

BERKS COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2021

The Berks County Retirement Fund Board met in a regular session on Monday, April 26, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Chairman Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Secretary Sandra Graffius, Treasurer Dennis Adams, and Members Vice Chairman Michael Rivera and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. The following County staff attended: Jessica Weaknecht, Director of Human Resources; Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor; Code Kauffman, Assistant County Solicitor; Stephanie Weaver, Public Relations Officer; Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer; Christie Bennett-Zellers, Benefit Manager, Grazyna Nykiel, Deputy Controller; Ronald Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR

None.

Chairman Christian Leinbach reported the Berks County Employees' Retirement Fund balance as of April 23, 2021 is \$560,268,261.76.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Mike Burke from SEI remarked that the balance Commissioner Leinbach reported is reflective of a few things; a continued appreciation in capital markets during the first quarter and a very strong rolling one-year period. With all the uncertainty, the decision the Board made to continue to stay committed to a well-diversified strategy and being able to participate in the recovery that we have seen over the past year has really led to a great return.

Mr. Burke shared that there has been a very strong Mega Cap tech rally which has been beneficial for the stay at home team. It has also been what has been working at the expense of many other corners of the market. In the first quarter, there was some rotation away from the more cyclical corners of the market into areas that are tuned into more normalized recovery efforts. Rising interest rates helped banks, and the financial sector started to shine and add some value. He continued that we saw a more diversified, rotated kind of marketplace, which led to a more balanced profile and more balanced return. Mr. Burke added that this is a bit of a healthier environment to be in and speaks to some of the positive recovery efforts that we have been seeing.

Mr. Terry Gerlach continued with the presentation. He started off by stating that if you look at the \$136.2 million in gains, it is an extraordinary number leading to where the quarter started.

Mr. Gerlach gave credit to the Retirement Board and stated while many investors panicked when the Covid news was breaking, the economy began to lock down, and markets started taking a dive; by staying disciplined, it benefited the fund tremendously.

Chairman Leinbach questioned what Terry's thoughts were with all the news regarding the resurgence of Covid in India since he has seen that there are some market concerns relative to what is taking place in that country. Mr. Gerlach replied that they are thinking it is still more of a short-term concern for a couple of reasons. First, the vaccination rate is going up world-wide although India is suffering more than most other countries. He thinks the market is correctly anticipating that the economy globally is reopening. Secondly, he thinks that as bad as the Covid crisis has been for humanity, the markets treated it as a natural disaster as opposed to a great depression. Typically, what happens in a natural disaster is that no matter how bad things are during the disaster, things quickly recover once it is over. The big risk, as there is always risk, is that variant mutations may cause the vaccines to be ineffective which would be very negative for the economy. For the short term, there may be some bumps along the way, but the economy is still progressing out of this crisis. Mr. Gerlach concluded that they will stay committed through any short-term volatility.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Michael Rivera and second by Secretary Sandra Graffius to authorize the following. Motion carried.

- 07R.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing employee buyback request as follows:
- a. Jodi A. Snyder purchasing 4 months and 9 days of LOA time in the amount of \$1,203.86.

2. A motion was made by Treasurer Dennis Adams and second by Secretary Sandra Graffius to authorize the following. Motion carried.

- 07R.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing employee buyback request as follows:
- b. Angela M. Vallonio purchasing 2 years and 24 days of prior service time in the amount of \$5,870.03.

AUTHORIZE DISBURSEMENTS

1. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Michael Rivera and second by Secretary Sandra Graffius to authorize the disbursements as follows. Motion carried.

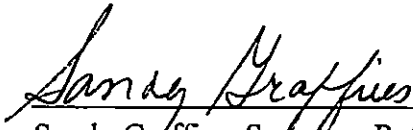
08R.2021 A. Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving annuities and refunds for March 2021 as follows:

Annuities	\$1,964,387.80
Refund	\$ 238,777.78
Total	\$2,203,165.58

09R.2021 B. Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving payment of Invoice No. 195220335 in the amount of \$8,625.00 to Korn Ferry (US) for Actuarial Services to Agreement #PC-227009-20, for the 1st Quarter 2021

There being no further business, on motion made by Vice Chairman Michael Rivera and second by Secretary Sandra Graffius, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandy Graffius, Secretary Retirement Fund Board