NEWTON RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Location: Newton City Hall, Room 211
Agenda

New Agenda Items:

1. Director position-job posting

2. Naming interim/acting director

3. Receipt of three single physician medical panel certificates in connection with Firefighter Brian McNamara's application for accidental disability retirement pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 7. Mr. McNamara is represented by Atty. Paul Hynes. The Board may enter Executive Session pursuant to reason 1 under G.L. c.30A s.21 ("To discuss the …physical condition or mental health…of an individual…").

4. Receipt of three single physician medical panel certificates in connection with Firefighter Mark Dezso's application for accidental disability retirement pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 7. Mr. Dezso is represented by Atty. Paul Hynes. The Board may enter Executive Session pursuant to reason 1 under G.L. c.30A s.21 ("To discuss the …physical condition or mental health…of an individual…").

5. Receipt of an accidental disability retirement application from Senior School Custodian Kaiss Horani, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 7. Member's Application, Treating Physician Statement and Employer's Statement have all been received. The Board may enter Executive Session pursuant to reason 1 under G.L. c.30A s.21 ("To discuss the …physical condition or mental health…of an individual…").

6. Receipt of an accidental disability retirement application from Police Officer Michael Sweeney, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32, Section 7. Member's Application, Treating Physician Statement and Employer's Statement have all been received. Mr. Panettiere is represented by Attorney Leah Panettiere. The Board may enter Executive Session pursuant to reason 1 under G.L. c.30A s.21 ("To discuss the …physical condition or mental health…of an individual…").

7. Board to review regular session minutes of meeting held July 29, 2025

8. Board to review executive session minutes of meeting held July 29, 2025

9. Draft request for proposal (RFP) for actuarial services

Administrative Agenda Items:

10. Monthly financial reporting for month ending June 2025

11. Retirement Board Election Update – Election to be held on 8/27/25

12. Board to approve new members as indicated on list provided in Board Member's monthly packet

13. New application(s) for superannuation & termination retirement:

Member	Position	Dept.	Date of Retirement
Laura Murphy	School Nurse	Health and Human Services	08/31/2025
Eleanor Ross	Executive Assistant	School	08/15/2025

14. Board to approve the following expense warrants:

Warrant # 19-25	08-26-25	08-29-2025 Contributory pension payroll	$ 4,252,634.71
Warrant # 20-25	08-27-25	Administrative expense/member account disbursements	$ 489,912.82
Warrant # C07-25	08-27-25	Federal Tax	$ 10,187.20

Pending Agenda Items:

1. Current status of pending disability retirement applications – **informational only**:

Applicant	Dept.	Current Status
Joseph A. Ciccone	Fire Dept.	Disability Transmittal approved by PERAC on 7/23/25
Joseph A. Ratta	Utilities Dept.	Disability Transmittal approved by PERAC on 7/23/25
Steven Rogers	School Dept.	NRB accepted application on 7/29/25; Staff is in process of collecting medical records

Michael Gentile	Fire Dept.	NRB accepted application on 7/29/25; Staff is in process of collecting medical records
Francis Scaltreto	Police Dept.	Medical Panel appts. scheduled for 9/9/25, 9/10/25 & 9/19/25
Matthew Tocci	Police Dept.	NRB accepted application on 7/29/25; Staff is in process of collecting medical records
Richard Benes	Police Dept.	NRB accepted application on 7/29/25; Staff is in process of collecting medical records

2. Scott Perella –5 year repayment plan; oral agreement with member to mail payment on the 25th of each month- repayment to be completed by May 2029.

3. Determination in regard to amount to be transferred to PRIT effective 12/1/25 was tabled until the 11/20/25 board meeting

4. Dori Zaleznik's Needham Bill waiver request and refund of elected official service credit purchase – tabled pending resolution of all litigation

5. Staff update on Employee Handbook – Time Off Policy Draft

6. 2024 post-retirement excess earnings discussion with Human Resources Department- meeting with HR scheduled for 9/2/25

7. Discussion relating to storage space, scanning, Massachusetts Municipal Retention Schedule, PTG Customer Data and Security and disaster recovery of scanned documents

8. Current status of pending appeal cases – The Board may enter Executive Session for reason 3 under G.L. c.30A s.21 ("To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares")

9.

