

2026- 1
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2026

Joe Cook
Patrick E. Brock
SM

A meeting of the Hampshire County Retirement Board convened on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026** at 99 Industrial Drive, Suite 2, Northampton, MA 01060. The meeting was **called to order** at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL showed Chairman Patrick E. Brock, Elected Member Sean Mangano, Appointed Members Jane Wolfe and Joe Cook, Administrator Mary G. Baronas and Assistant Administrator Patricia M. Rutkowski were present. Elected Members Jennifer LaFountain participated remotely by telephone. Jennifer LaFountain left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Mr. Brock administered the Oath of Office to the new Elected Board Member, Sean Mangano.

Mr. Brock reported that due to absences of two Board Members at the December 10, 2025 Board Meeting, there was not enough voting members present to reappoint Joe Cook as the 5th Member therefore it was rescheduled until the January 7, 2026 Board Meeting. Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Mangano’s second, the Board voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Brock, yes; Mr. Cook abstained) to appoint Joe Cook as the 5th Member of the Hampshire County Retirement Board for the term of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030.

Mr. Brock administered the Oath of Office to the 5th Board Member, Joe M. Cook.

Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Cook’s second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the **minutes of December 10, 2025**.

The following **DISBURSEMENTS** were reviewed and approved.

\$	3,444,258.88	Retirement Allowance Payroll, December 2025 (Paid 12/31/2025)	
		Annuity	\$660,978.80
		Option B Refund	\$122,552.23
		Pension	\$2,660,727.85
\$	24,487.65	Staff Payroll, December 2025.	
\$	3,500.00	Board Member Stipend, Month of January 2026.	
\$	259.30	ACSA Group Insurance, January 2026 Dental Insurance Premium. (Paid 12/29/2025)	
\$	56.95	Boston Mutual, January 2026 Life Insurance Premium. (Paid 12/29/2025)	
\$	250.32	Comcast, For the period of 12/25/2025 – 1/24/2026. (Paid 12/22/2025)	
\$	4,400.00	Conz Street Realty, Inc., February 2026 Lease.	
\$	11,250.00	Dahab Associates, Consultant fees for the period of 10/1/2025 – 12/31/2025.	
\$	393.29	Eversource, Bill date 12/18/2025.	
\$	24,709.47	Greenfield Retirement System, 2025 3(8)(c) Reimbursement.	
\$	78.00	Hackworth Systems, Alarm monitoring for 1/1/2026 – 3/31/2026. (Paid 12/16/2025)	
\$	546.50	James H. Quirk, Jr., P.C., Legal services for the period of 8/8/2025 – 12/19/2025. (Paid 12/22/2025)	

2026- 2
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2026

\$	223.00	Marcus Company, Inc , Letterhead.
\$	635.00	Mass Commercial Cleaning, Inc. , December 2025 cleaning services.
\$	945.43	National Grid , Period of 11/19/2025 – 12/19/2025.
\$	1,600.00	Purchase Power , Postage. (Paid 12/29/2025)
\$	123.85	Staples , Supplies.
\$	370.00	United States Postal Service , Business Reply Permit renewal.
\$	10,122.12	Return of Accumulated deductions for the following inactive members: J. Barre, M. Correia.

The following **SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Cook’s second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the applications for Superannuation Retirement as follows:

	Unit	DOR:	Creditable Service	Annual Allowance
Gloria J. Grace	Belchertown	11/22/2025	37.4167	\$22,282.56

The following **PAYMENTS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS** were reviewed and approved for disbursement:

\$	2,406.30	Gloria J. Grace , Retroactive payment for the benefit of November 2025 – December 2025.
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The following **DISABILITY RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS** were reviewed.

Ms. Baronas reported that the medical panel reviews and certificates for **Mark Bushee** were received. After review of the medical panel reports and certifications of disability, the Board took the following action. Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Cook’s second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to grant an Ordinary Disability Retirement Allowance for Mark Bushee.

Ms. Baronas reported that the medical panel reviews and certificates for **Deane Messeck** were received. After review of the medical panel reports and certifications of disability, the Board took the following action. Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Cook’s second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to grant an Accidental Disability Retirement Allowance for Deane Messeck.

The list of **PENDING RETIREMENTS** was distributed for Board review.

2026- 3
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2026

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The following **MAKE-UPS AND REDEPOSITS FOR CURRENT MEMBERS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the following make-ups/redeposits for current members as noted:.

Denise A. Leckenby , request for a makeup of 2 years 1 month for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 10/17/2022 – 6/30/2025.
Emma M. DeAngelis , request for a makeup of 8 months for service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 8/16/2023 – 8/24/2025.
Alena S. Magee , request for a redeposit of 2 years 9 months for service with the Amherst/Pelham Regional School District during the period of 9/25/2019 – 8/31/2022.

