

## VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 19, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

### **VMERS Members present:**

KIMBERLY GLEASON, Vice-Chair, Employer Representative (term expiring July 1, 2020) – via telephone

MORGAN DAYBELL, Employee Representative (term expiring July 1, 2020) – via telephone

CHRISTOPHER DUBE, Employee Representative (term expiring July 1, 2022)

MICHAEL CLASEN, Deputy State Treasurer

### **Members absent:**

MAURA CARROLL, Chairperson, Employer Representative (term expiring July 1, 2022)

BETH PEARCE, Vermont State Treasurer

### **Also attending:**

Erika Wolffing, Director of Retirement Operations

Will Kriewald, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Clasen called the Tuesday, November 19, 2019 Board Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. which was held in the Treasurer's Conference Room, Pavilion Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT.

### **ITEM 1:      Agenda approval and announcements**

There were no announcements or changes to the agenda.

### **ITEM 2:      Approve the minutes of:**

- October 29, 2019

**On a motion made by Mr. Dube, seconded by Mr. Daybell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 29, 2019 as submitted.**

### **ITEM 3:      VMERS FY21 Budget Overview**

Mr. Kriewald presented the draft FY21 VMERS Budget overview and highlighted the changes over the previous year. The proposed budget includes the 2019 actual expenses as requested last year. The FY21 budget results in an overall reduction of 11% primarily driven by changes in the investment management services. There was also an increase in office and administrative support of approximately 6% or \$40,000.

**On a motion made by Ms. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Dube, the Board voted unanimously to accept the VMERS FY21 draft budget as presented.**

Mr. Kriewald left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

**ITEM 4:      Delta Dental Contract Extension**

Mr. Clasen explained the Delta Dental Contract extension. The contract was negotiated 3 years ago for all three systems. The dental insurance premiums are paid 100% by the retirees. Delta Dental proposed increasing the premium rates by 8.97% for one year. Treasurer's Office staff asked Delta Dental to provide rates for a 3-year period and Delta Dental proposed a 11.77% increase for year 1 and no increase for years 2 and 3.

**On a motion made by Mr. Dube, seconded by Mr. Daybell, the Board voted unanimously to approve extending the Delta Dental contract for either a 1-year term (reflecting an 8.97% increase in premiums) or a 3-year term (reflecting an 11.77% increase in year 1 and 0% increase in years 2 and 3), with a preference for the 3-year term. Notwithstanding this preference, the motion approves either option due to the need for consistency among the three retirement systems.**

**ITEM 5:      Act on the following request to join VMERS Group A:**

- Town of Wheelock

Ms. Wolffing presented the request from Town of Wheelock to join VMERS Group A effective January 1, 2020. The town currently has 2 employees that will receive an election to join VMERS if the Board approves Town of Wheelock's request.

**On a motion made by Ms. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Daybell, the Board voted unanimously to allow Town of Wheelock to join VMERS Group A.**

**ITEM 6:      Waiver request to add VMERS Group C effective July 1, 2020**

- Windham Central Supervisory Union

Ms. Wolffing explained the waiver request from Windham Central Supervisory Union to offer a higher Group to an existing Group of employees. The deadline to request a higher Group is September 30 for the following July 1 effective date. Windham Central Supervisory Union is requesting a waiver to the deadline pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 5068.

**On a motion made by Mr. Dube, seconded by Ms. Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver request from Windham Central Supervisory Union to offer VMERS Group C effect July 1, 2020.**

**ITEM 7:      Disability Hearing Officer Selection**

Ms. Wolffing informed the Board that the current hearing officer Mr. Zimmerman is retiring. The Retirement Office completed a simplified bid for a new hearing officer. The responses returned were comparable and the Retirement office expressed a preference from Mr. Adam Powers as he came recommended by the Agency of Education.

**On a motion made by Mr. Clasen, seconded by Mr. Daybell, the Board voted unanimously to select Adam Powers as the hearing officer for disability retirement appeals and authorized the Retirement Office to enter into a one-year contract with Mr. Powers.**

**ITEM 8: Disability recommendation(s) from the October 17, 2019 Meeting of the Medical Review Board.**

- Charles Brown

**On a motion made by Mr. Dube, seconded by Mr. Daybell, the Board voted unanimously to approve disability retirement for Charles Brown with a one-year review.**

**ITEM 9: Other Business**

None.

**ITEM 10: Adjournment**

**On a motion made by Mr. Dube, seconded by Ms. Gleason, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:26 p.m.**

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next scheduled VMERS meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Erika Wolffing  
Director Retirement Operations