



City of Cincinnati Retirement System Benefits Committee Minutes

August 27, 2009 12:00 P.M.
Committee Room B

The Chair declared a quorum and called the meeting to order: 12:05 P.M.

Present

Mike Rachford – Chair
Bryan Schmitt
Don Beets
Brian Pickering

Staff present:

John Dietz
Cheryl Volk, Recorder
Roshani Hardin

Absent

Michael Fehn, Vice Chair

MINUTES

B. Pickering made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2009 meeting of the Benefits Committee. D. Beets seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

□ Deferred Retirement Application

Gerald Powell who separated from service with the city in year 2000, filed an application June 16, 2009 for Deferred Retirement with effective date February 2009. Mr. Powell who will be 60 years old upon retirement would also be eligible for health-care benefits. The Cincinnati Municipal Code (CMC) requires Deferred Retirement applications be submitted within one year of separation from service. Mrs. Powell presented to the Board to request approval of the application and the Board referred the request to the Benefits Committee.

Mrs. Powell, who represented her husband Gerald, requested the Benefits Committee to approve his application for Deferred Retirement. Mrs. Powell stated they were unaware of the timeline for filing the application.

The committee will request a legal opinion concerning possible revision of the requirement as stated in the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

Committee Action

B. Pickering made a motion to approve Gerald Powell's application for Deferred Retirement. B. Schmitt seconded the motion. Mike Rachford, B. Pickering, B. Schmitt voted yes. Don Beets voted no. The motion passed. Recommendation for approval to be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

- Inactive members
 - Members reviewed a summary of inactive members as sorted by Account Balance and Service Credit. Discussion focused on developing a policy and procedure for processing unclaimed funds.
 - Recommendations considered:
 - Develop a process for notifying separated employees of options and timeline.
 - Implement a fee structure for failure to respond within timeline
 - Revise the CMC as appropriate
 - Post the process and options on City Matters web site

PENDING BUSINESS

- Pending List
 - Governance Schedule
 - Clarification of "Appropriateness of benefit plan design." Refers to the current activities of the Benefits Committee. The report should capture the improvements and corrective actions plans as developed by the Benefits Committee. Topics would include the CRS loan program, disability application process, health insurance, various administrative processes, and subsequent impact upon the unfunded liability.
- Fees for Disability Appeals

R. Hardin's responded to a Request for Legal Services regarding implementation of a fee for filing a Disability Appeal. R. Hardin advised the committee that a large fee could be viewed as an attempt to prohibit individuals from filing appeals. R. Hardin recommended a nominal fee. The Committee agreed that a fee structure should not cause a hindrance for legitimate appeals.

Committee Action

B. Pickering made a motion to apply a \$50 fee for filing a Disability Appeal. If the Denial is overturned, the \$50 fee would be refunded to the applicant. B. Schmitt seconded the motion and the motion passed. R. Hardin to provide a written recommendation to the Board.

DISABILITY REPORT

- Disability Rulings: Members agreed the front page of the Medical Director's report should be submitted to the Board with the committee's recommendation for approval.
- Appeal Process: R. Hardin confirmed that applicants have the option of presenting to the Benefits Committee to make a statement advocating their position. The committee can set a standard time limit for all applicants to make their statements to the committee.

- Medical Director Disability Reports Presented:
 - David Gatto – Denied
 - Donna Ingle – Denied
 - Michael A. Smith – Denied

Committee Action

B. Schmitt made a motion to approve the reports of the Medical Director. B. Pickering seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Committee Action

B. Pickering made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. Schmitt seconded the motion and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned 1:35 P.M.