

**PENSION COMMISSION
City Conference Room
260 Constitution Plaza
Friday, January 30, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

PENSION ADMINISTRATION

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Stevens, Chairman; Gene Goldman; Nicholas Trigila, Employee Representative; Adam Cloud, Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Frank Lord

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Parker, Plan Administrator; Lisa Silvestri, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Carmen Sierra, Assistant City Treasurer; Terry Williams, Senior Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Pokorski, Employee Benefits; Chelsea Mott, Custody of Funds; Daniel Auciello, Police Officer; Matt Sadler, Attorney; Ann Binder, Librarian

Commissioner Gene Goldman chaired the meeting until Chairman Stevens arrived at 9:20 a.m. Acting Chairman Gene Goldman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Secretary Adam Cloud introduced the new employee representative, Nicholas Triglia, and welcomed him to the Commission. Mr. Triglia stated that he looked forward to working with the Commission.

I. Minutes of the Meeting of December 19, 2014

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes as presented.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2014 meeting.

II. Survivor Benefits

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following survivor benefits:

Anderson, Irwin, survivor of the late Pamela Sailor-Anderson, member of the Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund (MERF) who died on November 17, 2014 (Survivor benefits under the MERF; Emp. #S907361 / 980297)

Effective Date: November 15, 2014
Annual Allowance: \$ 9,692.88
Monthly Allowance: 807.74

Pellett, Barbara, survivor of the late Earl Pellett, member of the Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund (MERF) who died on December 14, 2014 (Survivor benefits under the MERF; Emp. #S586978 / 980298)

Effective Date: January 1, 2015
Annual Allowance: \$ 8,233.80
Monthly Allowance: 686.15

Violette, Marielle, survivor of the late Reginald Violette, member of the Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund (MERF) who died on November 23, 2014 (Survivor benefits under the MERF; Emp. #S748439 / 980295)

Effective Date: December 1, 2014
Annual Allowance: \$ 8,252.73
Monthly Allowance: 687.73

Welles, Adele, survivor of the late Arthur Welles, member of the Police Benefit Fund (PBF) who died on November 15, 2014 (Survivor benefits under PBF; Emp. #S764604 / 980296)

Effective Date: December 1, 2014
Annual Allowance: \$ 16,267.80
Monthly Allowance: 1,355.65

III. Regular Retirements

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following regular retirement benefits:

		<u>AMOUNT</u>		
<u>Blaszkievicz-Watts, Diane</u>				
Emp. # 908674 / 990645				
Union: Local 1018C				
		Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):		18	0	0
Sick Exchange:		0	0	0
Grounds:	Vested Early			
Termination Date:	July 11, 2014			
Effective Date:	January 4, 2015			
Average Salary:	Highest 5 out of last 10 years			\$ 43,368.61
	Final Base Pay			42,832.00
Pension Allowed:				
Unreduced Pension:	36.00 %			\$ 15,612.72
Early Reduction Factor:	4.00 % for each year prior to age 60			12.00 %
Reduced Pension:				\$ 13,739.16
Monthly Payment:				1,144.93

<u>Cyr, Joseph</u>				
Emp. # 942470 / 990648				
Union: HMEA				
		Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):		24	0	0
Sick Exchange:		4	0	0
Grounds:	Service			
Effective Date:	December 19, 2014			
Average Salary:	Highest 2 out of last 5 years			\$ 88,853.45
	Final Base Pay			88,000.00
Pension Allowed:	65.00%			57,754.80
Monthly Payment:				4,812.90

III. Regular Retirements (continued)

AMOUNT

Dailey, Edwin

Emp. # 942598 / 990649

Union: HPU

	Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):	24	0	0
Sick Exchange:	4	0	0
Grounds:	Service		
Effective Date:	December 31, 2014		
Average Salary:	Highest 3 out of last 5 years		\$ 129,734.46
	Final Base Pay		97,380.00
Pension Allowed:	63.00%		81,732.72
Monthly Payment:	6,811.06		

Davis, Robert

Emp. # 942599 / 990647

Union: HPU

	Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):	24	0	0
Sick Exchange:	4	0	0
Grounds:	Service		
Effective Date:	December 23, 2014		
Average Salary:	Highest 3 out of last 5 years		\$ 134,524.82
	Final Base Pay		92,743.00
Pension Allowed:	63.00%		84,750.00
Monthly Payment:	7,062.55		

