

**Employees' Retirement Board
Of Rhode Island
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Date of Meeting: January 10, 2007**

The Monthly Meeting of the Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 10, 2007 in the 8th Floor Conference Room, 40 Fountain Street, Providence, RI.

I. Roll Call of Members

The following members were present at roll call: Daniel L. Beardsley; Rosemary Booth Gallogly; Michael R. Boyce; General Treasurer Frank T. Caprio; William B. Finelli; M. Carl Heintzelman; John P. Maguire; John J. Meehan; Louis M. Prata; Susan K. Rodriguez and James P. Yancy.

Also in attendance: Frank J. Karpinski, ERSRI Executive Director and Attorney William E. O'Gara, Board Counsel.

Recognizing a quorum, Treasurer Caprio called the meeting to order.

Linda Riendeau arrived at 9:05.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Karpinski brought the Boards attention to the draft minutes of the December 13, 2006 meeting. He provided the Board with a revised version of the minutes and indicated two corrections; namely, Mr. Maguire had recused on the matters of *Susan Leavy v. ERSRI* and the *Providence Coaches v. ERSRI*.

On a motion by John P. Maguire and seconded by Louis M. Prata, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the revised December 13, 2006 meeting of the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island Board.

III. Chairman's Report

Treasurer Caprio told the Board that he has had discussions with Director Karpinski regarding the operations of ERSRI and specifically the annual statement recently received by active members. The Treasurer said that active members may access ERSRI's web site to gather real time pension information and need not wait for annual paper statements to collect their contribution balances and work history. Treasurer Caprio expressed his interests on keeping members informed and told the Board that he will work with Director Karpinski to develop a campaign to actively promote ERSRI's web site. He welcomed any input Board members could offer on this matter.

Treasurer Caprio then discussed ERSRI's recent annual audit conducted by the Auditor General and its recommendations and findings. He felt it would be prudent to appoint an audit committee to review and monitor ERSRI's operations. Additionally, he felt a

training committee would be prudent for the Board. The Treasurer offered appointments to the committees and requested that any interested Board Members contact his office.

In conjunction with the audit committee, Treasurer Caprio expressed his interest in performing a governance audit of the ERSRI Board. He told the Board that such an audit would help to benchmark where the Board currently stands and where it may be able to improve. The Treasurer said such audits are common amongst Boards and Commissions.

Treasurer Caprio then discussed performing a benchmarking study of ERSRI. He told the Board that these studies benchmark ERSRI's operating practices against other public retirement systems. They generally survey the membership and obtain their views of the System's services. He said such information would be valuable for the Board to understand how to better serve its members.

Treasurer Caprio concluded his report by telling the Board of his interest in exploring how the Board can leverage technology to better serve its members. He said he would bring his ideas to the Board's attention at the appropriate time.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Director Karpinski apprised the Board that there may be four hearings before the Board next month. He said three of the matters are disability appeals; thus, the records will be forwarded to Board members under separate cover and marked confidential. He reminded the Board that medical information is not open to the public and at the conclusion of the meeting the information will be collected and shredded.

The Director finally provided the Board with the pension application processing report for the month of December 2006.

V. Administrative Decisions

Disability Appeals

None this month

Hearing Officer Decisions

Linda Nardella vs. ERSRI

Attorney O'Gara provided a synopsis of the Linda Nardella matter. He said Ms. Nardella is appearing before the Board Pro se. Attorney O'Gara said Ms. Nardella had purchased service credit when she worked for the US Postal Service. Concurrently, she was also employed by the State of Rhode Island. She began her service in 1970 and subsequently retired in August 2004. Ms. Nardella made a purchase in 1988 for a period of time during 1976-1977 for the amount of \$664.91. Attorney O'Gara told the Board that after her retirement in August of 2004, she was advised by ERSRI that the time that she had purchased back in 1988, for time working at the postal service, had been improperly permitted. She was advised that she would not be able to use that time as credit toward her retirement benefits. Attorney O'Gara apprised the Board that Ms. Nardella is here today with the intent of appealing the decision of the hearing officer

that upholds ERSRI's decision denying her the service credit or that the system should pay her interest if the service credit may not be used.

There being a stenographer present, the parties presented their cases. At the conclusion of the hearing, on a motion by William B. Finelli and seconded by Linda C. Riendeau, it was unanimously

VOTED: To table the matter and give the Director and Legal Counsel an opportunity to further review the case and determine if another remedy is possible.

VI. Approval of December pensions as presented by ERSRI

On a motion by Michael R. Boyce and seconded by Louis M. Prata, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the December pensions as presented by ERSRI.

VII. Legal Counsel Report

Attorney William O'Gara informed the Board that the December legal report was in their board book. There being no questions, on a motion by William B. Finelli and seconded by Linda C. Riendeau, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Legal Counsel Report as presented.

VIII. Committee Reports

Disability Subcommittee: The Disability Subcommittee recommended the following actions on disability applications as the result of its January 5, 2007 meeting for approval by the full Board:

	Name	Membership Group	Type	Action
1.	Janet Badway	Teacher	Ordinary	Approve
2.	Carol Clark	Teacher	Ordinary	Approve
3.	Diane Emerson	Municipal	Ordinary	Table
4.	Joseph Fratiello	Municipal	Ordinary	Approve
5.	Laura-Ann Landry	Municipal	Ordinary	Approve
6.	Jennifer O'Brien	State	Ordinary	Approve
7.	James O'Donoghue	State	Ordinary	Approve
8.	Thomas Turchetta	Municipal	Ordinary	Approve
9.	Nancy Bennett	Teacher	Accidental	Table
10.	John Waterman	State	Accidental	Approve
11.	Alan Young	State	Accidental	Approve
12.	Dennis Kraus	Teacher	Accidental	Table

On a motion by William B. Finelli and seconded by Michael R. Boyce it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the recommendation of the Disability Subcommittee meeting on Friday, January 5, 2007 on items 1, 2, 9 and 12.

Mr. Maguire recused himself on items 1, 2, 9 and 12

On a motion by William B. Finelli and seconded by Michael R. Boyce it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the recommendation of the Disability Subcommittee meeting on Friday, January 5, 2007 on item 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board, on a motion by Linda C. Riendeau and seconded by Rosemary Booth Gallogly the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Karpinski

Executive Director