

MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE MAGISTRATES RETIREMENT FUND OF GEORGIA

Monday, November 14, 2022

1208 Greenbelt Drive
Griffin, Georgia 30224

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Magistrates Retirement Fund of Georgia was held on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Vice Chair Murphy. Chair Moss requested that Vice Chair Murphy run the meeting as she is attending via video conference. The following is a list of persons present at the meeting:

A. Board Members and Staff

Judge Mary Kathryn Moss, Board Chair (via video)
Judge Brendan Murphy, Board Vice Chair
Judge Berryl Anderson, Board Member
Judge Rita Cavanaugh, Board Member
Judge Connie Holt, Board Member
Harlan Proveaux, Board Member (via video)
Cody Whitlock, Board Member (via video)
Homer Bryson, Secretary-Treasurer
Brandt Barlow, CFO
Jebby Votaw, Board Secretary
Bryan Schivera, Attorney to the Board (via video)

B. Financial Advisors

Jim Fallon and Paul Troup, AmRet

C. Actuaries

Joe Griffin and Amanda Brown, Foster and Foster

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Judge Cavanaugh made a motion, seconded by Judge Holt, to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held August 15, 2022. The vote of approval was unanimous.

III. LEGAL MATTERS

Bryan Schivera, attorney for the Fund, discussed Judge Allen Wigington, former Magistrate Judge in Pickens County, who was convicted of felony charges in May 2021. The question raised by the Board is if he has to self-report his arrest/conviction to the Fund and does this apply to any Magistrate Judge who

is arrested. Mr. Schivera will research the subject to report back to the Board and provide a policy amendment at the next quarterly meeting. Judge Wigington is not vested and a refund of dues has not been paid to him. Mr. Schivera stated that the process is initiated when the refund is requested by the member. The Board cannot initiate the refund.

IV. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Joe Griffin and Amanda Brown, Foster and Foster, presented the June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation. Mr. Griffin explained that the actuaries use this valuation as a snapshot of the Fund plan. They look at the information on current members and project benefit payments for the next 100 years. Assets returned an estimated 5.34% (vs 6.50% assumed) on an actuarial value of assets basis for fiscal 2022, which resulted in a loss of approximately \$0.45 million. Liability experience resulted in a gain of approximately \$0.45 million, making a net actuarial plan experience for the year \$0. A 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment was granted January 1, 2022 and also in July 1, 2022. Mr. Griffin stated that the Board can grand a one-time cost-of-living adjustment to all members of the Fund effective January 1, 2023. *A motion was made by Judge Holt, seconded by Judge Anderson, to approve the 1.5% COLA. The vote of approval was unanimous.*

Brandt Barlow presented the Quarterly Financial Statement. Court fees are up 34% from last year. Due to inflation, an increase in handling the Magistrate Fund in our office will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Jim Fallon and Paul Troup, AmRet, presented their quarterly review. Mr. Fallon reported that the fund balance is at \$38 million. Funding is down 10% in the one-year recap and down 13% for the benchmark. His plan is to be methodical with their funding approach. He will bring suggestions to the February 2023 board meeting. Mr. Troup stated that we have a strong US dollar. Non-US markets are down 15% and our currency is down 10%, giving us a -25% in those markets. AmRet investing in core bond managers is at -14.5% and equity managers is -15%. Stocks and bonds have the same negative effect; however, the Fund is close to target for the period ending September 30, 2022. He further stated that our fund is more equity oriented than a typical fund of our size, but it is being handled correctly for the ten year overview.

Judge Murphy questioned if the report presented includes fees and the response was this report is gross of fees. Gross fees are -16.3% and net fees are -16.6%.

Mr. Troup stated that AmRet has made sure that large cap and mid cap managers are style neutral, meaning there is no bias toward growth or value. Waycross focus is core equity. They underperformed at -20.8%, but are the most disadvantaged as their stocks are not highly diversified. PayPal is still part of their portfolio.

The Board thanked Mr. Fallon and Mr. Troup for their report.

Homer Bryson presented the Membership report.

V. RETIREMENTS

Charles S. Hinson, Effingham County, Effective 12/1/22.

James E. Anderson, Tattnall County, Effective 8/1/22.

A motion was made by Judge Holt, seconded by Judge Cavanaugh, to approve the Hinson retirement and to table the Anderson retirement until the next meeting due to pending criminal charges. The vote of approval was unanimous.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Brandt Barlow presented the 2022 Annual Report, which gives a break down of the Fund with contributions, membership, investments and funding status, financial statements, and a history of cost-of-living adjustments. It will be posted on the Fund website and will be emailed to judges. Edits were recommended by the Board. *A motion was made by Judge Holt, seconded by Judge Anderson, to approve with edits the 2022 Annual Report. The vote of approval was unanimous.*

VII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

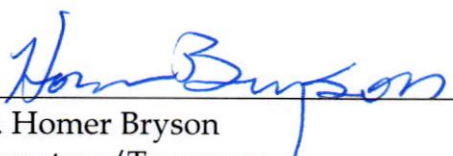
The 2023 calendar dates are scheduled as follows: February 13th, May 8th, August 14th, November 6th. *A motion was made by Judge Holt, seconded by Judge Cavanaugh, to approve the 2023 meeting dates. The vote of approval was unanimous.*

The consensus of the board was approval of the following meeting:
Monday, February 13, 2023.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Judge Holt made a motion, seconded by Judge Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


P. Homer Bryson
Secretary/Treasurer

The above and foregoing minutes were approved at the meeting held on the 13th day of February, 2023.