

A regular meeting of the State of Michigan Retirement Board was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2018, in the Board Room, First Floor of the Stevens T. Mason Building, 530 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Members Present: Laurie Hill, representing State Retirees
Craig Murray, representing the Auditor General
Judge David Sawyer, representing retired JRS members
Ron Farnum for Molly Jason, representing the Attorney General
Matthew Fedorchuk, representing State Employees
Col. John Wojcik, representing Michigan National Guard
Judge Mark T. Boonstra, representing the General Public
Ann Marie Storberg, representing the State Treasurer
John Gnodtke, representing State Personnel Director

Staff Present: Laurie Mitchell, Executive Secretary
Caleb Chamberlain, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Mita Drazilov of GRS, Kathleen Markman of the Attorney General's Office, Mary Pollock of State Employees Retirement Association, Courtney VanCamp and Cara Dobie of CSR – MI, Carol Thompson of the Lansing State Journal.

Call to Order

Chair Laurie Hill called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Excusing of Absent Members

There were no absent members.

Approval of Agenda

John Gnodtke moved, Matthew Fedorchuk supported, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

David Sawyer moved, John Gnodtke supported, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Pension Recipients

Informational payroll statistics for July and September were provided to the Board. There was no discussion on these items.

New Business

Col. John Wojcik and Ann Storberg volunteered as Committee for the March election.

Special Reports

Mita Drazilov of GRS Retirement Consulting presented the optional forms of payment for SERS and JRS. Matthew Fedorchuk motioned to adopt the actuarially equivalent forms of payment. Col. John Wojcik supported, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mita Drazilov of GRS Retirement Consulting presented the 2017 Military Retirement provisions annual valuation and 2015 Military Retirement Provisions Experience Study. Col. John Wojcik motioned to adopt the assumptions for actuarially equivalent forms of payment from the experience study. David Sawyer supported, and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Administrative Hearings

Proposal for Decision – Docket 18-002845-ORS

The Board considered the case materials. John Gnodtke moved, David Sawyer supported, that the Board adopt as its own the recommendations of the Presiding Officer as set forth in the August 2, 2018, Proposal for Decision including the proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and deny the Petitioner's application for non-duty disability retirement under MCL 38.24. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Decision – Docket 18-004332-ORS

The Board considered the case materials. Col. John Wojcik moved, David Sawyer supported, that the Board adopt as its own the recommendations of the Presiding Officer as set forth in the September 10, 2018, Proposal for Decision including the proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and deny the Petitioner's request for relief from repayment of her pension overpayment under MCL 38.41 and Board Rule 38.49 and deny her request to retroactively change her pension beneficiary under MCL 38.21(2). The motion passed. John Gnodtke abstained from voting.

Proposal for Decision – Docket 18-003337-ORS

The Board considered the case materials. John Gnodtke moved, Matthew Fedorchuk supported, that the Board adopt as its own the recommendations of the Presiding Officer as set forth in the September 11, 2018, Proposal for Decision including the proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and deny the Petitioner's request to make an election under section 68b of the SERA, to opt out of the graded health insurance coverage premium and opt into the tax deferred account provisions of that section after the election deadline in that section had passed. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Decision – Docket 17-015245-ORS; Deposition Request

The Board considered the case materials. David Sawyer moved, Mark Boonstra supported, that the Board deny the Petitioner's request to take the deposition of Harold Sommerschild, PhD and find that Petitioner failed the "establish that it is impractical or impossible to otherwise obtain the evidence," as required by R 792.11604(1). The motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Report

A report was provided for the Board's information.

Executive Secretary Comments

Laurie Mitchell made mention of the new survivor options analysis and the new opportunities that come with it. Laurie showed her appreciation for GRS Retirement Consulting.

Board Comments

David Sawyer expressed his genuine interest in the topics presented at the meeting.

Public Comments

Mary Pollock of SERA thanked the board for their work on the survivor options and encouraged the board to fully explore gender neutrality in pension administration.

Adjournment

John Gnodtke moved, Craig Murray supported, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Signature on file

Chair

Signature on file

Executive Secretary