



# BLAIR COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD

c/o Blair County Controller, 423 Allegheny St., Ste 141 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

## Blair County Retirement Board Meeting

June 11, 2020 at 9:30 AM

### By Conference Call

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Commissioner Laura Burke, Treasurer James Carothers, Commissioner Bruce Erb, Controller A. C. Stickel

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:**

Nicole Hemminger, Roberta Pucciarella, Jennifer Sleppy, Katherine Swigart, Pat Wing, Marquette Associates

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

Commissioner Amy Webster

**Media in Attendance:** Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

**Quorum:** Present

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**Call to Order:** Commissioner Erb called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Erb explained the ground rules for today's teleconference. Only voting members of the Retirement Board may leave their telephones unmuted during the entire meeting, but we would request each avoids excess noise from your location. All other participants should mute their telephones until called upon to speak. Public participants may speak only during the designated public comment period near the beginning of the meeting and must keep their phones muted during the rest of the meeting. Each person needs to avoid interrupting the person speaking. Each speaker **MUST** state his/her name before talking each time he/she speaks so others will know who is speaking and to ensure minutes will be accurate.

The role was called by Wendy Long, Controller's Office Administrative Assistant.

**Call for Public Comment:** Commissioner Erb called for public comment on Retirement Board Agenda items. There were no comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Controller Stickel to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2020 Retirement Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Rebalancing Proposal:** Pat Wing from Marquette Associates presented a rebalancing proposal to the Board to reduce the allocation to high-yield bonds. Even though this was a recent investment, high-yield bonds have performed extremely well over the past six weeks, leaving their valuation less attractive relative to core fixed income, compared to when the Retirement Fund made its initial investment. Mr. Wing recommended the Board rebalance slightly out of high-yield bonds and back into core fixed income, locking in some of these recent gains from the high-yield investment. This proposal included a redemption of \$300,000 from the Federated Hermes Institutional High Yield Bond Fund and a purchase of \$225,000 of the Vanguard Intermediate-Treasury Fund, along with a purchase of \$75,000 of the Vanguard Short-Term Corporate Bond Index Fund.

Meeting of June 11, 2020 continued. . .

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Controller Stickel, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed rebalancing Pat Wing from Marquette Associates presented.

**Real Estate Proposal:** Mr. Wing then reviewed a proposal regarding the Retirement Fund's investment in the Clarion Lion Properties Fund. He noted that the outlook for Core Real Estate is cloudy, given the economic impact from the pandemic, and that it is likely real estate values will come under pressure as the rest of the year unfolds. Given that, he recommended that the Board modify the current dividend reinvestment for the Fund. Currently, the quarterly dividends are reinvested back into Clarion Lion Properties Fund every quarter. Investors, however, can elect to have those dividends paid to them directly, as opposed to being reinvested. Mr. Wing recommended the Board switch to the latter approach, with dividends being paid back to Retirement Fund, as opposed to being reinvested. He noted that this change can be made and then switched back at any time. So, the Board can revisit this decision in the future, as appropriate.

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Controller Stickel, and unanimously carried to change quarterly dividends from "reinvestment" to "distributed" for the Clarion Lion Properties Fund.

**Monthly Financial Report:** Controller Stickel provided the financial report for May for the information of the board.

**Applications for Membership, Retirements, Refunds, and Rollover Payments:** A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Treasurer Carothers that the applications for membership, retirements, refunds and rollover payments be accepted as set forth in the agenda. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Administrative Fees:** A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Commissioner Burke that the administrative fees be accepted as set forth in the agenda. The motion was unanimously carried.

**Litigation Checks:** Litigation checks received this month are set forth in the agenda for the information of the board.

Totals for the Monthly Retirement Distribution for 2020 were set forth in the agenda for the information of the board.

Contributions made to the Retirement Fund in 2020 were set forth in the agenda for the information of the board.

**Adjournment:** There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Retirement Board will be held on July 9, 2020  
at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room.**

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV  
Secretary