



Joint Pension Board
Thursday, February 27, 2025
11:30 a.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Steven Sousa, Chairperson; Kathy Nadeau; Nathan Watchous; Steven Sousa; Walter Melillo, Normand Benoit and Maureen Alexander.

Absent Members: None

Also Present: Christopher Durand, CEO; Chris Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Steven Colantuono, Esq; Maureen Ruzzano, HR Chief Compliance Officer; Jacqueline Weidinger, Administrative Assistant-Executive Office; and RIPTA staff.

Call to order: Mr. Sousa calls the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., indicating that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item 1: **Approval of January 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025, meeting. Ms. Nadeau seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous, Ms. Alexander and Mr. Melillo.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

Member Of Public: Mikeda Barnes

Comment:

Ms. Barnes provides her concerns regarding the denial of her Disability Pension, her termination, Workers' Compensation claim and various other claims.

Agenda Item 3: Convene as Pension Benefit Subcommittee
Consideration Of Benefit Requests for Local 618 & 618A Employees

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Ms. Marilyn Enright (former spouse of RIPTA retiree Cornelius Enright), Action pursuant to Qualified Domestic Relations Order. Ms. Enright requested her late pension benefits become effective on May 1, 2012, in the amount of \$799.90 per month.

Jerry L. McIntyre Esquire, Attorney for Marilyn Enright, provided the facts and circumstances regarding Ms. Enright's pension application.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to deny the request. Mr. Sousa seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Melillo, Mr. Watchous, Ms. Alexander and Ms. Nadeau.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Leonel Novas, Active Employee - Utility Worker. Mr. Novas requested his late pension benefits become effective on February 1, 2025, in the amount of \$896.23 per month.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Mr. Melillo seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Nadeau, Mr. Watchous, Mr. Sousa and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Arthus Olink, Active Employee - Stockroom Clerk. Mr. Olink requested his late pension benefits to become effective on March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$3053.75 per month.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Ms. Nadeau seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Melillo, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Dennis Dugan, former Bus Operator. Mr. Dugan requested his late pension benefits become effective on March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$4236.53 per month.

Ms. Nadeau makes a motion to approve. Mr. Melillo seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Benoit, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Michael Traversie, Active Employee - Van Operator. Mr. Traversie requested his late pension benefits become effective on March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1596.56 per month.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Ms. Nadeau seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Melillo, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Antonio Lopes, Active Employee - Bus Operator. Mr. Lopes requests his late pension benefits become effective March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1195.98.

Ms. Nadeau makes a motion to approve. Mr. Melillo seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes from Mr. Benoit, Mr. Sousa Mr. Watchous, and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for David Lavallee, Active Employee - Bus Operator. Mr. Lavallee requests his late pension benefits become effective March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$985.58.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Mr. Melillo seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes from Ms. Nadeau, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous, and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Karen Hansen, Active Employee - Bus Operator. Ms. Hansen requests her late pension benefits become effective March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1765.05.

Mr. Melillo makes a motion to approve. Ms. Nadeau seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes from Mr. Benoit, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous, and Ms. Alexander.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for John Perrotti, Active Employee - Bus Operator. Mr. Perrotti requests his late pension benefits become effective March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$6200.66.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Mr. Watchous seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes from Ms. Nadeau, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Melillo, and Ms. Alexander.

Agenda Item 4: Pension Audit

Ms. Erica Olobri from Marcum LLP, now CBIZ CPAs P.C., discusses and reviews the draft Pension Audit.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve. Mr. Watchous seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes from Ms. Nadeau, Mr. Sousa, Mr. Melillo, and Ms. Alexander.

Agenda Item 5:

Empower Presentation

Guzman Lazaro of Empower Investments discusses moving 5% of RIPTA Pension toward Equity Investments. The Joint Pension Board voted at a previous meeting to approve.

No vote was taken.

Agenda Item 6:

Adjournment 1:18 p.m.

Mr. Sousa makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Ms. Nadeau, Mr. Watchous, Mr. Melillo and Ms. Alexander.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nadeau, Recording Secretary