



TRUMBULL POLICE PENSION BOARD

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PENSION TRUSTEES

RAYMOND G. BALDWIN, JR., CHAIRMAN
ANGELO MAGLIOCCO, VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN VAZZANO, SECRETARY
MICHAEL LOMBARDO, CHIEF OF POLICE
DONALD ALLEN
ROBERT COPPOLA
LISA LABELLA
EDGAR PEREZ
CHRISTIAN TREFZ
ALBERT ZAMARY

Special Trumbull Police Pension Board of Trustees Meeting
Police Headquarters
158 Edison Road
November 12, 2019

MINUTES

The Special Trumbull Police Pension Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Members Present: Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr., Chairman
Christian Trefz
John Vazzano
Chief Michael Lombardo
Donald Allen
Robert Coppola
Edgar Perez

Absent: Angelo Magliocco, Vice Chairman
Lisa Labella
Albert Zamary

Approval of October 8, 2019 Special Police Pension Board Minutes

Motion made by Vazzano to approve the October 8, 2019 Special Police Pension Board minutes, seconded by Coppola. There was no further discussion. Motion passed with one abstention, Trefz.

New Business

Discussion and Approval of disbursement of Police Pension fund for former Police Officer Danielle Petruso

Sgt. Coppola, explained that a former Police Officer, Danielle Petruso, requested her Police Pension fund be disbursed a couple of years ago. The department did not receive any further disbursement at the time. Ms. Petruso left her pension contributions in the Trumbull Police

Pension fund account. Recently, Therese Keegan, Auditor for the Town of Trumbull performed an audit of the Police Pension Board for the Town of Trumbull and she indicated that she noticed that Danielle Petruso has her contributions still with the town and she should have the funds be disbursed, as she is no longer an employee for the Town of Trumbull. Sgt. Coppola contacted Ms. Petruso and informed her that Brad Fisher of Findley, the Towns Actuary, would be providing a calculation of her contributions and a check would be disbursed to her with an effective date of December 1, 2019. It was requested that she provide instructions on where she would like the check be sent. Mr. Findley provided her total contributions with interest as of December 1, 2019, which is follows:

Employee Contribution after October 1, 1987:	\$11,471.00
Interest on Employee Contributions:	<u>\$15,711.75</u>
Total Employee Contributions with Interest as of December 1, 2019:	\$27,183.15

Ms. Petruso has provided with instructions via email of where the \$27,183.15 should be transferred. The information provided was Great West Trust Company, LLC, PO Box 560877, Denver, CO. No taxes will be withheld because the contributions will be rolled over to another pension account.

A motion was made by Coppola to transfer to Empower Retirement with payment instructions in the amount of \$27,183.15 to resigned Officer Petruso, seconded by Perez. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Lombardo asked aside from the pension money the officer is entitled to, the money that goes into the insurance benefits they do not receive that, correct.

Sgt. Coppola indicated that is correct they do not receive the insurance benefits money. Sgt. Coppola believes that the officer would get 25% of that contribution if they work at least 10 Years with the Department.

Old Business

Discussion and Consideration of Mr. Brad Fisher's recommendation to seek Legal Counsel as to whether or not "separate interest" QDRO is permissible, or whether any QDRO must take the form of a "shared interest" per the DRO of Thomas Dzurenda

Sgt. Coppola explained that this was discussed at the October meeting and it was forwarded to Mr. Fisher for guidance on the wording of the DRO pertaining to Thomas Dzurenda. Mr. Fisher reviewed the draft DRO and suggested that the Board seek legal counsel to assure that the DRO and the Contract language are the same. There was detailed conversation on the language that is in question. What Sgt. Coppola indicated what the contract says is, if an officer retires and has a surviving spouse, the surviving spouse would receive half of the pension. The way the DRO reads is and sounds like, that the ex-spouse would receive the pension for life. The contract does not allow this. When the retiree passes away, the ex-spouse no longer receives her portion of the monthly pension. If the ex-spouse passes away prior to the retiree, the

retiree reclaims the ex-spouses portion of the monthly pension. Sgt. Coppola is under the understanding that once the retiree passes away the ex-spouse does not continue to receive a monthly pension. Sgt. Coppola has suggested that a letter be written to Elizabeth McMahon explaining the pension does not allow for a non-surviving spouse to receive a monthly pension for life as the language reads in the draft DRO.

Chairman Baldwin indicated that the letter should come from an attorney representing the Board. The Board should seek guidance from the Town Attorney.

Chief Lombardo will contact Attorney Schopick to seek Legal Counsel pertaining to the draft DRO. There is also a Town Attorney the Pension Board for the Town of Trumbull utilizes.

Chairman Baldwin would like a motion to be made to refer the DRO to Legal Counsel for review and draft a letter to Attorney McMahon according to the Trumbull Police Contract language.

Sgt. Coppola had a question regarding the escalator increases. Clarification is needed. Once Officer T. Dzurenda retires, he will receive a yearly escalator increase. Sgt. Coppola's question is, would the ex-spouse receive a portion of that escalator increase as well?

A motion was made by Coppola to contact the Pension Board Attorney to draft a letter in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Contract and have letter send to Elizabeth McMahon for clarification, seconded by Allen. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Chief Lombardo and seconded by Vazzano the Special Trumbull Police Pension Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission