



BLAIR COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD

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

Blair County Retirement Board Meeting

October 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

In the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room

Board Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Bruce Erb, Commissioner Laura Burke, Controller A.C. Stickel, Commissioner Amy Webster, Treasurer Jim Carothers

Non-Board Members in Attendance:

Lindsay Dempsie, Nicole Hemminger, Katherine Swigart, Dave Reid; CBIZ, Pat Wing; Marquette Associates, Samuel Frymier; Marquette Associates

Board Members not in Attendance:

None

Quorum: Present

Media in Attendance:

Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

Call to Order: Commissioner Bruce Erb called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

The roll was called by Tracy Miller.

Commissioner Erb announced an executive session of the Retirement Board was held September 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss a matter of potential litigation. Those in attendance included: Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Webster, Controller Stickel, Treasurer Carothers, Katherine Swigart; Human Resources Director, and labor counsel.

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 Treasurer Carothers and seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2022, Retirement Board meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

2021 Actuarial Report: Mr. Reid presented information on the pension plan for the 2022 plan year. This included an overview of the actuarial valuation process, the primary plan provisions that the plan provides to County employees and the primary assumptions used in the valuation of the Plan's liabilities. The assumptions include a discount rate of 7.00%, salary increase assumption of 4.00% per year, retirement ages from active employment ranging from age 50 to age 70 and life expectancy based on the Pub-2010 General Amount-Weighted table with mortality improvement scale MP-2021. Mr. Reid noted that over the past year, the Plan's active membership has increased slightly from 443 to 449 active members.

Mr. Reid reported that the County contributed \$4.75M in 2021 and will contribute \$5.00M in fiscal 2022 which is nearly the amount of the Actuarially Determined Contribution for the year (\$5,030,020). Due to asset returns in excess of the assumption and the adoption by the County of a formal contribution policy, the Plan is projected to remain solvent in the future (no depletion date). Because the assets are not projected to deplete, the discount rate for GASB purposes was 7.00% as of December 31, 2021. The Plan is 37.05% funded on both the GASB and long-term funding bases which is an increase from 34.14% funded for 2021. Mr. Reid then presented projections of the Plan's assets and the County's formally adopted contribution policy. A historical summary of actuarially determined contributions compared to actual contributions made by the County was also presented.

Rebalancing Proposal: The Controller's Office has determined that \$175,000 is needed from the Fund to meet October distribution payments. Mr. Wing presented a rebalancing option to the Board that proposed a redemption of \$300,000 from the Vanguard Intermediate-Term Treasury Fund, a redemption of \$37,500 from Cash, a purchase of \$50,000 of the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund, and a purchase of \$150,000 of the Fidelity Global ex U.S. Index Fund. The remaining \$37,500 would be funded by a payout of \$37,500 from the Clarion Lion Property Fund, representing 15% of the \$250,000 partial redemption the Board approved and submitted earlier this year.

This would accomplish multiple goals. First, the rebalancing would keep the Fund's asset allocation close to the targets as set forth in the Investment Policy Statement. Second, it would raise the necessary liquidity to meet October distribution payments.

After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Controller Stickel, seconded by Treasurer Carothers, and unanimously carried to approve the proposed rebalancing.

Clarion LPF Dividend Reinvestment: Mr. Wing then reviewed a proposal regarding the Retirement Fund's investment in the Clarion Lion Properties Fund. Given the current allocation to real estate is well above its target allocation, 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 dividends being paid to Retirement Fund, as opposed to being reinvested. He noted that this change can be made and then switched 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 Controller Stickel, seconded by Treasurer Carothers, and unanimously carried to change quarterly dividends from reinvestment to distribute for the Clarion Lion Properties Fund.

Investment Consulting Agreement: Marquette Associates presented an Investment Consulting Agreement to the Retirement Board. Commissioner Erb made a motion to accept the agreement, Controller Stickel seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Meeting of October 5, 2022 continued.

Applications for Membership, Retirements, Refunds, and Rollover Payments: A motion was made by Controller Stickel and seconded by Commissioner Burke 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: No litigation checks received this month.

Monthly Financial Report: Controller Stickel provided the September 2022 financial report for the information of the Board.

Totals for the Monthly Retirement Distribution for 2022 were set forth in the agenda for the information of the Board.

Contributions made to the Retirement Fund in 2022 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 9:52 a.m.

**The next regular meeting of the Retirement Board will be held on November 2, 2022,
At 9:00 a.m. in Commissioners' Public Meeting Room.**

Respectfully Submitted,



August C. Stickel IV
Secretary