Ojeda, Elizabeth

Emp. # 912995 / 990651

Union: Local 1018F

	Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):	15	0	0
Sick Exchange:	0	0	0
Grounds:	Service		
Effective Date:	December 23, 2014		
Average Salary:	Highest 5 out of last 10 years		\$ 32,620.50
	Final Base Pay		28,485.00
Pension Allowed:	30.00%		9,786.12
Monthly Payment:	815.51		

III. Regular Retirements (continued)

AMOUNT

Rogers, Charlotte
Emp. # 941179 / 990650
Union: SCGA

	Years	Months	Days
Term of Service (including Sick Exchange):	26	0	0
Sick Exchange:	0	0	0
Grounds:	Service		
Effective Date:	December 6, 2014		
Average Salary:	Highest 5 out of last 10 years		\$ 10,272.21
	Final Base Pay		10,948.00
Average Social Security:			9,089.17
Pension Allowed:	(2.00 % x Average Salary in excess of Average Social Security + 1.00% x Average Social Security) x Service		2,978.40
Monthly Payment:			248.20

IV. Pension Benefit Adjustments

A. Section 415 (m) Excess Benefit Adjustments

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator, Donna Parker explained that the following pension benefit adjustments were due to the annual change in the Section 415(b) limits, as adjusted by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA). She further explained that these limits were subject to change each calendar year and were applicable to MERF benefits as of each January 1st; noting further that the Section 415(m) Excess benefits were paid from the City's General Fund.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following pension benefit adjustments:

<u>Emp#</u>	<u>Name</u>		
990339	Aguilera, Denise	MERF	\$ 5,750.58
942586		415 Excess	<u>1,272.57</u>
		Total	\$ 7,023.15
990320	Baker, Antoinette	MERF	\$ 4,529.10
940696		415 Excess	<u>1,043.10</u>
		Total	\$ 5,572.20

IV. Pension Benefit Adjustments (continued)

A. Section 415 (m) Excess Benefit Adjustments

<u>Emp#</u>	<u>Name</u>		
980062	Collins, Michael	MERF	\$ 5,086.84
940348		415 Excess	<u>226.26</u>
		Total	\$ 5,313.10
990322	Galarza, Enrique	MERF	\$ 4,225.36
942162		415 Excess	<u>2,229.82</u>
		Total	\$ 6,455.18
980052	Kee Borges, Sandra	MERF	\$ 5,522.36
389218		415 Excess	<u>792.17</u>
		Total	\$ 6,314.53
990340	Ramos-Soler, Ivan	MERF	\$ 5,239.33
942309		415 Excess	<u>279.48</u>
		Total	5,518.81
980060	Vasquenza, Michael	MERF	\$ 7,162.54
745670		415 Excess	<u>753.51</u>
		Total	7,916.05

V. Separations from Pension Payroll

The following separations from Pension Payroll were placed on file:

<u>EMPLOYEE</u> <u>NUMBER</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF</u> <u>DEATH</u>	<u>PENSION</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PENSION</u> <u>PLAN</u>
980128	Ardini, Frances	12/28/2014	\$ 261.26	BOE RAF
80179	Burton, Victoria	12/17/2014	179.57	MERF
980222	Eady, Mykela *	12/31/2014	100.00	MERF
372080	Johnson, Allen	12/18/2014	850.11	MERF
901086	Martinez, Ada	12/03/2014	764.12	MERF
S518042	Miller, Joseph	10/23/2014	128.97	MERF
586978	Pellett, Earl	12/14/2014	1,761.46	MERF
597619	Pistritto, Concetto	11/23/2014	947.96	MERF
644129	Ruggiero, Nicholas	12/24/2014	2,130.27	MERF

* Dependent child who has reached age 18, the end date for the children's survivor pension.

V. Separations from Pension Payroll (continued)

The pension for the following individuals have been suspended due to the fact that at least two pension payments remain uncashed or were returned as undeliverable and the individuals have not responded to inquiries made by the Pension Unit as to their address and/or status.

