



**Joint Pension Board**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**269 Melrose Street, Providence**  
**Transportation Board Room**

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

**Absent Members:** Kathy Nadeau

**Also Present:** Christopher Durand, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; 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 1:00 p.m., indicating that a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 1:**        **Approval of April 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2025, meeting. Mr. Melillo seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Sousa, Mr. Watchous and Ms. Alexander.

**Agenda Item 2:**        **Public Comment**

Member Of Public:     Thomas Cute III

Comment: Mr. Cute congratulated his father, Thomas Cute Sr., on his retirement and spoke about the many accomplishments of his career and time spent at RIPTA.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Mr. John Nunes – Mechanic – Former Employee. Mr. Nunes requested his early pension benefits become effective on March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1,132.10 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Mary Ellen Nunes - Action Pursuant to Qualified Domestic Relations Order. Ms. Nunes requested her pension benefits become effective on March 1, 2025, in the amount of \$487.64 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Henry Ullrich -Bus Operator- Active Employee. Mr. Ullrich requested his late pension benefits become effective on June 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1,513.28 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Jose Viera – Utility Foreman - Active Employee. Mr. Viera requested his late pension benefits become effective on July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$3,551.68 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Thomas Cute, Jr. – Bus Operator - Active Employee. Mr. Cute requested his late pension benefits become effective on July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$10,054.25 per month.

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

Christopher Durand enters the meeting at 1:07pm.

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Owen Sweetland – Bus Operator - Active Employee. Mr. Sweetland requested his late pension benefits become effective on July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$2,349.55 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for John D'Alo – Bus Operator - Active Employee. Mr. D'Alo requested his late pension benefits become effective on July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$1,433.13 per month.

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

- Ms. Ruzzano presents the pension application for Athur Tilley – Bus Operator - Active Employee. Mr. Tilley requested his late pension benefits become effective on July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$3,807.02 per month.

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

**Agenda Item 4:**

**Adjournment 1:11 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Nadeau, Recording Secretary