

MINUTES

DEKALB COUNTY PENSION BOARD

March 12, 2015

The DeKalb County Pension Board held a meeting on March 12, 2015 in the Board of Commissioners Conference Room. The following members were present: Gwendolyn Brown-Patterson, James Hendrix, John McMullan, Benita Ransom, Robert Robertson (via telephone), Edmund Wall, Gale Walldorff, and Cornelius Yarbrow. Others present: Patricia Keesler of Benefits Law Group, Todd Carabasi and Weston Lewis of Callan Associates, Eric Atwater of The Segal Company, Jelani Hooks, Larry Jacobs, Louis McGregor, and Paul Wright.

Ed Wall requested the following change to the drafted January 30, 2015 minutes:

Page 3: *“Eric Atwater stated no, simply because it would cost a lot more. Paul Wright added that the insurance company would charge. Ed Wall asked that this be corrected to read “the insurance company would charge a commission.”*

James Hendrix motioned, Gale Walldorff seconded, and the Board approved the January 30, 2015 minutes to include the revision proposed by Ed Wall.

Gale Walldorff motioned, Cornelius Yarbrow seconded, and the Board approved the ratification of payment of the following invoices:

Vendor	Service	Period	Amount
Benefits Law Group	Legal Consulting	January 2015	\$3,619.00
Benefits Law Group	Legal Consulting	February 2015	192.50
ASM Consulting	Website Management	January 2015	75.00
Total			\$3,886.50

The Board then listened to the Investment Committee overview of investment manager performance by Weston Lewis and Todd Carabasi of Callan Associates. The Committee met with four managers: Southeastern, Gabelli, GMO, and J.P. Morgan. Southeastern's longer term performance is still challenged. MSCI Emerging Markets and MSCI EAFE are the two international indices. Hedge funds have returned less than stocks and bonds for a period of time. CalPERS is still doing hedge fund type investments. Pension funds were originally tied to 30-year treasury bonds. Real estate is an illiquid commodity.

The Board then listened to a presentation by T. Rowe Price on investment strategy and performance. The Board took no action at this time.

The Board then discussed the \$6,550,000 needed for funding April-May 2015 benefit payments. Weston Lewis advised that the funds should come from Southeastern Asset Management. John McMullan motioned, James Hendrix seconded, and the Board approved transferring \$6,550,000 from Southeastern Asset Management to fund April and May benefit payments.

John McMullan motioned, James Hendrix seconded, and the Board approved terminating Crawford Investment Counsel. The Board then approved transferring Crawford's holdings of \$22 million, along with \$11.5 million from Montag & Caldwell, to T. Rowe Price.

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The Board then listened to the GASB 67 Results presented by Eric Atwater of The Segal Company. In 2009, the market value funding status was 48%. Today, the market value funded status is 66%. Cobb County is 53%, Atlanta is 68%, MARTA is 78%, Fulton County is 81%, Clayton County is 72%, and the State of Georgia is 71%. The plan assumes the fund will grow at 7½% per year.

The Board then reviewed the 2015 Pension Board Budget. Ed Wall reviewed the detailed spreadsheet. James Hendrix motioned, Cornelius Yarbrow seconded, and the Board adopted the 2015 Pension Board Budget.

John McMullan motioned, James Hendrix seconded, and the Board approved a request from Christopher Mack, an employee of the State Court Marshal, to repay contributions withdrawn from the pension plan, so as to receive credit for prior employment.

James Hendrix motioned, John McMullan seconded, and the Board approved requests from the following employees to pay for contributions for employment on leave without pay, so as to receive credit for that service:

- Dwayne E. Clark, an employee of Roads & Drainage
- Bruce T. Raston, an employee of the Finance

The Board then listened to comments from the public. Jeff Wiggs said, “Thank you for all that you do.” A retiree indicated he was concerned about the recent drive to cityhood by some jurisdictions. He asked for short forums where the Board could communicate to retirees about the pension plan.

James Hendrix motioned, Gale Walldorff seconded, and the Board approved a request from David Hall, an employee of Watershed Management, to pay contributions for employment on military leave without pay, so as to receive credit for that service.

The Board then listened to a disability application appeal from Jerusha Bizzell, an employee of Fire Rescue. The Board denied her application for disability retirement at their January 30, 2015 meeting. She retained legal counsel to dispute the Board’s findings on her case. After hearing her case, Gale Walldorff motioned, John McMullan seconded, and the Board decided that the Pension Board’s doctor and Ms. Bizzell’s doctor would recommend a third doctor and rely on that third opinion to make a decision about her disability.

Jelani Hooks announced the departure of Louis McGregor, dedicated Pension Administration staff employee with over 11 years of service. Mr. McGregor has taken an opportunity with the private sector.

Because there was no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting.



Jelani K. Hooks

Clerk, The DeKalb County Pension Board