The following **TRANSFERS** were reviewed. Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to approve the following transfers as individually noted:

<u>Transfer to Hampden County Regional Retirement Board</u>	
\$ 379.56	Kimberley K. Gonyea , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 month for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 8/25/2025 – 10/24/2025.
\$ 660.61	Julie A. Betti , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 month for service with the Town of South Hadley during the period of 8/25/2025 – 10/22/2025.
<u>Transfer to Massachusetts State Retirement Board</u>	
\$ 91,473.27	Daniel J. Welch , transfer with liability acceptance of 10 years 5 months for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 2/2/2015 – 9/14/2022 and the Town of Belchertown during the period of 9/30/2022 – 8/12/2025.
\$ 24,412.19	Marlene S. Perkins , transfer with liability acceptance of 8 years 7 months for service with the Town of Belchertown during the period of 9/21/2015 – 10/17/2025.
\$ 120,442.05	Theodore R. Casey , transfer with liability acceptance of 2 years 5 months for service with the Town of Hadley during the periods of 2/27/2023 – 12/8/2023, 3/18/2024 – 9/5/2025 and the Town of Hatfield during the period of 12/11/2023 – 3/15/2024.
\$ 170,155.82	Melissa L. Zawadzki , transfer with liability acceptance of 10 months for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 7/1/2024 – 12/31/2025.
<u>Transfer to Chicopee Retirement Board</u>	
\$ 3,763.50	Chelsea J. Crochiere , transfer with liability acceptance of 1 year 7 months for service with the Town of Granby during the period of 11/27/2023 – 10/14/2025.
\$ 247.91	Denise Almodovar , transfer with no liability acceptance (less than 1 month) for service with the Town of Hadley during the period of 8/25/2025 – 9/19/2025.
<u>Transfer to Northampton Retirement Board</u>	

2026- 4
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2026

\$	6,301.38	Michael Krstyen , transfer with liability acceptance of 3 months for service with the Town of Amherst during the period of 5/20/2024 – 9/3/2024.
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Upon Ms. Wolfe’s motion and Mr. Mangano’s second, the Board voted unanimously (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, yes; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to accept **15 new members** for January 7, 2026, as summarized:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 4	Total
15	0	0	15
*note: dual or reinstated members not included in count of new members			

The following **INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL STATUS REPORTS** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

The Board reviewed the **Asset Allocation Report** for November 2025.

The Board reviewed the **Investment Custody Reports** for the Months of November 2025 – January 2026.

The Board reviewed the **Cash Flow Report & Administrative Budget Report**.

The Board reviewed the **Appropriations Paid Report**.

The Board reviewed the **Accounting Reports** for the Month of November 2025.

The Board reviewed the **Bank Reconciliations** for the Month of December 2025.

The following **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND OTHER RETIREMENT ISSUES** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

Mr. Brock distributed the **Special COLA Commission Final Report** for the Board review.

The following **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES** were discussed and action was taken as individually noted:

Ms. Baronas provided the Board with her Self Evaluation for 2024 and 2025. Ms. Baronas asked the Board to grant the 3% salary increase for each year. Board held a discussion and request will be reviewed at the February 11, 2026 Board Meeting.

The following **PERAC Memo/News** were noted as having been distributed, upon their receipt, for Board review.

PERAC Memo #34/2025 – Proposed Amendment to Electronic Signature Regulations

PERAC Memo #35/2025 – 2025 Disability Data Changes

PERAC Memo #36/2025 – Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training – 1st Quarter, 2026

PERAC Memo #37/2025 – Tobacco Company List

2026- 5
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
January 7, 2026

Future Board meetings are scheduled for:

February 11, 2026 – Monthly Meeting

March 11, 2026 – Monthly Meeting and 4th Quarter Investment Review

Upon Ms. Wolfe's motion and Mr. Cook's second, the Board voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Wolfe, yes; Ms. LaFountain, absent; Mr. Mangano, yes; Mr. Cook, yes; Mr. Brock, yes) to **adjourn** the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

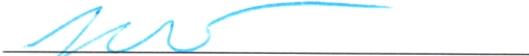


Patricia M. Rutkowski, Assistant Administrator

Approved by the Hampshire County Retirement Board:



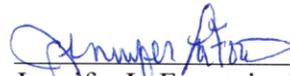
Patrick E. Brock, Chairman



Sean Mangano, Elected Member



Joe Cook, Appointed Member



Jennifer LaFountain, Elected Member



Jane Wolfe, Appointed Member