



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Firefighters' Pension Fund

7550 Lyman Avenue Darien, Illinois 60561 (630) 910-2200 Fax (630) 910-2203

PENSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at 7550 Lyman Avenue, Darien, Il.

Date: 04/06/2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

The Board of Trustees of the Darien-Woodridge Firefighters' Pension Fund conducted a regular meeting via video and teleconference on **April 6, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** in accordance with Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7(e)), recently amended by Public Act 101-0640 (Government Emergency Administration Act) as the result of the State's disaster declaration regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the Board President's determination that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent.

Attendance:

Board Members:

- Wayne Messenger (President) (District Appointee-April 30, 2021) via Zoom
- Mike Zessems- (Active-April 30, 2021) on calls
- Jay Worden (Secretary) (Retired April 30, 2022) In Person
- Christopher English- (District Appointee-April 30, 2022) via Zoom
- Brian Isley- (Active-April 30, 2023) via Zoom

Others Attending:

- Carolyn Welch Clifford, Attorney (Non-Voting) via Zoom
- Kathy Trapp-Treasurer (Non-Voting) via Zoom

Active Membership Attending:

S. Gorsky

Public Comment Period:

None.

Reading of the Minutes:

Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Meeting.

Motion: To waive the reading of the minutes and to accept minutes as presented.

Motion: Isley 2nd: English Aye: Isley, English, Messenger and Worden. Nay: None
Approved by 4-0 by roll call vote.

There are no Closed minutes to be reviewed. (Six-month review)

Carolyn Clifford discussed the storage of recorded minutes and meeting and the recommended disposal after 18 months. A log will be developed to keep track of the recordings as recommended.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the financial statement from Lauterbach and Amen through 02/28/2021. Copy attached. **Motion:** To approve the financial statement through February 28, 2021 as presented. Motion: Worden 2nd: English. Aye: Worden, English, Messenger and Isley. Nay: None. Passed. 4-0.

Bills and Disbursements:

Motion: To pay the pending bills totaling \$99, 831.15 and the IDOI compliance fee when received.

Motion: Messenger 2nd: English Aye: Messenger, English, Isley and Worden. Nay: None. Passed. 4-0

Investments:

1. Mr. Patrick Swaney and Mr. Bruce Heniken made a presentation of the results of our investment portfolio as of 02/28/2021 with some references to the 03/31/2021 results..
Our portfolio is currently weighted with equities at 63.1 % and 32.7% in fixed income and 4/2% in real assets and cash. The performance of the fixed income portion in the midst of the pandemic was better than expected, but as the economy has improved the returns have decreased with no end in

sight due to the anticipated increase in interest rates. The increasing fiscal stimulus from congress and the Federal Reserve's current stance on short term rates makes the likelihood of increased inflation in the future almost certain.

On the equity side we have made 5.0% over the last 3-month period and 29.3% over the last year..

On the other hand, our fixed portfolio has only made a return of -0.4% over the last 3 months and 2.6% since 06/01/2020. However, as we discussed the easy month in the fixed side has already been made unless something changes over the next year. We had removed the alternative investments, i.e. gold and oil and kept a small 2.0% weighting in the real estate market. There had been a 5.0% increase over the last three months in that area due to the ongoing strength in that market.

On a total basis our return for the last 3 months is 3.5% and a year to date return of 19.8%. The total return on our portfolio since inception is 7.8%.

Old Business:

1. Keith Kaschub formally withdrew his application for disability benefits. He is back to full duty and working. The file is therefore closed.
2. Because of some technical issues, it was decided to table the discussion with the full District Board on a Funding Plan until the summer when we can put together a combined Board meeting. We discussed that this document and plan needs to be implemented as soon as feasible.
3. Members are reminded to make sure their statements of economic interests are filed by May 1.

