

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL
GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT BOARD
February 10, 2022**

A Regular meeting of the General Government Retirement Board was held on **February 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Bristol, CT. Members present: Chairman Tom Barnes, Jr., Vice Chairman David Preleski (Zoom), Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, Council Member Olsen, Comptroller Diane M. Waldron, Commissioner's David Butkus, Paul Keegan, David Maikowski, and Frank Rossi. Absent: Commissioner's Peter Dauphinais, Thomas DeNoto, and William Veits.

Also present: John Oliver Beirne from Beirne Wealth Consulting
Brian Gevry from Boyd Watterson Asset Management, LLC

1. Call to Order.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Barnes.

2. Item 2-Public Participation.

None.

3. Item 3 - Minutes for the Regular meeting of January 13, 2022 were approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butkus and seconded by Commissioner Rossi and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the minutes of the Regular General Government Retirement Board meeting of January 13, 2022 and place them on file."

4. Item 4 - Treasurer's report January 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keegan and seconded by Comptroller Waldron and it was unanimously voted to:

"Accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2022 and place it on file."

5. Item 5 – Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Cynthia Pelletier, Bristol Burlington Health Department, Local 1303 effective January 4, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keegan and seconded by Commissioner Butkus and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the request for Normal Retirement from Cynthia Pelletier, Bristol Burlington Health Department, Local 1303 effective January 4, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$34,386.03 or \$2,865.50 monthly."

6. Item 6- Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Garrie Dorman, The Bristol Police Union effective January 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rossi and seconded by Commissioner Butkus and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for Normal Retirement from Garrie Dorman, Bristol Police Union, effective January 18, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$70,731.55 or \$2,712.99 bi weekly.”

7. Item 7- Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Bradley Thurston, The Bristol Police Union effective January 22, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Butkus and seconded by Mayor Caggiano and it was unanimously voted to:

“Approve the request for Normal Retirement from Bradley Thurston, Bristol Police Union, effective January 22, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$67,374.61 or \$2,584.23 bi weekly.”

8. Item 8– Investment Review – Beirne Wealth Consulting, LLC.

- **General Retirement Fund**

John Oliver Beirne, of Beirne Wealth, provided an overview of the portfolio. John Oliver also supplied the Board with a handout regarding the Capital Calls as of September 30, 2021. An updated one will be provided for year end. Beirne Wealth is trying to build towards the policy targets and has diversified away from high quality bonds. John Oliver also discussed the different allocations and how Beirne Wealth will try to hit the target ranges. The portfolio was up approximately 16.1% at year end and ended in the 15th percentile (among similar plans in the country). The portfolio achieved one of its highest levels ever. Some of the larger funds dropped this month due to volatility in the Equities market. John Oliver discussed current issues with the international and bond markets and stated that the portfolio will have to get more defensively oriented if these trends continue.

The portfolio is currently priced at \$797,010,546 with about 30% unpriced. It is down about 4% for the month and 3.25% for the quarter. The Equity portion of the portfolio was about 65% and has dropped to 57.8% of the total portfolio. This is an area where the portfolio can become more defensively oriented and be readjusted into other assets. Interest Rates were discussed and Beirne Wealth will continue to provide updates as needed. Private Equities is currently missing a lot of pricing. Arsenal will be providing updates on the two new funds (Sayari and Cart.com) which are supposedly doing well. There was additional discussion on Private Equities and the allocation of small/mid/large cap stocks in the portfolio. The portfolio is set up to represent where the best value is as opposed to getting stuck in a box. Beirne Wealth has been focused on growth/momentum but they're working to move back to neutral. There was some discussion on Fixed Income and how the Entrust fund is structured. Beirne Wealth will request a year end update from Heitman and may ask them to present to the Board. There was no pricing on Alternatives and Chairman Barnes asked that the pricing be supplied quarterly.

Council Member Olsen joined the meeting at 5:52pm.

