howard Ross – LLR Partners
Jeff George – City Council

Ms. Weiss called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the Minutes of February 22, 2017.

Brian Albert made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2017. Ronald Stagliano seconded the motion.

The motion to approve carried 6-0-1.

CONSIDERATION OF 109 PENSION APPLICATIONS AND 64 WITHDRAWAL APPLICATIONS

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Rubin asked if there is a distinction between people taking PLOP withdrawals or taking their pension contributions.

Mr. Bielli stated that the report is received from OIT payroll and he will inquire if there is a way to designate a PLOP withdrawal by using a specific code.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY BENEFITS

Case of William Maloney III, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “A”

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

According to Mr. Maloney, on October 25, 2012 while lifting and pulling a stretcher from the back of Medic 47B he sustained an injuries to his neck.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Nancy Dugan, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “B”

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

According to Ms. Dugan, on January 7, 2014 she was involved in a vehicular accident involving a car carrier which ran a red light. Ms. Dugan states that she underwent ankle surgery on January 14, 2014.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Victor Landon, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Pension Plan “J”

This is an application submitted by Victor Landon, former semi-skilled laborer with the Streets Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “J”.

According to Mr. Landon, on April 18, 2016 while operating a half ton roller his hands began to hurt again. The roller is used to flatten out asphalt. Mr. Landon states that his hands have been in this situation before while operating a jack hammer.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Ms. Weiss stated there is a corrected copy in the folder but the final summary page from Dr. Weinerman still needs to be corrected. The corrected summary page was later received from Dr. Weinerman and is part of the file.

Case of Randolph Caulley, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan Y

This is an application submitted by Randolph Caulley, former semi-skilled laborer with the Water Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Caulley, during the course of his employment, he sustained multiple injuries. He states that on January 2, 2014 he was involved in a vehicular accident that impacted his elbow. Mr. Caulley states that he had three later surgeries.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Terry Lawson Jr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Terry Lawson, former laborer with the Streets Department for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Lawson, on September 23, 2014 while he was pulling a heavy trashcan from the curb he sustained an injury to his knee.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

Case of Diane T. Webb, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits - Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Diane Webb, former meter reader, with the Water Revenue Bureau for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Ms. Webb, on or about July 15, 2012 and sometime in 2014 she states that she was involved in two (2) vehicular accidents. Ms. Webb states that she was struck from behind in both instances and sustained multiple injuries.

Brian Albert made a motion to deny. Brian Abernathy seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 6-0-2.

Case of Levi Benjamin, Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits –Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Levi Benjamin, former social work services manager with the Department of Human Services for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to Mr. Benjamin, on December 18, 2012 while riding as a passenger on a SEPTA bus he was involved in an accident. Mr. Benjamin states that the impact from the collision caused him to be lurched around, he extended his arms to protect himself and was struck by a falling passenger which caused injuries to his upper body.

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

The motion to approve carried unanimously 8-0.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS

Case of Daniel Morales-deceased, Application for Service-Connected Death Benefits – Plan “Y”

This is an application submitted by Joelle Morales, spouse of the late Daniel Morales for Service-Connected Death benefits under Pension Plan “Y”.

According to information contained within the COPA II and descriptive account, Daniel Morales sustained an injury on July 26, 2016. It was reported that Mr. Morales was struck on his head by a two-hundred (200) pound pipe causing scalp laceration, concussion, scalp contusion, dislocated shoulder, and torn rotator cuff. Mrs. Morales states that her husband’s sanity deteriorated.

Brian Albert made a motion to deny. Francois Dutchie seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 6-0-2.

REQUEST TO OPT OUT OF PLAN 10 AFTER THE DEADLINE

Case of LaToya Newsome-Clemens, Request to Opt Out of Plan 10 After the Deadline LaToya Newsome-Clemens was hired effective July 18, 2016.

Plan 10 Opt Out forms and documents explaining the plan differences were sent to her home address on October 4, 2016 by certified and first class mail. The letter was not returned. Since LaToya Newsome-Clemens did not return the form opting out of Plan 10 and electing Plan Y, she remained a member of Plan 10.

On February 10, 2017, we received LaToya Newsome-Clemens' request to have her pension plan changed to Plan Y. On February 10, 2017 an administrative denial was sent to her home address by certified and first class mail.

LaToya Newsome-Clemmons' timely appeal was received on February 17, 2017.

Brian Albert made a motion to deny. Francois Dutchie seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 5-0-3.

OLD BUSINESS

Case of John L. Hinton Jr., Application for Service-Connected Disability Benefits – Plan “X”

This case was denied at the Board meeting held on June 23, 2016. A hearing panel was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

The hearing panel recommendations are as follows:

Ronald Stagliano:	Deny the application
William Rubin:	Denied
Brian Albert:	Deny, not due solely

Case Summary:

This is an application submitted by John Hinton, former firefighter for Service-Connected Disability benefits under Pension Plan "X".

According to Mr. Hinton, he developed lung disease over the span of his 30-year career as a firefighter. Mr. Hinton states that during his early years he worked without a breathing apparatus. He also cites exposure to smoke particles as part of his firefighting activities as another contributing factor. No specific date of injury provided.

William Rubin made a motion to deny. Brian Albert seconded the motion.

The motion to deny carried 7-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Executive Director's Report** - Mr. Bielli stated there is a Legislative Subcommittee meeting scheduled on March 30, 2017 at 10 am and to please email him with agenda items so any materials can be prepared.
- The final actuarial report will be received shortly as it is currently undergoing peer review. According to Ken Kent none of the fundamental underlying numbers that were in the draft and presentation are likely to change.
- The Pension Adjustment Fund (PAF) multiplier is \$7.29 for years of credited service and years of retirement for those who have been retired as of June 30, 2006. A small balance will be left in the PAF.
- The City Council budget testimony is scheduled for April 5, 2017 at 1:30 PM.
- **Business and Education Travel Authorizations**
 1. International Foundation of Employees Benefit Plans – Washington Legislative Update Conference May 22-23, 2017

William Rubin made a motion to approve Ms. Taliaferro to attend the Washington Legislative Conference. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Shamika Taliaferro to attend the International Foundation of Employees Benefit Plans Washington Legislative Conference from May 22-23, 2017 carried unanimously 8-0.

2. 16th Annual PA Workers' Compensation Conference June 11-13, 2017

William Rubin made a motion to approve Ms. Thorpe to attend the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation conference. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Sharon Thorpe to attend the 16th Annual PA Workers' Compensation Conference June 11-13, 2017 carried unanimously 8-0.

3. NASP Conference June 26-28, 2017 in Los Angeles, California

Carol Stukes Baylor made a motion to approve trustees who would like to attend the NASP conference. Veronica Pankey seconded the motion.

The motion to approve trustees to attend the 18th Annual NASP conference June 26-28, 2017 in Los Angeles, California carried unanimously 8-0.

Ms. Pankey asked if there were any updates on the Opt Out letter for employees in Plan 10 that have the option to join Plan 16.

Mr. Bielli stated that it will be done contemporaneous with Payroll being prepared to change the contributions for those folks. This is for DC 33 employees who will have a 90-day window to opt out of Plan 10 to join Plan 16.

Mr. Rubin requested that the Legislative Committee review the difference between the Controller's buyout proposal and the current option to take a lump sum via PLOP.

FYI

- a. **Litigation Summary** – Ms. Berkowitz stated there are no updates.

Brian Albert made a motion to adjourn. Carol Stukes-Baylor seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.