



**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
**OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**  
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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Classified Employees Retirement Fund Regular Meeting was held remotely on Thursday, October 12, 2023 via a Zoom meeting

Those in attendance were:

Mayor Caroline Simmons	David Yanik, Controller	Kevin M. Nichols, Morgan Stanley
Mary Lou Rinaldi, Chair & Trustee	Alfred Cava, Director of Human Resources	Joseph J. Matthews, Morgan Stanley
Steven Bonaparte, Trustee	James Lavin, Retirement Benefits Specialist Human Resources	David Javaheri, Morgan Stanley
Eric Newman, Trustee	Kimberly Hawreluk, Human Resources & Benefits Assistant	Lindsay Pereguda, Morgan Stanley
Joyce Sun, Trustee	Janet Vaccaro – President, Retiree Association	Ali Guttillo, Northern Trust
Benjamin Barnes, Director of Administration	Rick Petersen – Representative, Retiree Association	Dan Colleluori, MAA Union President

Chair, Mary Lou Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**I. Minutes:**

A motion to approve the September 14, 2023 CERF Board meeting Minutes was made by Steven Bonaparte and seconded by Eric Newman. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**II. Public Participation:**

Rick Petersen relayed information obtained by an outside consultant selected by the Retiree Association on the COLA Report provided by the Plan Actuaries, Milliman. According to the report, the outside consultants agreed with the findings of the Milliman COLA report.

### **III. New Business:**

#### **A. Administrative Report – Northern Trust**

Ali Guttillo reviewed the Administrative Report for the month dated September 30, 2023, which included financials for the Fund, such as opening balance, contributions, distributions, fees, expenses and two trades. According to the report, the Fund had a loss for the month, but remained on the positive side for the fiscal year to date. Lastly, it was mentioned that the fund would need to raise cash to cover benefit payments.

#### **B. F2023 YTD Financial Updates – David Yanik, Controller**

David Yanik reviewed the unaudited financials for the Fund as of June 30, 2023, which included performance year to date, total assets, including contributions, distributions, fees and expenses. Mr. Yanik highlighted that due to the ERP Project the report would be subject to additional review.

#### **C. Morgan Stanley Consulting Group**

##### **i. Wealth Management Update**

A Capital Market update was provided by Joseph J. Matthews with information on Wealth Management Perspectives, Market Expectations and Inflation Reports. Current Indicators discussed included consumer pressure and volatile interest rates. According to Morgan Stanley, the Portfolio has had higher earnings year-over-year due to active managers with a focus on quality.

##### **ii. Investment Performance Report**

Mr. Nichols reviewed the overall Investment Performance Report, touching on Asset Allocation, Portfolio Growth, and the Manager Performance report as of September 30, 2023.

Based on the review of the report, Morgan Stanley made a recommendation to raise cash by liquidating \$6 mm as described below and allocating the proceeds to Sage Intermediate Term Fixed Income.

\$1 mm from Segall Bryant and Hamill SMID

\$2 mm from Nuance Mid Cap Value

\$1 mm from Harding Loevner International Equity

\$1 mm from SPDR Portfolio Developed ex-US ETF (SPDW)

\$1 mm from Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF (VWO)

Eric Newman motioned to approve the recommendation from Morgan Stanley as presented above. Steven Bonaparte seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

##### **iii. Aladdin Analysis 2023**

Mr. Nichols reviewed the report details as of October 4, 2023, with a focus on the Fund portfolio benchmark, current status and differences between those details as well as portfolio characteristics.

According to Morgan Stanley, over the last several years the moves made have reduced interest rate risk and saved the portfolio \$16 mm. In addition, due to the dividend yield in the stock market the Fund income has doubled. At this time, the portfolio is taking an Equity Allocation style, defensive posture.

**D. Vested Pensions:**

**i. Yolanda Perdue**

- a. Monthly Payment: **\$2,486.00**
- b. Retroactive payment: **\$253,572.00**

Steven Bonaparte made a motion to approve the vested pension and retroactive payment request for Yolanda Perdue. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**E. Return of Contributions:**

**i. Dana Huntley **\$1,491.04****

Steven Bonaparte made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for Dana Huntley. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ii. Bekim Ukperaj **\$39,329.88****

Steven Bonaparte made a motion to approve the return of contributions request for Bekim Ukperaj. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**F. Retirements:**

**i. Iselande Desyr **\$1,865.81****

Steven Bonaparte made a motion to approve the retirement request for Iselande Desyr. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ii. Aldo Vitti **\$2,287.05****

Steven Bonaparte made a motion to approve the retirement request for Aldo Vitti. Eric Newman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**G. Other: **NONE****

**H. Disability Retirements: **NONE****

**I. Buy Back: **NONE****

**J. Bills: Director Cava presented the following bills to the Board as one vote:**

<b>i. City of Stamford</b>		<b>TOTAL: \$1,489.09*</b>
*FY23 Postage Fees: January 2023	<b>Invoice# 0111211009JAN23POS</b>	\$743.64
February 2023	<b>Invoice# 0111211009FEB23POS</b>	\$745.45
<b>ii. Milliman</b>	<b>Invoice# 054SCE0623</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$1,955.00*</b>
*Actuarial Services FY23 charge		
<b>iii. Morgan Stanley</b>	<b>Invoice# 10804023279</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$117,798.16</b>
Investment Advisory Fee payments		
<b>iv. Morgan Stanley</b>	<b>Invoice# 10916023275</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$12,950.00</b>
Investment Advisory Fee		

Eric Newman motioned to approve the payment of the bills as presented and read into the record by Director Cava. Steven Bonaparte seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**K. Discussion: CERF Trustee Election**

Director Cava informed the Board that the term of Trustee, Steven Bonaparte is ending on December 17, 2023. Therefore, the Human Resources department will soon be distributing information regarding the election to both active and retired CERF Members.

With no further business, Eric Newman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Steven Bonaparte. Mary Lou Rinaldi adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

The next Meeting of the Trustees for the Classified Employees Retirement Fund will be a Quarterly Meeting scheduled for November 16, 2023 at 9:15 a.m.

DRAFT