Application for Membership:

1. Natalie Johnson was appointed as a firefighter/paramedic as of March 1, 2021. We have received her signed application to the fund along with the signed Physician's Certification for entry level physician condition. She will be Tier 2 due to no previous Fire Service Experience.
2. Brandon Waldschmidt was appointed as a firefighter/paramedic as of March 1, 2021. We have received his signed application to the fund along with the signed Physician's Certification for entry level physician condition. He will be Tier 2 due to no previous Fire Service Experience.
3. Frankie Wong was appointed as a firefighter/paramedic as of March 1, 2021. We have received his signed application to the fund along with the signed Physician's Certification for entry level physician condition. He will be Tier 2 due to no previous Fire Service Experience.

Motion: To approve the applications of Natalie Johnson, Brandon Waldschmidt and Frankie Wong to be members of the fund effective March 1, 2021. Motion: Messenger 2nd: Isley Aye: Messenger, Isley, English and Worden. Nay: None Passed 4-0.

Applications for Refunds or Benefits:

1. Norman Meske's request for reciprocity is still pending awaiting additional information from Chicago. There has been some movement in this area recently per Carolyn.

New Business:

1. At the current time this fund has no Illinois Financial Entities.
2. A letter was sent to President Palatine on the District appointment which expires on 05/31/2021.
3. Due to the current changes caused by the legislation creating the Firefighter's Pension Investment Board it was decided that we go the an annual agreement with Lauterbach and Amen on Bookkeeping and other services. **Motion:** To approve a one-year agreement from 06/01/2021-05/31/2022 with Lauterbach and Amen on bookkeeping and benefit services only. Annual cost: \$13, 595.00. Motion: Worden 2nd: English Aye: Worden, English, Messenger and Isley. Nay: None Passed 4-0.
4. The bi-annual Certificates of Eligibility will be sent out to all beneficiaries and survivors in the next month as required in the Rules and Regulations.
5. Carolyn made a report on the rule making process of the FPIB and the anticipation that all monies will be moved to their fund by 12/31/2021.
6. The FPIF has requested the Fund appoint two authorized agents to act as the liaisons between the Fund and the FPIF. **Motion:** To pass Resolution 21-02 to Appoint Wayne Messenger and Joseph Worden to be the authorized agents for the Darien-Woodridge Firefighters Pension Fund. Motion: Messenger 2nd: Worden Aye: Messenger, Worden, English and Isley. Nay: None Passed 4-0.

7. The FPIF will be forwarding a suggested cash management policy to handle how funds will be handled once the bulk of the Fund's assets are transferred to the FPIF. Derek from Lauterbach and Amen discussed how they will assist us in putting together a schedule of payments and anticipated expenses for that Cash Management plan.

Attorney Report:

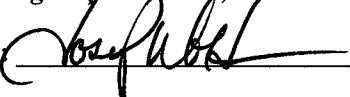
1. Carolyn discussed several issues concerning the Firefighters Investment Board. She also forwarded the filed lawsuit to overturn the legislation by several groups as unconstitutional. She will keep us informed if a lawsuit goes anywhere.
2. She also discussed some online training opportunities. A number of the members expressed interest in attending the IPFA conference on May 7th.
3. She discussed some of the other materials she had forwarded to the members for review at their convenience.

Elections:

1. After sending emails to all active members of the fund, only one person expressed an interest in the position. **Motion:** To elect James Karasek to the Board effective 06/01/2021 by acclamation. Motion: Messenger 2nd: Worden. Aye: Messenger, Worden, English and Isley. Nay: None Passed 4-0.
2. Motion: To elect Wayne Messenger as President of the Fund and Joseph Worden as the secretary for the fund for the next year. Motion: Worden 2nd: Isley Aye: Worden, Isley, Messenger and English. Nay: None Passed 4-0/

Adjournment: Motion: English 2nd: Messenger 4-0 by Roll call vote. Time: 11:36 AM

Next Meeting: September 21, 2021 Time: 10:00 am

Signed by:  Joseph P. Worden, Secretary

Approved July 14, 2021
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