

The regular meeting of the Montague Retirement Board duly posted to be held at One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA on the above date came to order at 1:00 P.M. Members Carolyn Olsen, David Dion, Cheryl Clark, Marianne Fiske and Frank Abbondanzio were present. Administrator Shari Hildreth was also present.

PERAC Memo #10/2010, addresses the “Under \$5,000.00 rule” and “Once a Member, Always a Member.”

“All retirement boards should continue to take deductions from those members in service making under \$5,000.00 per year. We are aware that, intuitively, this seems incorrect. Members would be continuing to pay into the system without accruing creditable service for this time.” This will make it easier for the Boards since it is difficult to know if someone will earn more or less than \$5,000.00 per year. This approach will also allow them to retain their rights and protections of being a member in service pertaining to eligibility for accidental disability retirement benefits and will eliminate them from having to create an OBRA account.

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by F. Abbondanzio and seconded by C. Clark to send out memos to all units explaining that they need to continue taking deductions from these members. UNANIMOUS

**NEW MEMBERS:** Dennis Berry, GMRSD, network manager, 2/1/10

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by C. Clark and seconded by F. Abbondanzio to accept new member. UNANIMOUS

Discuss the Military Buy Back Regulation. Current Supplementary Regulations state: “1. The buy back amount for eligible members pertaining to purchase of military time shall be paid within five years from the date of the application.” Would the Board consider changing the regulation by removing the requirement that it must be paid within 5 years after the date of the application?

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by F. Abbondanzio and seconded by C. Clark to change the supplementary regulation. 4 Yes, 1 No

**Buy Back:** Sharon Miller, GMRSD, has requested information on a buy back of previous service from 10/5/08- 3/14/09 while working as a substitute teacher before being hired as a full time interventionist. The creditable service is 5 months and 11 days.

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by F. Abbondanzio and seconded by M. Fiske to approve the buy back. UNANIMOUS

**Buy Back:** Sheryl Leh, GMRSD, has requested information on a buy back of part time previous service from 3/7/05 – 6/28/09 while she was working as a paraprofessional. She was hired 8/24/09 for a position over 20 hours per week. The creditable service is 2 yrs 4 months and 8 days.

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by F. Abbondanzio and seconded by M. Fiske to approve buy back. UNANIMOUS

**Buy Back:** David Poirier, TWN – per memo dated 2/23/10 from Attorney Tom Gibson, the issue is whether Mr. Poirier was an active member in service or an inactive member in service when he made a request to purchase his prior non-contributing service. Mr. Poirier requested information on the buy back on 9/24/08 before his worker’s compensation settlement was approved on 12/9/09, the period over which the member “retains the rights of a member in service” as represented in provisions of the lump sum settlement; therefore, making him an active member in service, eligible to purchase the non-contributing service.

**BOARD VOTED** on a motion made by M. Fiske and seconded by C. Clark to approved buy back.  
UNANIMOUS

**NOTICE OF RETIREE DEATH:** Francis Togneri, TFFD, Opt B (no annuity balance), date of death 2/17/2010.

**WARRANT:** The bills were approved and Warrant #2 was signed as follows:

Contributory Warrant #2	\$184,085.55
Breakdown: Payroll	137,746.78
Expenses (Admin)	4,800.69
3(8)c payments	41,538.08

The minutes of January 26, 2010 were signed into the record.

Financial Statements and mail were distributed and reviewed by the Board.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2010 at 1:00 P.M.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

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Carolyn Olsen

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David Dion

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Cheryl Clark

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Marianne Fiske

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Frank Abbondanzio

Respectfully submitted,

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Shari Hildreth  
Administrator  
Montague Retirement Board