<u>EMPLOYEE NUMBER</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF REMOVAL</u>	<u>PENSION AMOUNT</u>	<u>PENSION PLAN</u>
340685	Hernandez, Jesus	01/01/2015	\$ 333.17	MERF
663646	Perez, Carmen	01/01/2015	1,331.52	MERF
724149	Tchaikow, Anita	01/01/2015	1,104.60	MERF

VI. Request for Refunds of Pension Contributions

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following refunds of pension contributions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Ahlquist, Eileen	\$ 516.53
Banks, Vicki	1,796.83
Bobb, Delores	712.05
Bonilla, Lourdes *	178.88
Braidich, Lisa *	26.46
Branch, Winston *	471.76
Chambers, Brittany	6,841.04
Cortes, Jose	10,339.43
Delgado, Katiria	13,791.36
Drost, Maria	204.12
Ellis, Michael	4,487.79
Freeman, Ricardo	4,871.43
Gaier, Jaron	406.14
Hall, Brandon	760.38
Hobbs, Latoya	1,502.20
Jackson, Latissa	2,534.40
Kononchik, Kathryn	1,196.26
Martinez, Felix *	2,358.18

VI. Request for Refunds of Pension Contributions (continued)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Martinez, Natasha	\$ 347.57
McKenzie, Patrice	2,136.66
Michelson, Timothy	2,023.84
Miranda, Eduardo	9,044.78
Monroe, Lisa	406.80
Musicant, Nicole	190.53
Negron, Josue	282.39
Nesko, Janet	1,496.73
Nieves, Grissel	10,088.06
Oritz-Lopez, Amy	5,790.59
Ramirez, Lois	1,836.76
Ring, Sean	555.99
Rodriguez, Ricardo	392.73
Santana, Sandra	4,737.04
Sluti, Katherine	2,373.48
Smith, Samariya	1,028.84
Sogunro, Akintunde	1,408.62
Sweeney, Michael	918.10
Thulen, Lori	29,119.03
Whitney, Daniel	16,748.40
Willis, Joe	11,708.06

None of the above members is vested, or, if vested, he or she has been informed of, and has waived, his or her rights to a vested benefit in lieu of a contribution refund.
The amounts shown above include interest.

* Additional contributions or interest due to the member.

VII. Service Purchases

Routine Service Purchases

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator stated that the following individuals have requested the purchase of additional pension service under the provisions of the Municipal Code of the City of Hartford, Article I, Division I, Section 2A-8.

The requests were accepted and placed on file.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>			<u>PURCHASE</u>
		<u>Years</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Aponte, Alexander *	Prior City	3	2	12	\$ 17,167.57
Jaroenkorn, Jennifer **	CMERS	3	6	26	4,162.31

* This individual signed a promissory note.

** This individual requested payroll deduction.

VIII. Qualified Domestic Relations Orders

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator reported that the Pension Unit had received two properly executed Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDRO), one for the MERF and one for the Deferred Compensation Plan. The Plan Administrator recommended that the Commission approve the Orders as presented.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following QDROs, with assignments as indicated, subject to like reductions in the contribution and pension accounts of the plan member and also approve payment to the Alternate Payee effective no earlier than February 1, 2015 and subject to receipt of a properly executed *Application for Pension*.

VIII. Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (continued)

MERF

QDRO: 15-1
Entered into Court Records: December 30, 2014
Benefit Calculation Date: July 10, 2014

		<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Benefit Assigned to Alternate Payee:	Monthly:		\$ 1,553.00
Pension Contributions Assigned:	Pre-Tax:	16.43 %	23,421.59
	Post-Tax:	16.43 %	1,192.02
	Interest:	16.43 %	0.00

Alternate Payee Retirement Date: February 1, 2015

Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan

QDRO: 15-2
Entered into Court Records: December 30, 2014
Contribution Assignment Date: July 10, 2014

Contributions Assigned:	<u>Dollar Amount</u> \$ 47,965.52
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IX. Hardship Withdrawal Ratifications

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator, Donna Parker stated that the Pension Unit had received two requests for hardship withdrawals from the Section 457 deferred compensation plan.

Application 14-14: Ms. Parker summarized the request by stating that the applicant had received a notice of eviction from his primary residence. Ms. Parker went on to explain that eviction from a participant's primary residence met the IRS guidelines for a Hardship Withdrawal and recommended that the Commission ratify the approval given by Mass Mutual's Hardship Review Committee and the Pension Commission's Review Committee.

