TOWN OF GREENWICH
OPEB Trust Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 14, 2021
Virtual Webinar

Present:

Trust Board: Co-Chairmen: William Ferdinand, Joseph Pellegrino

Staff: Joan Lynch, Assistant to the Treasurer; Peter Mynarski, Comptroller and ex-officio member of the OPEB Trust Board; Nataliya Yemets, Treasurer and OPEB Trustee

BET Attendees: Andreas Duus, Miriam Kreuzer, David Weisbrod, Leslie Moriarty

Guest: Robert Stricker

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 A.M.

1. Approval of OPEB Trust Meeting Minutes

   Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Ferdinand, the Board voted 2-0-0 to approve the Minutes of the OPEB Trust Board Meeting held on July 14, 2021. Motion carried.

2. Review of the Trust’s performance and asset allocation as of the end of September 2021

   Ms. Yemets provided a market update for the month of September 2021 commenting that all equity indices posted negative returns in September, with S&P 500 down 4.65%. Large Cap Growth lost 5.60%, whereas Small Cap Value was down 2.00%. One-year returns for most equities were still positive double digits ranging from 18.20% for emerging markets to 63.92% for U.S. Small Cap Value.

   The OPEB Trust Portfolio loss in September was $1.5 million, reducing the Trust’s fiscal year-to-date gain to $66,775. The market value of the Portfolio as of 9/30/2021 was $43,877,658. At the month-end, 59.6% of the Portfolio was in domestic equities, 9.1% was in international equities, and 31.3% was in fixed income and cash. All allocations were close to targets and within the IPS allocation ranges. The total allocation to actively managed funds exceeded the allowable 30% by 1.3%. The Total Portfolio lost 3.13% in September but outperformed its blended benchmark by 58 bps. Calendar year-to-date return of the Trust was 11.55% and one-year return was 22.59%, beating the benchmark by 2.90% and 5.03%, respectively.

3. Review of the OPEB Trust Portfolio rebalancing mechanism and performance report format

   Ms. Yemets inquired whether there should be a special rebalancing mechanism for actively managed mutual funds and ETFs in the Portfolio. The Board confirmed that rebalancing should occur if the allocation deviates 2% or more from the approved 20% per fund / 30% in aggregate across all actively managed funds.
4. **Discussion of market conditions and investment strategy, including asset allocation, domestic equity index funds and international fixed income funds**

Mr. Pellegrino opened the discussion by sharing his observations on the Fed’s monetary policy, inflation and recent earnings announcements. He argued that the inflation would last, the markets would see rotation back to growth and away from industrials, and it would take international and emerging markets some time to recover. He felt optimistic about U.S. equities and claimed that fixed income investments would not be able to offer same value for the OPEB Portfolio. Mr. Pellegrino felt that no changes to OPEB’s target asset allocation were necessary, except potentially moving about 20% of the equity position into a sector fund to add value to the Total Portfolio. Mr. Ferdinand agreed that equities offered more return than fixed income but opposed increasing the total exposure to equities to 80% suggesting that it should stay at 70%. In his view, potential changes in fiscal policy and corporate tax rates might reduce earnings and negatively impact the markets, thus the OPEB Board should wait for the next decision by the Federal Reserve Board before making changes to the Portfolio’s equity allocation. Mr. Ferdinand recommended adding some active positions to domestic equities, stating that long-term investing consists of a series of short-term decisions, therefore some tactical management of the OPEB Portfolio would be prudent. The Board decided not to make any changes to the tactical asset allocation at this time.

5. **Scheduling of Board meetings in calendar year 2022**

It was decided to hold the next OPEB Board meeting on December 7, 2021 and postpone scheduling meetings beyond that date until after the BET Investment Advisory Committee calendar is prepared.

6. **Discussion of topics for future meetings**

- Search of an Outsourced Chief Investment Officer for OPEB Trust and the role of the OPEB Board
- Filling the vacancy on the OPEB Board

Mr. Pellegrino suggested that OPEB Board members could offer counsel during the selection of an outside firm to manage OPEB Trust Fund and recommended that the transition date is set to the first business day of a month for ease of future performance reporting.

Mr. Duus asked for OPEB Trustees to offer suggestions for an experienced nominee for a third Board member.

7. **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Mr. Pellegrino, seconded by Mr. Ferdinand, the Board voted 2-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 A.M.

Next OPEB Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. Format and location of the meeting to be determined.

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Catherine Sidor, Recording Secretary

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William Ferdinand, Co-Chair, OPEB Trust