# Meeting of the Retirement Plan for CTA Employees Board of Trustees April 27, 2023 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

# Regular Session Meeting Minutes

The Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees, by way of Microsoft Teams and telephone conference calls, and in compliance with the Illinois COVID-19 Executive Order, convened a meeting on April 27, 2023, at 9:36 a.m. Participants in the meeting were:

Mr. Keith Hill, Chairman

Mr. Tom McKone, Vice-Chairman

Mr. John Burkard

Mr. Eric Dixon

Mr. Woodrow Eiland

Ms. Theresa Fletcher-Brown

Mr. Andrew Fuller

Mr. Tiant Gatewood

Ms. April Morgan

Mr. Christopher Kasmer

Ms. Michele Curran, Deputy CFO & Comptroller

### Also present:

Mr. Paul Sidrys Interim Executive Director

Mr. Richard W. Burke General Counsel

Mr. Hector Flores

Mr. Mark Weems

# Appearances:

Mr. Michael Spychalski Marquette Associates Angela Myers, Loop Capital Markets

Patrick McPherson, Court Reporter

# **Consideration of Minutes from prior Meeting**

Mr. Christopher Kasmer, sitting in for the meeting until John Burkhard is able to join the meeting once his telephonic communications problems are resolved. There were ten participants at the meeting.

The Chairman called to the attention of the Trustees the minutes of the March 23, 2023 meeting. Trustee Gatewood moved for its adoption which motion was seconded by Trustee Dixon. A roll call vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

# **Investment Committee**

The Chairman called for a report from the Investment Committee which was given by Mr. Spychalski. Mr. Spychalski first gave the market environment report. Mr. Spychalski turned to the investment portfolio and reported that the market value of the portfolio was \$1,897,789,991 as of the close of business on April 26, 2023 and of this amount the cash balance was \$10.2 million. He stated that there was no need for rebalancing of the portfolio. The portfolio is in line with targets. He reported that investment performance was up 2.7 percent net of fees preliminarily for the first quarter. The bond portfolio was up 2.8 percent with U.S. fixed incomed matching its benchmark.

# **Old Business**

The summary of litigation was given by Mr. Richard Burke. Mr. Burke also reported in regard to the Ayanna Nesbitt matter. He said that there may be negotiations in regard to a plea agreement. We do not yet have any details in regard to those discussions. He added if there was a plea agreement reached the Retirement Plan would then be elicited for its views in regard to what would be the appropriate sentencing for Ms. Nesbitt.

Mr. Richard Burke commented on the opt-in program which is being considered by the Plan Office providing individuals who have opted out of the Retirement Plan an opportunity to opt back into the Plan and pay the contributions for future service. There may be applications forthcoming. Mr. Hector Flores then reported that the question that is being posed by certain individuals who are interested in opting in is what treatment should be given to the monies which they have in the program prior to their opting out. Mr. Richard Burke responded that if the Plan is so amended by the Authority and the bargaining Unions, and the individuals opt to come back into the Plan, their contributions would remain in the Plan, their historic contributions and their prior service time and future service and contributions would be added together. Mr. Richard Burke added that for those individuals who chose not to opt back in there should be a refund of their contributions and they would have no record of having credit for the prior service. Mr. Richard Burke stated that it was not a true statement that the individuals believe if they can opt out of the Union, they can opt out of the Pension Plan. That is not acceptable. The individuals who opt back in only get credit for

prior service and contributions if the actual contribution and service time they left behind is merged with their future service and contributions.

Mr. Sidrys gave a status report in regard to the acquisition of pension administration software. Mr. Sidrys stated that the RFP document is 99 percent complete and very shortly will be out to the market. Mr. Sidrys reported that there is a list of fourteen vendors who will be receiving the RFP and he is hopeful that they will have responses within eight weeks.

# **The General Administration Committee**

The General Administration Committee report was given by Eric Dixon. The report had been delivered to the Trustees. Trustee Kasmer then moved to approve the applications in the report. His motion was seconded by Trustee Gatewood. The motion carried. Trustee Dixon reported that there were no requests for attendance at educational conferences.

The Chairman reported there was no need for an Executive Session, whereupon Mr. Gatewood made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Eiland. The motion was unanimously passed on a roll call vote, and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.