IX. Hardship Withdrawal Ratifications (continued)

Application 15-01: Ms. Parker summarized the request by stating that the applicant had received a mortgage default letter on his primary residence. Ms. Parker continued to explain that Mass Mutual recommended denial because the letter from the mortgage company did not say “imminent foreclosure”, but the Commission’s Hardship Committee overrode that decision since the letter specified the amount to “cure the default”, which was similar to wording for other hardships that were approved. She recommended that the Commission ratify the approval given by the Pension Commission’s Review Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted to ratify the approvals for hardship withdrawal requests 14-14 and 15-01 as presented.

X. Report on Section 457 Deferred Compensation Quarterly Status

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. Ms. Parker noted that she was providing the summary pages of the quarterly report provided by Mass Mutual for the Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for the quarter ending on December 31, 2014, as requested by the Commissioners.

The Commission received the report for advice and placed it on file.

XI. Report on Automatic Pension Adjustments for FRF and PBF

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator summarized her report, stating that the retirees under two old closed plans, the Police Benefit Fund (PBF) and the Firemen’s Relief Fund (FRF), would receive automatic increases by contract every January and July, if there was a wage adjustment scheduled for active police and firefighters of equivalent rank on that date. However, there were no wage increases scheduled for active police officers on January 1, 2015, so no pension increases were granted the Police Benefit Fund (PBF) retirees on this date.

Fireman’s Relief Fund (FRF)

EE #	Last Name	First Name	July 1, 2014 Monthly Pension	January 1, 2015 Monthly Pension	Monthly Change
391107	Keenan	James	\$2,130.13	\$2,53.27	\$23.14
539198	Muller	James	1,740.65	1,763.79	23.14
682853	Skehan	Edward	1,813.53	1,837.62	24.09
		Total	\$5,684.31	\$5,754.68	\$70.37

XI. Report on Automatic Pension Adjustments for FRF and PBF (continued)

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the automatic pension adjustments for the FRF retirees effective January 1, 2015.

XII. GASB Reports

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. The Plan Administrator, Donna Parker, explained that on December 23, 2014 she distributed the July 1, 2014 GASB reports for the MERF, Section 415 (m) Plan and the Closed RAF, PBF, and FRF Plans to the Commissioners and that these reports reflected the new GASB 67 disclosure reporting.

Commissioner Gene Goldman stated that he thought the reports looked appropriate from an actuarial perspective and that he was comfortable with the results. Secretary Adam Cloud stated that he was glad that we were in compliance with the new GASB rules.

Commissioner Goldman then asked Secretary Cloud if he was still considering hiring a new auditor for the Pension Commission. Secretary Cloud responded that he planned to discuss the issue in conjunction with the development of the new budget. He added that he thought it was important for the Commission to have an auditor that specialized in the pension area and the current auditor mostly worked with the Finance Department. He concluded by stating that the contract with the current auditor was ending and we would be able to send Request for Proposals in April. Assistant Corporation Counsel stated that the Commission was legally authorized to hire their own auditor.

The Commission received the reports for advice and placed them on file.

XIII. Other Business

Chairman Stevens introduced the item. Secretary Adam Cloud had one item of Other Business.

Secretary Cloud informed the Commissioners that on January 26, 2015 the City Council approved the amended Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Ordinance, which created an OPEB Trust for the City's and the Board of Education's contributions to the OPEB Plan. He added that the Pension Commission, along with representatives from the City and the Board of Education, would be the decision makers on the investments and the structure of the Trust. Secretary Cloud explained that a Request for Proposal would be distributed to begin the process of establishing a trust agreement with a bank and an investment consultant would develop the asset allocation, budget, staff, meetings and recommended contributions.

Chairman Peter Stevens suggested that a roadmap should be developed with a timetable and issues to review monthly beginning with the next meeting.

XIV. Disability Retirements

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to enter into executive session to discuss the disability applications before the Commission, after which a motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to return to open public session.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the following disability retirement applications:

Applications

<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNION</u>	<u>QUALIFICATION</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Auciello, Daniel	HPU	Service Connected Partial	31	56
Binder, Ann	Library	Service Connected Partial	11	52
Diaz, Ivette	Non-union	Non-service Connected Total	14	49

There being no further business, Chairman Stevens adjourned the Pension Administration portion of the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Attest:



Adam M. Cloud, Secretary