



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION**

**PENSION LIABILITY SPECIAL PROJECT TEAM
WEBINAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 13, 2021**

Committee

Present: William Drake, Chair; Andy Duus, Miriam Kreuzer, David Weisbrod

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Comptroller

Board: Harry Fischer

Guest: Michael Mason, Labor Relations, Town of Greenwich, Danyal Ozizmir, RTM, District 5 Chairman, RTM Labor Contracts Committee, Michael Wacek, Chairman, Retirement Board

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M.

1. **Consideration and vote on draft report dated 7-18-2021 of the Special Project Team**

The BET Pension Liability Special Project Team reviewed feedback received and proposed edits on the July 18, 2021, draft report. The following slides prompted discussion:

Slide #7 noted the February 2016 legal opinion from the former Town Attorney Wayne Fox, and reaffirmed recently by current Town Attorney, that supports the right of the BET to consider the reasonableness of the Retirement Board's Actuary Report assumptions. What remains unclear are the possible remedies should the BET ever find the assumptions to be unreasonable.

Slide #9 noted that the arbitration decision of the Firefighter's contract received last month. It will increase ADEC by approximately \$1.6 million for each of the next five years for higher cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs).

Slide #28 described the Lump-Sum Pension Buyout option. Mr. Mason, the Town's Labor Relations negotiator, who was invited to speak, alerted the Team members that the impact of the Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) contained in the August 18, 2021 Arbitration

Award for the Greenwich Firefighters contract. These adjustments will be very costly to the Town's Pension Plan in terms of increased annual contributions. He added that this will open the door for future contract negotiations and could have negative cost impacts on the future contributions to the Pension Plan system, if similar terms are awarded.

Ms. Kreuzer stated that she did some research on the State of Missouri pension buyout in 2017, which is the only example of a public pension lump-sum buyout to date. She learned that the Missouri pension funded ratio was 60% at the time of the offer and that only 22% of pension participants accepted the buyout. Mr. Weisbrod asked if the Town could reject the recent firefighter arbitration decision. Mr. Ozizmir answered by saying the time period of 25 days to respond by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) had expired and it could only be addressed in future negotiations.

Mr. Drake made a motion to approve the BET Pension Liability Special Project Team report with a number of small edits included and send it to the full BET for their acceptance at their next meeting, September 20, 2021. Mr. Weisbrod seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 0.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Minutes on July 21, 2021**

Mr. Duus made a motion to approve the July 21, 2021 minutes, seconded by Ms. Kreuzer. The motion passed 4 to 0.

3. **Such other topics as may come before the meeting**

Since the Pension Liability Special Project Team concluded its work, there were no additional topics proposed for discussion and no additional future meetings proposed at this time.

4. **Adjournment**

The Special Project Team voted unanimously to adjourn the Pension Liability Special Project Team Meeting at 2:03 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary



William Drake, Chairman
Pension Liability Special Project Team