

Lawrence Retirement Board Meeting Agenda

August 31st, 2023 at 8:30 am

Meeting called to order at 8:32

Members Cockroft, Wilson and Wright were present. Member Ruiz and Ceballos were remote.

New Business:

John Sapienza, refund application – Discussion

Executive Director Rizzo asked if all members had time to review the opinion letter submitted by Michael Sacco. Attorney Sacco has opined that Mr. Sapienza's case is a factual link case, in that the crime to which he pleaded guilty, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, does not implicate his position as a police officer. He opined that there is no rational basis to implement a pension forfeiture pursuant to Section 15(4) and accordingly, it is not necessary to proceed with the Section 15(4) hearing. The board has properly conducted its due diligence in investigating the matter, but there being no legal basis to not process Mr. Sapienza's refund application, the board should proceed in doing so. Also we should consider the fact that Mr. Sapienza is entitled to receive a Superannuation retirement allowance based on his attaining age 55.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the refund application for Mr. Sapienza and to counsel him in respect to his ability to retire under a superannuation retirement. If he decides to retire, the board can rescind its vote on the refund application. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

An application for superannuation has been received from **Frances Puglisi**, a 66-year-old Paraprofessional with 10 years 7 months of service. If approved, member will retire on August 28th, 2023, under an annual Option A allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 8,442.00.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of Frances Puglisi. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Juan Belliard, LHA Project Manager would like to purchase his prior provisional LHA service. If allowed, member would have to contribute \$1,997.13 for 5 months of service from 12/05/2022-06/30/2023. Service and salary breakdown were acquired/verified via the LHA Payroll Supervisor.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the makeup payment of Juan Belliard. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Gustavo Torres, LHA Maintenance Aide would like to purchase his prior provisional LHA service. If allowed, member would have to contribute \$1,631.22 for 3 months of service from 01/03/2023-04/17/2023. Service and salary breakdown were acquired/verified via the LHA Payroll Supervisor.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the makeup payment of Gustavo Torres. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Tabled Items:

Coughlin DALA appeal

Wood – CRAB appeal

Bradley – CRAB appeal

M. Bistany – CRAB appeal

M. Verville – Civil Action

New Members:

Name	UNIT	Dept or Position	Group
Anamisis, George	CTY	Airport General Maintenance	1
Paulino, Quilvio	CTY	DPW Laborer	1
Ortiz, Cesar	CTY	DPW Safety Manager	1
Matias, Francis	CTY	Information Technologies Tech	1
Perez, Jonathan	FIR	Firefighter	4
Veras, Randy	FIR	Firefighter	4
Medvecky, Cole	FIR	Firefighter	4
Martinez, Jason	FIR	Firefighter	4
De La Cruz Derman, Abram	FIR	Firefighter	4
Ortiz Santiago, Francisco	FIR	Firefighter	4

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the new members as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Refunds:

Alan Jobb -	SCH	School Culture Specialist	\$ 4,754.73
Gleirisela Marquez	SCH	Cafeteria Worker	\$ 1,121.56
Diana Valdez- Abrue	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 16,498.43
Lucianny Rondon	CTY	Personnel Aide	\$ 10,351.24
Caitlin Desfosses	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 8,763.08
Ana Alves Delgado	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 11,302.33
Mackenzie Foley	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 4,761.66
John Sapienza	POL	Patrolman	\$ 64,866.66 *

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the refunds as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Monthly Expenses:

Warrant # 12	Voucher # 294-316	\$ 132,059.96
Retiree End Checks		\$ 13,458.13

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the monthly expenses as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Monthly pension payroll for August 31st, 2023	\$ 2,511,711.69
Voids	\$ - 2,291.61

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the monthly payroll and voids as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

PRIT Wire redemption

Executive Director Rizzo explained that the PERAC auditors recommended added the monthly PRIT wire draw down to agenda. This is the money needed to cover the monthly pension payroll and expenses.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the wire draw down. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Approval of the **July 25th, 2023 retirement board minutes** as submitted.


Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25th, 2023 board meeting as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Copies of bank statements, cashbooks investment reports and recent PERAC Memos are available for review. Warrants and vouchers are present for approval and review.

The next scheduled regular monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 at 8:30 AM.


Being no further business, Sheryl Wright made a motion to adjourn at 8:43. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. Roll Call Cockroft-yes, Wilson-yes, Wright-yes Ceballos-yes, Ruiz-yes. Motion carries 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

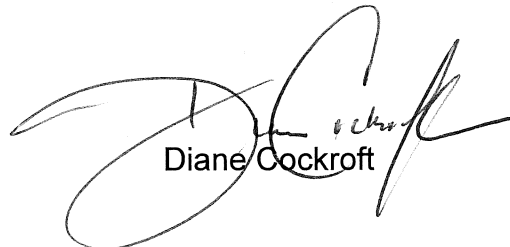

Ramona Ceballos, Chairman


Gina Rizzo, Executive Director


Sheryl Wright


Robert Wilson


Pasqual Ruiz


Diane Cockroft