

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN**  
**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2023**  
**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 August 11, 2023, in the City Hall Community Room.

**Roll call.**

Board Members Present: Eric Gould  
Lauri Siskind  
Tom Skrobola  
Tim Waker  
Brian Moore  
Domenic Lauria  
Absent: Stacy Parke

Others Present: Attorney Michael VanOverbeke; Investment Consultant Mike Holycross;  
Finance Department Secretary Stephanie Keimer; Finance Department  
Assistant Director Teresa Jablonski.

**2) Approval of Agenda - [MOTION #FH-2023-28](#):** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

**3) Approval of Minutes – [MOTION #FH-2023-29](#):** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2023. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

**4) Approval of Minutes – [MOTION #FH-2023-30](#):** Eric Gould made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 16, 2023. Seconded by Domenic Lauria. Unanimously approved.

**5) Public Comments and Questions - None.**

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

A. Tom Skrobola introduced the new Assistant Finance Director Teresa Jablonski to the Board.

**7) Routine Matters**

A. **[MOTION #FH-2023-31](#):** Eric Gould made a motion to accept the quarterly Report of Refunds, Beneficiary Changes, New Retirees and New Applications for Membership as of June 30, 2023. Seconded by Domenic Lauria. Unanimously approved.

B. **[MOTION #FH-2023-32](#):** Eric Gould made a motion to accept the Report of Retirement System and Retiree Healthcare expenses paid for the quarter ending June 30, 2023. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

C. The Investment Subcommittee (ISC) did not meet. The current members are Eric Gould, Brian Moore, and Stacy Parke.

D. Attorney Michael VanOverbeke provided the Board with a brief update on the Open Meetings Act legislation. He had several items to discuss with the Board which are later in the agenda.

E. Administrator report:

- Pension – Defined Benefit conversion project: Tom Skrobola reported that letters were sent out to all employees who purchased prior service. The letters confirmed the amount of service purchase, the total funds sent to the pension system, where the funds were sent from, and the date of the transaction.

**8) Old Business**

- A. Mike Holycross from AndCo Financial Advisors discussed the two Corbin redemption requests the board has approved to date. The redemption from 3/31/23 has been received in the amount of \$1.5 million. The upcoming redemption of 9/30/23 is \$1.2 million and is expected to be paid in mid-November. The redemption window of 12/31/23 is the only time a redemption request for the entire remaining balance can be entered. 90-95% of the funds can be expected back within the first quarter of 2024. The remaining balance would come back by June 30, 2023. It is possible for the board to reduce the amount of the redemption request or to rescind the request prior to 12/31/23.

**MOTION #FH-2023-33:** Tom Skrobola made a motion to enter a redemption request from Corbin for the remaining available balance of \$4.7 million for ERS and \$2.3 million for the Post-Retirement Healthcare for the December 31, 2023, redemption window. Seconded by Eric Gould. Unanimously approved.

**9) New Business**

- A. **MOTION #FH-2023-34:** Tom Skrobola made a motion to approve the resolution prepared and recommended by legal counsel, to adopt the use of the revised 402 Notice. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.
- B. **MOTION #FH-2023-35:** Tom Skrobola made a motion to approve the Montgomery DRO Resolution prepared and recommended by legal counsel. Seconded by Brian Moore. Unanimously approved.
- C. **MOTION #FH-2023-36:** Eric Gould made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss a legal opinion. Seconded by Brian Moore. Unanimously approved.

Attorney Michael VanOverbeke reviewed the legal opinion from VanOverbeke, Michaud & Timmony, P.C., which is confidential and subject to attorney-client privilege, with the Board. The Board discussed this matter.

**MOTION #FH-2023-37:** Tom Skrobola made a motion to come out of closed session. Seconded by Domenic Lauria. Unanimously approved.

**MOTION #FH-2023-38:** Tom Skrobola made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the legal opinion from the Board's legal counsel and acknowledge the discussion of the Board in closed session regarding said opinion. The Board hereby resolves to suspend payments of pension benefits to Suroor Shamoun immediately with the next pension benefit payment; to notify Mr. Shamoun that the Board has reviewed the information provided by him as well as the information provided directly from the IRS and that the Board finds that he has been engaged in a gainful business activity and has business income such that suspension of his disability benefit is appropriate and the board finding that he has been

overpaid benefits in calendar years 2020 and 2021; the staff is hereby directed to continue to work with legal counsel to obtain the additional information for income in calendar years 2021 and 2022 to determine his benefit offset for calendar years 2022 and 2023; that until such time as the Board has received that information, his benefits are to continue to be suspended and the Board will seek appropriate collection of any amounts paid in excess of the earnings limitation provided in the Retirement Ordinance. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

- D. The 2nd Quarter Investment Performance Report as of June 30, 2023, was presented and discussed with the Board by Financial/Investment Advisor Mike Holycross of AndCo Consulting. The Retirement System performance was up 2.59% during the quarter compared to the Policy Index being up 3.70% during the quarter, ranking in the 72nd percentile. The Retiree Healthcare Fund performance was up 2.66% during the quarter compared to the Policy Index being up 3.70% during the quarter, ranking in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.

The Retirement System performance was up 8.64% during the fiscal year compared to the Policy Index being up 9.34% during the fiscal year, ranking in the 55th percentile. The Retiree Healthcare Fund performance was up 8.75% during the fiscal year compared to the Policy Index being up 9.34% during the fiscal year, ranking in the 53rd percentile.

**MOTION #FH-2023-39:** Eric Gould made a motion to accept and file the AndCo quarterly investment reports for ERS and Post-Retirement Health Care. Seconded by Tim Waker. Unanimously approved.

- E. **MOTION #FH-2023-40:** Eric Gould made a motion to appoint Board members Brian Moore and Tim Waker as voting delegates at the Fall 2023 MAPERS Conference, with alternates Domenic Lauria and Tom Skrobola. Seconded by Domenic Lauria. Unanimously approved.
- F. **MOTION #FH-2023-41:** Tim Waker made a motion to change the November Board meeting from Friday November 10, 2023, to Friday November 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Seconded by Tom Skrobola. Unanimously approved.

- 10) **MOTION #FH-2023-42:** Without objection, Chairperson Siskind adjourned the meeting at 11:02AM.

**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.