

Lawrence Retirement Board Minutes
September 28th, 2022 at 8:30 am

Meeting called to order at 8:33

Members, Cuddy, Ceballos, Cockroft, Wilson and Wright were present.

New Business:

Verville Section 15 – Attorney Michael Sacco, Mark Verville and his counsel, Attorney Gleason were present.

Chairman Cuddy opened by welcoming Mr. Verville and his counsel then handed the floor over to board Attorney Michael Sacco who served as Hearing Officer at the Section 15 hearing held by the board on 2/25/2021.

Attorney Sacco began by stating that since we've already held a hearing, the purpose of today's meeting was not to deliberate but to vote on the matter before us. If the board is adverse to my opinion, it will move forward and if the board votes favorable Mr. Verville will have the right to appeal. A little history, Mr. Verville is a 16-year Firefighter for the City of Lawrence who on February 27th, 2019 pleaded guilty to arson of a dwelling, violating an abuse prevention order and burning of a motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 2 years in State Prison. Mr. Verville came before the Board because he wanted a determination of whether or not he would one day qualify for a pension. He came before us on 2/25/21 and the board gave him time to seek Council and submit something in writing. The recommended decision I've put before you is a large body filled with case law and each case is unique and shows if there is legal or factual links. In this case I feel there is sufficient evidence for a forfeiture since Mr. Verville's primary job is to fight fires and he lit a fire in the City he works in. We all know that a small fire can turn into a big fire and his actions could have turned out to be even more tragic. Again my recommendation is forfeiture since we have sufficient evidence to find a link. I'll pass this back to the Chair.

Attorney Gleason asked to be heard. Attorney Gleason said that he felt it was difficult to submit something in writing then he doesn't know what the issue with this case is. I would ask that if the board is thinking of voting for forfeiture that they would allow us time to discuss this and put something in writing and that when dealing with the law he feels the board must not vote on feelings, but on the actual law they think Mr. Verville violated.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to adopt the Hearing Officers finding and recommended decision as its own. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. Roll Call Cockroft – yes, Wright-yes, Ceballos-yes, Wilson-no, Cuddy-no. Motion passes 3 in favor, 2 against.

Discussion on Special Legislation

Executive Director Gina Rizzo was contacted by PERAC regarding a Massachusetts House Bill that was filed on 9/16/2022 – HD 5378 which is now H5316.

Attorney Sacco stated that he has seen this sort of bill filed before and that often times when it goes before City Council they don't really understand what the monetary implications to the City of Lawrence are. Ultimately this bill is set up as if the member died in the line of duty. It will issue 100% of the pay he would receive if working until he turns 65 when it then reverts to a section 7 disability but at 80%. If he passes away, his wife will get 75% of his pension. He will not be restricted on post retirement earning or be subject to CME reviews. He will also get a refund of his annuity savings account.

Member Ceballos stated that she would like KMS Actuaries to run a quick cost analysis for this.

An application for superannuation has been received from **David Augusta** a 59-year-old Patrolman with 32 years of service. If approved, member will retire on August 28th, 2022 under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 52,383.60.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of David Augusta. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. All were in favor 5-0

An application for superannuation has been received from **Jaime Adames** a 53-year-old Patrolman with 24 years and 1 month of service. If approved, member will retire on September 1st, 2022 under an annual Option C allowance in the approximate amount of \$ 44,241.00.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the superannuation retirement of Jaime Adames. Motion was seconded by Ramona Ceballos. All were in favor 5-0

Jannette Marte, School advisor, would like to purchase her prior refunded Lawrence school service. If approved member would purchase 12 years and 7 months of creditable service for time worked from 01/08/2001-09/06/2013 at a cost of \$33,863.24. Refund transcripts are on file.

