

Minutes of the Franklin Regional Retirement Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
at the Franklin Regional Retirement System office, 278 Main Street, Greenfield MA

Chairman, Margaret Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 11:32 am and then turned the meeting over to Dale Kowacki.

Members present were:

Margaret Sullivan	Erving Treasurer, Advisory Council Chair
Linda Marcotte	Buckland, Treasurer
Melissa Murphy	Bernardston/New Salem Wendell, Treasurer
Paula Light	Frontier Regional School Treasurer, Board Member
Angel Bragdon	Mohawk, and Hawlemont, Schools, Treasurer
Deb Mero	Pioneer Regional School, Treasurer
Eunice Apanell	South Deerfield Water District, Treasurer
Barbara Brassor	Northfield, Treasurer

Retirement Board present:

Paula Light	Second Member Appointed by Advisory Council
David Gendron	Third Member, Vice Chair

Retirement staff present:

Dale Kowacki	Executive Director; Secretary, Advisory Council
Lynn Cournoyer	Administrative Assistant

Minutes Accepted

On a motion by Linda Marcotte and seconded by Deb Mero, the Council voted to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2014 meeting.

Veronica LaChance, Gill Treasurer, arrived at 11:38 am.

Increase retirees' COLA base to \$16,000.00

Dale explained the proposed increase to the retirees' COLA base. Annually the Board has the option to grant a COLA to the retirees. Currently, the amount of the increase can be up to the COLA percentage granted by Social Security, or 3%, limited in the calculation to the first \$15,000 of the retiree's benefit. The Board voted to increase the retirees' COLA from \$15,000 to \$16,000 on February 4, 2015.

On a motion by Deb Mero and second by Melissa Murphy the council voted in favor of the increase. The vote was all ayes and no nays.

Barbara Hancock, Deerfield Treasurer, arrived at 11:40 am.

Jan Warner, Conway Treasurer, arrived at 11:41 am.

Discussion of ideas to increase access to candidates' information during elections.

Dale discussed his suggestions to increase candidate access during board elections. Margaret Sullivan reviewed the following proposals:

1. Ask the candidates to fill out a standard questionnaire that we can copy to a page on our website.

Linda Marcotte felt some candidates may not like this. It was the general feeling of advisory council members present that if a candidate chooses to run they should be willing to share some information about themselves and why they would be a good candidate. David Gendron suggested that a candidate should make their phone number available.

2. Have the candidates provide us with an internet listing (website, Facebook, etc.) that they intend to use to present themselves to the electorate, and list them on a dedicated page on FRRSMA.com (with a disclaimer).

It was the general opinion of the advisory council that candidates may not be comfortable with this.

3. Host a "Meet the Candidates" event.

Advisory council members expressed that they felt this would be poorly attended.

4. Invite The Recorder to interview the candidates.

Advisory council members felt this was an excellent suggestion.

In the end, a straw poll of the group indicated agreement that options 1 and 4 were good ideas and should be advanced. Dale is to draft a proposal to be emailed to treasurers for their input and edits and then presented at the November 2015 council meeting for approval.

Adjournment

On a motion by Linda Marcotte and second by Veronica LaChance, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted at the December 2, 2015 Advisory Council Meeting

Dale Kowacki
Advisory Council Secretary