

**FORTH QUARTERLY MEETING
ERIE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD**

November 19, 2020

Members present: Andre Horton
 Carl Anderson
 Dr. Kyle Foust
 Kim Clear
 James Sparber

Also present: Daniel Bayletts, County Controller's Office
 Mark Orlop, County Controller's Office
 Doug Smith, County Council Office
 Attorney Talarico, Board Solicitor
 Cindi Marzka, Boetger Retirement Services

Chairman Horton called the Eric County Employees' Retirement Board meeting to order at 12:24 PM via Zoom. Roll call showed all members present.

Chairman Horton called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 10-15-20 scheduled meeting; they were approved.

Chairman Horton opened the floor for the hearing of the public. Dr. Foust stated that he had a letter which Karen Dorich, President of the Retirees Association, wished to have read into the record. The letter is as follows:

On behalf of the approximately 860 retirees currently drawing a pension from the County of Erie and their families, we hereby make the following points in our request for a cost of living increase for 2021:

- In the past twelve years we have only been given one COLA at 1/3 of 1%. On an average monthly pension check of approximately \$1,656.00 this amounts to a gross increase of less than five dollars per month.
- In the same twelve-year span County employees were given an average salary increase of 3% per year.
- The fund total as of December 31, 2019 was \$279,055,635. Due to the coronavirus, the fund sustained a substantial drop in value and the fund total as of March 31, 2020 was \$234,866,789. Since that time, the fund has posted a significant recovery and as of October 31, 2020, the fund value is now \$270,510,578. That is just 8.5 million left to fully recover from its low point in March.
- The CPI-U as of August 2020 was 0.4%, making the additional liability required to fully fund the COLA approximately \$642,000. Keep in mind this amount is smoothed over ten years; and remember that state grant reimbursements further reduce the cost to the taxpayers.

We are submitting this request in advance of the Thursday, November 19th Retirement Board meeting to afford you ample time to review. Because of the coronavirus restrictions, I cannot plead our case in person. It is my request that this letter be read during the comments from the public portion of the County Retirement Board meeting. As chairperson of the Erie County

Retirees' Association, it is my duty to ask, based on these facts, that you grant us a cost of living allowance for 2021.

Respectfully yours,
Karen R. Dorich,
Chairperson

No others spoke from the public.

Chairman Horton called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 10-15-20 Actuary Meeting, they were approved.

Chairman Horton turned the floor over to Frank Burnette from Morrison Fiduciary. Mr. Burnette stated that the Erie County Account is up 8% for the year. The fund is 55% equities.

Joe Conway from Wells Fargo gave a brief presentation on the fund's Small Cap position.

Mr. Burnette informed the Board of Real Estate funds with Bentall Kennedy, which he would like to present to the Board at a later time to enhance the current investment with Bentall Kennedy.

Chairman Horton opened the floor for a motion of a .4% COLA with a cost of \$640,000. Mr. Anderson moved to approve the COLA, Mr. Sparber seconded,

Roll Call:

Mr. Sparber- Yes
Mr. Anderson- Yes
Mr. Horton- Yes
Ms. Clear- Yes
Dr. Foust- Yes

Chairman Horton opened the floor for a motion to set the members interest rate. Mr. Sparber made the motion to set the rate at 4%, Mr. Anderson seconded,

Roll Call:

Mr. Sparber- Yes
Mr. Anderson- Yes
Mr. Horton- Yes
Ms. Clear- Yes
Dr. Foust- Yes

Dr. Foust informs the board that the Fiduciary Liability Insurance is expiring in January 2021 and that his office is gathering quotes for \$1, \$2, and \$5 million options and will provide the Board an update when those quotes have returned.

Chairman Horton called for Adjournment.

Adjournment at 12:57 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Foust". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Dr. Kyle W. Foust, Secretary
Erie County Employees' Retirement Board
Pleasant Ridge Manor Employees' Retirement Committee

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