Petitioner	Docket#	Most Recent Status
Edward Murphy	CR-17-724	DALA hearing held 9/12/21;5/17/22 recvd DALA decision -NRB's decision which was based on PERAC's directive/ approach re Shift Substitution was reversed.5/31/22 PERAC appealed DALA's decision;9/13/22 CRAB granted a 90 day extension with a filing date on or before 12/21/22 to the member's counsel,Atty Hynes; Member filed response on 12/21/22; Member's counsel requested a status update on 7/17/24;7/19/24 CRAB confirmed that a decision is pending
Lee Gilliam	CR-23-0039	1/25/23 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal-Mr. Gilliam is appealing the NRB's decision in connection with his Ordinary Disability Retirement;5/8/23 recv'd First Pre-Hearing Order*;* 10/25/23 Opposing Counsel filed parties' joint pre-hearing memo;10/27/23 DALA granted parties' joint motion to join PERAC as additional party;7/17/24 DALA confirmed the case is awaiting the scheduling of a hearing date; 9/17/24 Received DALA's Notice of Hearing scheduled for 12/18/24;9/24/24 At Petitioner's request, hearing has been stayed pending CRAB's decision in E. Murphy
Jeremy Wilson	CR-24-0294	5/20/24 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal-Officer Wilson is appealing the NRB's denial of his accidental disability retirement application; 5/29/24 recv'd DALA Scheduling Order, Petitioner's Pre-Hearing Memorandum due 8/23/24, NRB submission due 10/10/24; 8/20/24 Petitioner submitted his pre-hearing memorandum;10/09/24 Board Counsel filed NRB's pre-hearing memorandum and motion for summary decision;Petitioner has until 11/8/24 to file response to motion;11/07/24 Petitioner filed Motion for Summary Decision Response;2/5/25 DALA determined the appeal will be decided on written submissions. Mr. Wilson filed written response on 2/15/25;Board Counsel filed Memorandum on 2/18/25.2/25/25 DALA decision recv'd;3/6/25 Board Counsel filed Notice of Objection. 4/2/25 Board Counsel filed Memorandum of Law to CRAB;5/8/25 Board Counsel filed Supplement to Objection;6/5/25 Mr. Wilson submitted response to NRS' specific objections to CRAB.
Dori Zaleznik	CR-24-0602	9/30/24 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal-Ms. Zaleznik is appealing the termination, and request for repayment, of her retirement benefits; 10/2/24 Recv'd DALA's Order that matter is stayed until NRB rules on Petitioner's motion for reconsideration.;2/3/25 Petitioner filed Joint Motions to Join PERAC and to Lift Stay and Expedite Proceedings;2/4/25 DALA granted Motion to Expedite and Motion to Join PERAC. Joint Pre-Hearing Memo due 5/18/25**.** Joint Pre-Hearing Memo filed 5/21/25;Hearing tentatively scheduled for 10/8/25;***8/12/25 Hearing canceled; Matter will be decided on papers***.
Michael Abbruzzese	CR-25-0010	1/13/25 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal;1/21/25 Board Counsel filed Motion for Summary Decision;Opposition to Motion for Summary Decision extended to 4/1/25; NRS Amended Motion for Summary Decision filed 5/16/25. Petitioner opposition due 6/16/25.

James McCarthy	CR-25-0010	1/13/25 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal;1/21/25 Board Counsel filed Motion for Summary Decision; Opposition to Motion for Summary Decision extended to 4/1/25; NRS Amended Motion for Summary Decision filed 5/16/25. Petitioner opposition due 6/16/25.
Thomas McCarthy	CR-25-0010	1/13/25 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal;1/21/25 Board Counsel filed Motion for Summary Decision; Opposition to Motion for Summary Decision extended to 4/1/25; NRS Amended Motion for Summary Decision filed 5/16/25. Petitioner opposition due 6/16/25.
Noelle Costa	CR-25-0239	4/8/25 recv'd DALA's Notice of Receipt of Appeal; Per DALA's Scheduling Order, appeal will be decided on written submissions. Petitioner's submission is due 6/11/25;DALA granted Petitioner extension request to explore settlement. Petitioner memo due 8/11/25;NRS memo due 9/24/25.

Director's Report :

- 2024 Annual Statement of Earned Income – MGL c.32, s. 91A compliance update
- PERAC Audit for calendar years 2019-2022

Correspondence:

- 8/4/25 email from PTG's President & COO Chris Lodge: PTG Legal Update: Positive Court Decisions & Our Commitment to You

Next scheduled retirement board meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: The Board reserves the right to consider items on the agenda out of order. The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Items identified for discussion in Executive Session may be conducted in open session, in addition to or in lieu of discussion in Executive Session. A motion to convene an Executive Session may be entertained during the meeting. Meetings are open to the public and will be held in the designated meeting room in Newton City Hall. The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least 2 business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or 617-796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), dial 711.