

ARMSTRONG COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021, 9:00 AM

The meeting of the Armstrong County Retirement Board (The Board) was called to order by Commissioner Myers in the Commissioners' Conference Room on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 9:00 AM. The following attended, unless marked absent:

Board Members:

Commissioners Donald K. Myers (Chairman), Jason Renshaw (Member), Pat Fabian (Member), Controller Myra L. Miller (Secretary), Treasurer Amanda Hiles (Member)

Guests:

Mr. Pat Wing, Consultant/VP, Marquette Associates
Mr. Aaron Poole, Financial Management Director
Mr. Nick Vercilla, Leader-Times reporter
Mrs. Amanda Rybarik, Retirement Specialist

Commissioner Myers announced that the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Commissioner Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw, and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Retirement Board Meeting.

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Treasurer Hiles, and carried unanimously to acknowledge the Peirce Park Group/Marquette Associates Cash Flow Summary Reports for 11/30/2020 – 02/28/2021. It was noted that during the same time period there was a net increase in the Combined Asset Market Value of \$2,477,041 (11/30/2020 - \$75,267,910 to 02/28/2021 - \$77,744,951).

It was motioned by Treasurer Hiles, seconded by Commissioner Fabian, and carried unanimously to acknowledge the Trade Transactions for **DECEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021**.

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to acknowledge Employee Benefit Requests for **DECEMBER 2020, JANUARY 2021, and FEBRUARY 2021**.

DECEMBER 2020 RETIREMENT BENEFIT REQUESTS:

a. Robert Boyer	JAIL	REFUND	DOE: 05/18/20 to 09/16/20
b. Tamisha Williams	JAIL	REFUND	DOE: 09/14/20 to 10/27/20
c. Joshua Reiter	PW	ROLLOVER	DOE: 01/14/19 to 11/14/20
d. Dillon Hogg	AAA	ROLLOVER	DOE: 04/02/18 to 10/17/20

JANUARY 2021 RETIREMENT BENEFIT REQUESTS:

e. Mark Brian Zebracki	PROB	ROLLOVER	DOE: 04/29/19 to 11/26/20
f. Shania Eckman	JAIL	INV ROLLOVER	DOE: 05/30/17 to 11/24/20

FEBRUARY 2021 RETIREMENT BENEFIT REQUESTS:

g. Darlene K. Scripps	HC	PENSION	DOE: 02/02/10 to 06/30/17
h. Janet J. John	HR	PENSION	DOE: 12/22/99 to 01/22/21
i. Kimberly A. Fennell	TREAS	PENSION	DOE: 09/14/20 to 10/10/20
j. Kim McAfee	AAA	PENSION	DOE: 05/28/15 to 09/30/20
k. Imani Thomas	JAIL	REFUND	DOE: 01/11/21 to 01/12/21
l. Joel Jordan	PW	REFUND	DOE: 10/23/20 to 01/07/21
m. Sadie Laero	911	REFUND	DOE: 09/10/19 to 01/03/21
n. Kelsey Brink	JAIL	REFUND	DOE: 06/22/20 to 01/05/21
o. Melanie Campbell	911	ROLLOVER	DOE: 07/15/18 to 01/30/21

It was motioned by Treasurer Hiles, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to acknowledge Deceased Pensioners.

p. Delores Arduini	DOD: 12/16/20	BENEFIT: FINAL PRO-RATA PENSION ONLY
q. Lois Ann Roofner	DOD: 01/22/21	BENEFIT: NO FINAL PENSION DUE

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw, and carried unanimously to acknowledge **JANUARY 2021** A/P invoices for payment as follows:

• Armstrong County GF	2020-071 RF 1120	RF Postage	\$ 89.15
• CSM Advisors LLC	40758 4Q2020	RF Investment Fees	<u>5,223.66</u>
TOTAL INVOICES – JANUARY 2021			\$ 5,312.81

It was motioned by Controller Miller, seconded by Treasurer Hiles, and carried unanimously to acknowledge **FEBRUARY 2021** A/P invoices for payment as follows:

• Armstrong County GF	OCT-DEC 2020	RF Health Ins Reimb-Rybarik	\$ 3,056.65
• Armstrong County GF	2020 REIMB 20%	RF Supplies/Phone/Internet	1,451.02
• Armstrong County GF	2021-006 RF 1220	RF Postage	185.75
• PAPERS	2021 DUES	RF Association Dues	125.00
• Peirce Park Group	4149 4Q2020	RF Invest Consulting Svc	34,823.78
• PNC Institutional Invest	4Q2020 – MCKEE	RF Custodial Svc	2,114.95
• PNC Institutional Invest	4Q2020 – ALT	RF Custodial Svc	<u>4,262.08</u>
TOTAL INVOICES – FEBRUARY 2021			\$ 46,019.23

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to acknowledge **MARCH 2021** A/P invoices for payment as follows:

• Armstrong County GF	2021-013 RF 0121	RF Postage	\$ 347.34
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It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to approve **MARCH 2021** A/P invoices for payment as follows:

- Municipal Finance Partners 21001 1Q2021 RF Actuarial Fees \$ 8,187.50
- Horizon Information Systems 18438-2021 RF License Renew/Support 2,773.00

It was motioned by Controller Miller, seconded by Commissioner Fabian, and carried unanimously to acknowledge the 2020 Intervening Military Service for Shania Eckman (JAIL) for \$18.00.

It was motioned by Commissioner Fabian, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to acknowledge a donation from CS McKee to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and Humane Animal Rescue on behalf of Armstrong County.

It was motioned by Controller Miller, seconded by Treasurer Hiles, and carried unanimously to acknowledge a donation from Municipal Finance Partners, Inc. to Armstrong County Community Action on behalf of Armstrong County on December 14, 2020.

It was motioned by Commissioner Renshaw, seconded by Controller Miller, and carried unanimously to acknowledge the Municipal Finance Partners, Inc. invoice paid for by Marquette Associates, Inc.

Mr. Wing presented an investment review, discussing the global economic environment, capital markets and performance of the Retirement Fund in 2020. Notably, markets were strong as the year ended, leaving the Retirement Fund's investment return for 2020 ahead of the 7.0% Actuarial Assumed Rate of Return.

He then reviewed year-to-date performance through the first week of March, noting that equity markets have posted decent gains to start the year.

(Commissioner Fabian excused himself from the meeting @ 9:37 AM, and therefore did not partake in any motions from this point forward.)

After the discussion, Mr. Wing provided background on the Retirement Fund's allocation to Private Credit, an asset class approved by the Board in May of last year. At that time, the Board approved a \$2.5 million commitment to H.I.G. Bayside VI Loan Opportunity Fund. Bayside VI is off to a strong start, given the Fund began investing amid the pandemic when private debt pricing was very favorable for investors.

In order to continue to move up to the target allocation, Mr. Wing stated that the Board should consider a commitment to another Private Credit Fund. He then reviewed a Private Credit investment manager, Bain Capital, along with a fund they recently launched, Global Direct Lending 2021. He spoke to the firm's investment process and historical track record, along with the key terms for the Fund.

After discussion, a motion was made by Controller Miller, seconded by Treasurer Hiles, and unanimously carried to make a \$1.5 million commitment to the Bain Capital Global Direct Lending Fund 2021, as Mr. Wing had recommended.

Finally, Mr. Wing presented an overview of the County's 457(b) Plan, with a focus on the fixed account interest rate, Plan design, and participant fees. He reviewed discussions held with Nationwide and a comparison of another recordkeeper, including the pros and cons of considering a change.

After discussion, the Board requested that Mr. Wing engage Nationwide to determine whether the fund lineup can be consolidated and whether expenses can be lowered. Mr. Wing will report back to the Board on these matters at the next Retirement Board meeting.

It was motioned by Controller Miller, seconded by Commissioner Renshaw, and carried unanimously to adjourn the March 10, 2021 Retirement Board Meeting at 10:10 AM. The next 2021 Retirement Board Meeting will be in the Commissioners' Conference Room on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 9:00 am, unless otherwise rescheduled and advertised.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra L. Miller
Secretary/Controller

MLM