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the request for buyback of Jannette Marte. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. All were in favor 5-0

Tabled Items:

Coughlin DALA appeal - *no update*

Wood – CRAB appeal – *no update*

New Members:

Name	UNIT	Dept or Position	Group
Pitta, Evelisse	CTY	Receptionist	1
Wilson, Kendra	POL	Crime Analyst	1

Portorreal, Madisyn	VOC	Admin. Assistant	1
Vargas, Mario	SCH	Custodian	1
Pena, Anacaona	SCH	LTS	1
Rivera, Angelica	SCH	Paraprofessional	1
Alicea, Jaylen	SCH	Crisis Aide	1
Carruthers, Simon	SCH	Associate Teacher	1
Casado, Joshua	SCH	LTS	1
Callado Taveras, Keydy	SCH	Paraprofessional	1
Foley, MacKenzie	SCH	Autism Para	1
Guzman, Zuneivy	SCH	Crisis Paraprofessional	1
Helleis, Christopher	SCH	Crisis Paraprofessional	1
Henriquez, Juana	SCH	Paraprofessional	1
Mieses, Angel	SCH	Family Engagment Specialist	1
Montero, Rosemary	SCH	HR Specialist	1
Perez, Tialese	SCH	Associate Teacher	1
Rodriguez, Jasmine	SCH	Para	1
Sarson, Patrick	SCH	LTS	1
Canto, Kayla	SCH	Speech Pathology Assistant	1
Sheehan, Kelsey	SCH	Nutritional Services Assistant	1
Pena, Paloma	SCH	Para	1
Cabrera, Julliette	VOC	School Security	1
Lopez, Antonio	CTY	Principal Accounts Clerk	1
Reyes, Yira	POL	Student Officer	1
Then, Miguelina	SCH	Crisis Paraprofessional	1
Cameron, Carlos	SCH	IT Specialist	1
Alfonso, Kirstin	SCH	BCBA	1
Cano Molina, Christian	VOC	Para	1
Acevedo, Vladimir	CTY	Painter	1
Nunez, Tomas	CTY	MEO/Custodian	1

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the new members as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. All were in favor 5-0

Refunds:

Dante Nardella	CTY	HME0	\$ 877.55
Jorge Gonzalez	CTY	City Councilor	\$ 1,122.59
Ashley Hutchinson O'Connor	SCH	Operations Manager	\$ 72,197.36
Belep Tzej	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 15,665.87
Marlon Nunez Sanchez	SCH	School Dean	\$ 14,819.65
Sheri Peterson	SCH	BCBA	\$ 20,944.49
Amy Mora	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 559.92
Ginette Aponte	SCH	Cafeteria Worker	\$ 6,859.40
Lorraine Ramirez	SCH	Paraprofessional	\$ 4,979.87
Jose Rivas	SCH	Parent Liaison	\$ 8,537.36
Daniel Tavor	CTY	Senior Acct. Clerk	\$ 17,829.82

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the refunds as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. All were in favor 5-0

Monthly Expenses:

Warrant # 18	Voucher # 293-323	\$ 286,122.64
Retiree End Checks		\$ 16,099.99

Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the monthly expenses as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. All were in favor 5-0

Monthly pension payroll for September 30th, 2022 \$ 2,431,583.71

Diane Cockroft made a motion to approve the monthly pension payroll as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sheryl Wright. All were in favor 5-0

Approval of the **August 31st, 2022** regular and executive session retirement board minutes as submitted.

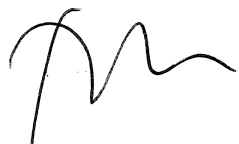
Sheryl Wright made a motion to approve the August 31st, 2022 regular and executive session retirement board minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Diane Cockroft. All were in favor 5-0

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

The next scheduled regular monthly board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Being no further business, Diane Cockroft made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 AM, seconded by Sheryl Wright. All were in favor. 5-0

Respectfully submitted,



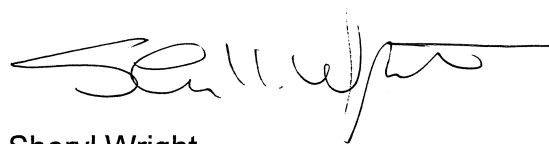
Thomas Cuddy, Chairman



Gina Rizzo, Executive Director



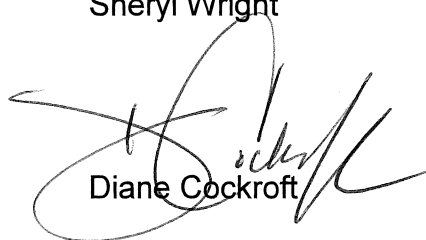
Ramona Ceballos



Sheryl Wright



Robert Wilson



Diane Cockroft