

EAST LYME PENSION BOARD
MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2023
MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT

2023 NOV 27 A 11: 07

PRESENT: K. Gervais, D. Hall, B. Curry, J. Wohler, C. Seifert

ABSENT: K. Seery, M. Stevens, P. Levanti

ALSO PRESENT: C. Rowlins, M. Fratini, M. Nixon


TOWN CLERK

Chairman Curry called the meeting to order at 3:11 pm.

MOTION: D. Hall, second: J. Wohler to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 17, 2023. PASSED 4-0

Chris Rowlins of Fiducient Advisors began the discussion of the second quarter report. He started with the quarterly Fiduciary Governance Calendar focusing on the third quarter items: Investment Review, Municipal Landscape Update and Annual Actuarial Review.

Matt Fratini of Fiducient Advisors then discussed the Portfolio Results for the quarter ending September 30, 2023.

The Metropolitan West Total Return Bond PL Fund has been placed on a "Watch" status. TCW (Fund) announced long-time Generalist Portfolio Managers, Laird Landmann and Stephen Kane, will be retiring at the end of 2023 and no earlier than 2024, respectively. Bryan Whalen, who currently serves as co-CIO and Generalist Portfolio Manager alongside Mr. Kane, will remain in his role and will become the sole CIO at the end of 2023. Mr. Kane will continue to serve as a Generalist Portfolio Manager until his retirement. Ruben Hovhannisyan and Jerry Cudzil will join the Generalist Portfolio Manager team, effective immediately. Mr. Hovhannisyan has worked directly in support of the Generalist team for 16 years, while Mr. Cudzil has been with the firm for over 10 years and previously served as Co-Head of Credit and Head of Credit Trading.

The BrandywineGLOBAL Global Opportunities Bd IS Fund has been moved to "Discuss" status. The Strategy was placed on discuss status following the announcement of macro strategist, Francis Scotland's planned retirement in June 2024.

Finance Director Kevin Gervais spoke regarding the Pension Board's annual report to the Board of Selectman. Mr. Gervais said he will have solidified numbers for the February 2024 meeting for Pension Board approval and anticipate presenting to the Board of Selectman during one of the March BOS meetings.

Discussion regarding employee payment review. Mr. Gervais explained the pension plan monthly payment disbursements increased due to the early retirement incentive implemented by the Town and BOE (separately). Five employees took advantage of the early retirement incentive program

administered by the First Selectman's office. Mr. Gervais did not have final numbers for the number of BOE employees retiring.

Discussion with Board Members regarding early retirement incentives offered by the Town and Board of Education. Chairman Curry explained in his past roles as Finance Director, the Pension Board would be presented with calculations comparing the early retirement incentive with pension payments to see if there was a true cost savings. Discussion also regarding approval of early retirement incentive and authorization. Mr. Gervais will research and report back to Board at next meeting.

Mr. Gervais provided an update to the outside Pension Plan Administrative Services proposal approved last quarter by the Pension Board to be administered by USI. Mr. Gervais brought forth the updated quote, increased from \$16,000 to \$18,000.

MOTION: D. Hall, second: J. Wohler to approve the pension plan administration services contract for \$18,000. PASSED 4-0

Mr. Gervais discussed the Pension Plan restatement put forth by Bruce Barth at Robinson and Cole. J. Wohler requested a red-line copy that shows what changes were made. K. Gervais will reach out to B. Barth and get the red-line edit document and send to Pension Board members for review.

MOTION: J. Wohler, second: D. Hall to approve all invoices brought before the Pension Board. PASSED 4-0

MOTION: D. Hall, second: J. Wohler to review and approve 2024 Meeting Calendar. PASSED 4-0

MOTION to adjourn: D. Hall, second: J. Wohler at 4:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,
For the Committee:

Kevin C. Gervais Jr., Director of Finance