

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN**  
**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**MINUTES – NOVEMBER 1, 2024**  
**CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM**

**1) Call Meeting to Order**

Chairperson Lauri Siskind called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Farmington Hills, Michigan Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to order at 9:01 a.m. on November 1, 2024, in the City Hall Community Room.

**Roll call.**

Board Members Present: Lauri Siskind  
Eric Gould  
Tom Skrobola  
Tim Waker  
Domenic Lauria  
Tom Allen  
Paul Wonfor

Others Present: Attorney Michael VanOverbeke; Investment Consultants Mike Holycross and Brian Green; Pension Accountant Susan Hardy; Finance Department Secretary Stephanie Keimer; Jim Anderson and Gabe Masek from Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company (GRS); Michael Rolka from Yeo & Yeo; DPW Supervisor Don Droelle

**2) Approval of Agenda – MOTION #FH-2024-42:** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

**3) Approval of Minutes – MOTION #FH-2024-43:** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2024. Seconded by Paul Wonfor Unanimously approved.

**4) Public Comments and Questions – None.**

**5) Board Member Correspondence, Comments & Announcement**

A. Tim Waker announced that this is his last meeting. Don Droelle will be taking over starting January 1, 2025. Chairperson Siskind thanked Tim for his service.

B. Don Droelle introduced himself to the Board. Chairperson Siskind welcomed Don to the Board.

**6) Routine Matters**

A. **MOTION #FH-2024-44:** Eric Gould made a motion to accept the quarterly Report of Refunds, Beneficiary Changes, New Retirees and New Applications for Membership as of September 30, 2024. Seconded by Paul Wonfor. Unanimously approved.

B. **MOTION #FH-2024-45:** Tim Waker made a motion to accept the Report of Retirement System and Retiree Healthcare expenses paid for the quarter ending September 30, 2024, with the two date corrections discussed in the meeting. Seconded by Paul. Unanimously approved.

## 7) Reports

- A. Attorney Michael VanOverbeke deferred his Actuarial Audit RFP presentation to later in the meeting.
- B. Administrator report:
  - Tom Skrobola provided an update on the Duty Disability offset issue. City staff sent Form 4506 to the IRS for copies of 2021 and 2022 income tax returns. No response has been received at this time.
  - Tom Skrobola informed the Board that the year-end audit preparation is complete. Michael Rolka from Yeo & Yeo will present the audit results later in the meeting.

## 8) Unfinished Business

- A. Mariner Institutional provided the Board with the revised International Equity Recommendation letter containing the correct allocation recommendation per the action taken at the May 31, 2024, virtual Board Meeting. All allocations have been implemented.

## 9) New Business

- A. Michael Rolka from Yeo & Yeo presented the results of the audit of the Employees' Retirement System and the Post-Retirement Healthcare Finance fund for the FY 2023/24 Annual Financial Reports. He reported that they have provided an Unmodified Opinion for both the Employees' Retirement System and Post-Retirement Healthcare Finance fund, which means that the financial statements are accurate and fairly represented. Mr. Rolka complemented the staff's work and the funds' strong internal controls. Discussion continued with the Board. Lauri Siskind requested that Yeo & Yeo update the word employees to employers on page 4-8 in the Employee Retirement System Audit report next year.

**MOTION #FH-2024-46:** Paul Wonfor made a motion to accept the reports for the audit of both the Employees' Retirement System Audit Report and the Post-Retirement Healthcare finance fund for the period ending June 30, 2024, and forward to the plan sponsor. Seconded by Eric Gould. Unanimously approved.

- B. Actuaries Jim Anderson and Gabe Masek from Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company presented the results of the Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for the Employees' Retirement System as of June 30, 2024.

Gabe Masek indicated that the Employees' Retirement System was 70% funded as of June 30, 2024 (down from 73% funded the prior year). The City/Court required retirement system contribution will be \$11,726,684 for FY 2025/26 which is \$1,936,479 more than the FY 2024/25 contribution.

**MOTION #FH-2024-47:** Paul Wonfor made a motion to receive and accept the Employees' Retirement System actuarial report for the period ending June 30, 2024; acknowledge receipt of the actuary's presentation; forward a copy of the actuary's report to the plan sponsor; and approve the transfer of reserve amounts reflected in the Employees' Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report. Seconded by Eric Gould. Unanimously approved.

- C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Investment Performance Report as of September 30, 2024, was presented and discussed with the Board by Financial/Investment Advisors Brian Green and Mike Holycross of Mariner Institutional. The Retirement System performance was up 5.37% during the quarter

compared to the Policy Index being up 5.72% during the quarter, ranking in the 59<sup>th</sup> percentile. The Post-Retirement Healthcare Fund performance was up 5.52% during the quarter compared to the Policy Index being up 5.72% during the quarter, ranking in the 52<sup>nd</sup> percentile.

Mariner will host a virtual educational roundtable on December 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

**MOTION #FH-2024-48:** Eric Gould made a motion to accept the recommendation of Mariner Institutional for the Retirement System to reallocate the combined US Equity managers 10.6 million and the cash of 1.7 million totaling 12.3 million to Baird Intermediate fixed income. Seconded by Paul Wonfor. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION #FH-2024-49:** Eric Gould made a motion to accept the recommendation of Mariner Institutional for the Post-Retirement Healthcare to reallocate the combined US Equity managers 5.5 million to Baird Intermediate fixed income. Seconded by Paul Wonfor. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION #FH-2024-50:** Tom Allen made a motion to accept and file the Mariner quarterly investment reports for ERS and Post-Retirement Healthcare. Seconded by Tom Skrobola. Unanimously approved.

D. Michael VanOverbeke presented the Actuarial Audit RFP document to the Board.

**MOTION #FH-2024-51:** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the issuance of the RFP for Actuarial Audit Services for the Retirement System and Post-Retirement Healthcare plan, subject to the revisions as discussed at today's meeting; the RFP to be issued at such time as deemed appropriate by the Retirement Administrator and General Counsel. Seconded by Tom Allen. Unanimously approved.

E. The Board reviewed the proposed 2025 Meeting Calendar.

**MOTION #FH-2024-52:** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the 2025 Retirement Board Meeting Calendar with regular meeting dates of Friday February 21, Friday May 9, Friday August 15, and Friday November 14. Seconded by Tom Skrobola. Unanimously approved. The calendar will be posted on the City's website and on the bulletin board outside the City Hall entrance. Trustees will be sent electronic calendar appointments.

F. The Board confirmed the next meeting date of Friday, February 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room.

**10) MOTION #FH-2024-53:** Without objection, Chairperson Siskind adjourned the meeting at 12:41p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas C. Skrobola  
Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Trustees**

**Procedures for accommodations for persons with disabilities:**

Anyone planning to attend the meeting remotely or who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting, wherein necessary arrangements/accommodations will be made.