9. Item 9–Presentation by Boyd Watterson Asset Management, LLC.

Brian Gevry, of Boyd Watterson, addressed the Board and provided an overview of the fund & the assets under their management (the GSA Fund and the State Government Fund). The GSA Fund is comprised of high security/mission critical federal government buildings. The fund is

approximately 95% occupied and targets returns from 7-9% with low volatility. The fund came through the pandemic with generally no issues. The City's position in this fund is just under \$40 million. The State Government Fund is comprised of essential and law enforcement buildings at the State & Local level and is equally as in demand as the GSA Fund. The State Government Fund returns are approximately 9.7% and the City's position is about \$12 million. Boyd Watterson takes credit quality seriously and has expertise in all aspects of the fund. Their goal is to have a broad portfolio with a lot of opportunity, especially in State & Local buildings. Currently the fund is just under \$18 billion with \$10 billion in Real Estate and \$8 billion in Fixed Income.

Boyd Watterson has recently launched an additional strategy which would include government overseen contractors such as clean energy, grid security, etc. By stepping beyond the State & Local sector, the opportunities for investment would increase significantly. There are currently some complexities with these types of buildings, but Boyd Watterson is looking into strategies to simplify them. As of right now, to invest in this new fund there would be a flat fee for the first year. The fund is currently positioned to mitigate any risk and allows for optionality to move into other investments when needed. The City's portfolio was a bit ahead of the curve with changing the allocations. With the new strategy, there will be a large amount of new opportunities and timing is very important. This new fund has the capacity to be as successful as the GSA Fund.

John Oliver Beirne addressed the Board and stated that the City is currently under allocated in the State Fund. If the portfolio invests 3% into this new fund, the Real Estate portion of the portfolio will sit at approximately 9% and there would be one firm with about 9% of the total portfolio. This fund would be a much safer investment opportunity than other asset classes such as Equities.

The Board will discuss this opportunity further at the March Retirement Board meeting and John Oliver will bring the tentative numbers of investing about 3% (or \$25 million) of the portfolio into the new fund. A formal request will be brought to the March meeting.

10. Item 10- Update on Contract Negotiations with Beirne Wealth Consulting for Advisory Services and to take any action as necessary.

The contract was sent out to the Retirement Board members for review.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Butkus and seconded by Mayor Caggiano and it was unanimously voted to:

"Accept the Contract with Beirne Wealth Consulting Services, LLC as presented."

11 Item 11- Review of Administrative Budget for FY 2022-23 and to take any action as necessary.

Comptroller Waldron provided the Board with an overview of the yearly administrative expenses for the pension fund. The estimated budget will be submitted to the Board annually and the Board of Finance has also asked for a yearly summary. Comptroller Waldron noted that some of the values on the budget are estimated (i.e. the custodial fees).

A motion was made by Mayor Caggiano and seconded by Commissioner Keegan and it was unanimously voted to:

"Accept the Administrative Budget for FY 2022-23 as presented and place on file."

12. Item 12- Discussion regarding an RFP for Custodial Services and to take any action as necessary.

The current custodian is Fidelity and there has been no RFP or review in a while. John Oliver Beirne was asked for his insight and stated that every manager would need to be approved and the process would take six months to one year. There was also discussion on Fidelity's fees in comparison to other custodians.

Beirne Wealth will put together a report showing the universe of custodians and provide it to the Retirement Board. Based on the report, the Board will do research before launching a full RFP.

13. Item 13- Review and Accept Scott & Scott 4th Quarter Report and place on file.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keegan and seconded by Commissioner Butkus and it was unanimously voted to:

“Accept the Scott & Scott 4th Quarter Report as presented and place on file.”

14. Item 14- Any other business proper to come before meeting.

None.

15. Item 15- Adjournment

At 6:35 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Keegan and seconded by Commissioner Butkus and it was unanimously voted to: “Adjourn.”

Respectively submitted,

Diane M. Waldron
Comptroller and Secretary, Retirement Board