

**MEETING OF THE GENERAL
GOVERNMENT RETIREMENT BOARD
April 14, 2022**

A Regular meeting of the General Government Retirement Board was held on **April 14, 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, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, Council Member Jacqueline Olsen, Comptroller Diane M. Waldron, Commissioner's Peter Dauphinais, Paul Keegan (via Zoom), David Maikowski, Frank Rossi, and William Veits. Absent: Commissioner's David Butkus, and Thomas DeNoto.

Also present: John Oliver Beirne and John Beirne from Beirne Wealth Consulting
Victoria Distasio from Verition Fund Management, LLC

1. Call to Order.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Public Participation.

None.

3. Minutes for the Regular meeting of March 10, 2022 were approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Veits and seconded by Commissioner Maikowski and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the minutes of the Regular General Government Retirement Board meeting of March 10, 2022 and place them on file."

4. Treasurer's report March 2022.

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

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

5. Consideration to approve the Treasurer's request for pension withdrawals each month from May 1, 2022 through October 1, 2022.

A motion was made by Mayor Caggiano and seconded by Vice Chairman Preleski and it was unanimously voted to:

"Approve the Treasurer's request for pension withdrawals each month from May 1, 2022 through October 1, 2022 and place on file."

6. Consent Agenda.

- a. **Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Steven Pileski the Bristol Police Union, effective April 1, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$70,731.55 or \$2,713.00 bi weekly.**
- b. **Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from Kenneth Olson, Board of Education, Local 2267 effective February 25, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$29,250.60 or \$2,437.55 monthly.**
- c. **Consideration of a request to approve the Vested Retirement from Jo Rivera, Board of Education, Local 2267 effective April 1, 2032 with an annual pension amount of \$8,617.05 or \$718.09 monthly.**
- d. **Consideration of a request to approve the Normal Retirement from George Chase, Board of Education, Local 2267 effective March 8, 2022 with an annual pension amount of \$44,357.25 or \$3,696.44 monthly.**

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

“Approve Consent Agenda Items 6a through 6d.”

7. Investment Review – Beirne Wealth Consulting, LLC.

- **General Retirement Fund**

John Oliver Beirne, of Beirne Wealth, provided an overview of the portfolio. The Year End report is close to being complete. John Oliver reviewed the March 31, 2022 report and pointed out the decreases across the board in US Equities, International Equities, Fixed Income (with the exception of 90 Day US Treasury Bill), Real Estate, and Hedge Funds during the first quarter of the year. It is rare to have an investment environment where Real Estate, Bonds, Equities, and purchasing power are down and these factors make it tough for growth moving forward.

The portfolio is currently priced at \$795,391,067 and is up about .85% for the month. Equities, which is just under 60% of the portfolio, is up 1.62% for the month with all of the Private Equity pricing missing. The new Arsenal account is not in the report yet, and it is expected that there will not be a Capital Call until the end of the year. John Oliver gave a brief overview of the Verition International Multi-Strategy Fund.

8. Investment Manager Presentation – Verition International Multi-Strategy Fund.

Victoria Distasio, of Verition Fund Management, presented an update of the fund to the Board. Verition is a multi-strategy, multi-manager hedge fund platform. Verition focuses on more niche trading strategies, which creates a diversified portfolio of strategies that as a whole tend to exhibit low correlation to the broader market and one another.

A review of the historical performance was provided. Verition's goal is to mitigate downside volatility and preserve cash for their investors. The report shows that there were all positive years from 2008 to 2022 with a total inception to date return of 550.76%. Verition's performance during down markets have historically been positive even when the S&P 500 Total Return was on a downward trend. Over the fourteen year period from 2008 to 2022 the S&P Total Returns were down 216.74% and Verition's fund was up 31.17% during that same time period. The portfolio is currently set up with 75 distinct trading teams and is more diversified now than it has been at any point in the past. Year to date, the portfolio is up roughly 2%. The report also outlined Verition's performance during 2020 which highlights consistent risk-adjusted outperformance with low correlation to the market.

Verition has a multi-tiered risk management framework. The risk management team focuses on analytical risk and trading risk. The analytical risk management team monitors pre-defined limits through their system, and the trading risk management team works directly with the portfolio managers. Verition also uses an external team as an added layer of risk management. Verition focuses largely on the talent of the managers.

John Oliver Beirne briefly addressed the Board and explained that \$17.5 million was invested in the fund and Verition did a tremendous job by making approximately \$7 million in 2 ½ years.

9. Discussion regarding an RFP for Custodial Services and to take any action as necessary.

John Oliver Beirne stated that Beirne Wealth has been in contact with six major custodians and they will have a matrix at the next Retirement Board Meeting. The main findings from Beirne's research is that custodian costs are generally increasing.

Commissioner Maikowski asked John Oliver if Beirne Wealth has a process for monitoring the allocation of securities per the investment policy. John Oliver stated that they do have a process for monitoring the securities. There was also discussion regarding the monitoring of the Miller Opportunity Trust Class I Fund. Commissioner Maikowski also asked John Oliver if there will be a review of the Neuberger Berman fees and other fees set by long standing contracts. John Oliver stated that Neuberger Berman are 20% below market average and they are outperforming the market by about 300 basis points. The last time the fees were negotiated, the City's Fund had significantly more assets under management and the weighted average of fees is approximately 39 basis points. If the Board chooses to renegotiate the fees, there is a chance that they will increase. The Board discussed possibly creating an internal process to review the contracts/fees regularly.

10. Any other business proper to come before meeting.

None

11. Adjournment.

At 5:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor Caggiano and seconded by Vice Chairman Preleski and it was unanimously voted to: "Adjourn."

Respectively submitted,

Diane M. Waldron
Comptroller and Secretary, Retirement Board