

**MINUTES**  
**HAMDEN EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**  
**ELECTRONIC MEETING**

**Electronic Meeting pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B.**

**This was a 100% Electronic Meeting.**

**Public Questions were emailed to [rmorgan@hamden.com](mailto:rmorgan@hamden.com)**

**Attendees clicked on the link below to join the meeting:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/92680111705>**

Minutes of the Hamden Employees Retirement Board regular meeting held  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 3:00 P.M.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DECISION OF THE HAMDEN EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT BOARD, MINUTES WILL REFLECT INDIVIDUALS  
IN ATTENDANCE, MOTIONS MADE AND VOTES TAKEN.**

Chairperson Mayor Curt Leng called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM with Board members Police Sergeant William Onofrio, Finance Director Curtis Eatman, Fire Chief Gary Merwede, Fire Captain Gregory Bannon, Public Works Superintendent Joseph Colello and Public members Attorney Carl Porto, Henry Dove, Robert Freeman and Carol Noble in attendance. Also in attendance were Board Attorney Marc Wallman, Personnel Director Ken Kelley, Administrative Secretary Renee Palumbo-Morgan, Chief of Staff David Garretson, Henry Nearing and Deborah Brigham of Segal Consulting, David Lee and Thomas Donegan of Dahab Associates, Battalion Chief John Spencer, Kim Washington and Paralegal Patricia Lujick. Attendees were David Johnson, Robert Maturo, Ed Badamo, Robert Slater, Raymond Chase, Richard Cumpstone, Arthur Cohen, MaryAnn Seastrand, David Ciarlelli, Robert Kenney, Mary DeSarbo, Fred Manware, Dennis Baker, William Marak, Keith Benway, Richard Reutenauer, Linda Lounsbury, Timothy Sullivan, Diane Altieri, Charles Watts, Jeffrey Stoehr, Dennis Harrison, Richard Carney, Richard Lostritto, Judy Frodel, Brian Anderson, John McCormack, Anthony Mello, Henry Lyon, David Strawhince, James Leddy, Robert Clark, Lewis Perry, Margaret Doiron, Carl H. Backus and Harold Mangler. Attorney Bill Ward and Sam Gurwitt of the New Haven Independent were also in attendance.

Item 1.A. under **Approval of Minutes** was review and approval of the minutes of the August 12, 2020 regular meeting. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Porto, it was the decision of the Board to approve the minutes. Board members Merwede and Noble abstained from the vote.

Item 1. B. under **Approval of Minutes** was review and approval of Board Attorney Wallman's addendum submitted for the July 15, 2020 meeting minutes. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Porto, it was the decision of the Board to accept the addendum into record. Board members Noble and Colello abstained from the vote.

Item 2.A. under **Financial** was a presentation by David Lee of Dahab Associates. Mr. Lee reported that the plan's balance increased from approximately \$170,000,000.00 to \$178,000,000.00 for a 6.5% return for the quarter to date and 5.5% for the year to date. Mr. Lee stated that the low interest rates contribute to the higher market. The Town made a contribution which increased the cash balance to \$4,000,000.00. Over all the fund is performing above the bench mark.

Item 3.A. under **Administrative** was an invoice from Segal Consulting in the amount of \$31,600.00 – completion of a COLA analysis report, including adjustments to in-pay benefits in accordance with plan language and methods for recoupment of the past overpayments, \$26,600.00 and gathering historical retirement calculation data for COLA analysis, \$5,000.00. On a motion by Board member Noble, seconded by Board member Dove, it was the decision of the Board to pay the invoice. Board members Freeman, Bannon and Colello voted No and Board member Porto abstained from the vote.

Item 3.B. under **Administrative** was an invoice from Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP in the amount of 13,855.00 – professional services for the month of July 2020. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Noble, it was the decision of the Board to pay the invoice. Board members Bannon, Colello and Freeman voted No and Board members Merwede and Onofrio abstained from the vote.

Item 3.C. under **Administrative** were invoices from Zenith American Solutions in the amount of \$3,114.00 – disbursements for the months of August 2020 and September 2020. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Bannon, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to pay the invoices.

Item 3.D. under **Administrative** was Correspondence from Attorney William Ward which was discussed in Executive Session.

Item 4. A. under **Retirements** was correspondence from Superintendent Anthony Greene Sr. requesting a normal retirement effective September 9, 2020. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Colello, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to grant his request.

Item 4.B. under **Retirements** was correspondence from Account Clerk Sandra Wright requesting a normal retirement effective September 30, 2020. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Noble, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to grant her request.

Item 4.C. under **Retirements** was correspondence from Paraprofessional Cheryl Piscitelli requesting a normal retirement effective September 30, 2020. On a motion by Chairperson Mayor Leng, seconded by Board member Bannon, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to grant her request.

Item 4.D. under **Retirements** was correspondence from Paralegal Patricia A. Lujick requesting a normal retirement effective September 30, 2020. On a motion by Board member Noble, seconded by Board member Colello, it was the decision of the Board to grant her request. Chairperson Mayor Leng abstained from the vote.

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Item 5.A. under **Old Business** was a COLA discussion which was discussed in Executive Session.

Item 6.A. was **Executive Session** to discuss the Board's strategy for potential litigation and Attorney Ward's correspondence. On a motion by Board member Porto, seconded by Board member Noble, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to go into Executive Session at 4:01 PM. On a motion by Board member Porto, seconded by Board member Colello, it was the decision of the Board to go back into regular session at 5:35 PM. On a motion by Board member Porto, seconded by Board member Freeman, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to authorize Board Attorney Marc Wallman, on behalf of the Board, to provide appropriate notice to third party organizations regarding the COLA payments and that they go out in a reasonable time in consultation with the Mayor's Office.

Item 7. A. On a motion by Board member Porto, seconded by Board member Colello, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to **Adjourn** at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kenneth S. Kelley  
Personnel Director

TOWN CLERK  
HANDEN, CT  
2020 SEP 16 P 3:00  
REC'D AND FILED BY