

**SOUTHFIELD EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 25, 2025
COUNCIL STUDY – 5:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Chris Diaz; Evan Cunningham; Willie Martin; Ron Miller; Donna Sanders; Lauri Siskind (virtually)

Board Members Absent:

Others Present: Megan Battersby, Retirement Administrator/SERS; Frank Judd, Legal Counsel/VMT; Chris Kuhn, Investment Consultant/Mariner; Jeff Tebeau/GRS; James Meadows and Jelena Denic/Southfield HR

The meeting was called to order by Chris Diaz, Chair, at 5:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #S-25-007

Motion by Miller, supported by Sanders, to approve Agenda, Southfield Employee Retirement System, Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 25, 2025, as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION #S-25-008

Motion by Siskind, supported by Sanders, to approve Minutes, Southfield Employee Retirement System, Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Motion Carried Unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Informational Items
 - a. Federal Legislative Update from VMT
2. Applications for Retirement
 - a. S. Logan
 - b. E. Rae
 - c. J. Fisher
3. Authorization of Benefits
 - a. S. Logan
 - b. E. Rae
 - c. J. Maisano

- d. M. Dinan
- e. K. Wendell

4. Refund of Contributions

- a. A. Preston

5. Approval of Bills and Expenses

- a. Credit card statement for the period 01/07/2025 to 02/08/2025 in the amount of \$458.44
- b. Invoice from PIA for asset management services for the period October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$14,211.00
- c. Invoice from Champlain for asset management services for the period October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$25,672.15
- d. Invoice from D&D for asset management services for the period ending December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$20,715.00
- e. Invoice from WCM for asset management services for the period 10/01/2024 to 12/31/2024 in the amount of \$17,799.70

MOTION #S-25-009

Motion by Martin, supported by Siskind, to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Pension Calculator presentation by GRS/HR

GRS demonstrated the pension calculator that they developed for HR. The Board asked questions of both GRS and HR and requested that certain changes be made to clarify benefit provisions and improve user understanding. Legal Counsel will provide disclaimer language that they would like added to each page.

MOTION #S-25-010

Motion by Sanders, supported by Miller, to approve pension calculator subject to the incorporation of changes as directed by the Board and disclaimer language suggested by Legal Counsel. Motion Carried Unanimously

The pension calculator will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. None

INVESTMENT CONSULTANT REPORT

- 1. Investment Performance Review as of December 31, 2024
- 2. Market Update
- 3. Asset/Manager Summary

Investment Consultant presented the 4Q Performance Report. He reviewed the markets during the quarter, highlighting the wild swings in performance for stocks and bonds due to changing expectations for interest rate cuts from the Fed. The fund was down 0.54% for the quarter and up 11.73% for the year. He reviewed the managers and noted the strong returns from Champlain and Deroy & Devereaux.

Investment Consultant presented the January Market Summary and updated market values. He discussed the markets in January, noting the strong returns from mid-caps and more normal returns from fixed income. He recommended transferring funds to cash for benefits.

MOTION #S-25-011

Motion by Sanders, supported by Siskind, to approve rebalancing as recommended by the Investment Consultant as follows: transfer \$500,000 from Fidelity 500 Index Fund and \$500,000 from LSV International Equity Fund to Cash Fund. Motion Carried Unanimously

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Medical Director RFI

Legal Counsel provided a summary of information from the RFI responses that were received. He indicated that the current Medical Director did not respond.

MOTION #S-25-012

Motion by Miller, supported by Sanders, to direct Legal Counsel to request a response to the Medical Director RFI from MedSource. Motion Carried Unanimously

Legal Counsel explained actuarial audit requirements. He indicated that there may be some economies of scale if one RFP is done for all three plans (RHC, F&P, SERS) and discussion ensued. He indicated that F&P and RHC have agreed to issue a joint RFP for level 2 and 3 audits and to include an RFI component for full actuarial work. Trustee Siskind voiced her concern that requesting an RFI for full actuarial services in the same RFP as a request to audit the current actuary was a conflict of interest. In addition, she noted that the Board had not been given a copy of the RFP to review prior to approval, and requested that it be provided.

MOTION #S-25-013

Motion by Cunningham, supported by Miller, to direct Legal Counsel to proceed with a joint RFP for actuarial audit services for level 2 and level 3 audits that includes a RFI component for actuarial services and allow that it be released prior to the next scheduled meeting. Motion Carried; Siskind Opposed

Ron Miller inquired about the status of securities litigation cases, but Legal Counsel did not have any new information.

RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Election Update

Retirement Administrator indicated that nominations for the active employee member position closed on Wednesday, February 19, and two candidate declarations were received. Nominations for the retired employee member position will close on Friday, February 28.

She also informed the Board that information on the Spring MAPERS Conference was now available.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

TRUSTEE COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Prepared by Megan Battersby, Retirement Administrator

Approved by Board Motion on March 18, 2025