

FREDERICK COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN
FREDERICK COUNTY UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN

JOINT MEETING OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEES

MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2024

A joint meeting of the Retirement Plan Committees for the Frederick County Employees Retirement Plan (the “Employees Plan”) and the Frederick County Uniformed Employees Retirement Plan (the “Uniformed Employees Plan”) (jointly, the “Committees” and the “Plans”) was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at Winchester Hall. Present in-person were the following members of the Joint Retirement Committees:

- Emily C. Fiftal, Human Resources Division Director
- Erin White, Finance Division Director
- Michael Gastley, Retiree Representative
- Daniel Lewis, Member at Large
- Michael Mills, Member at Large

Committee Member(s) absent from the meeting:

- Douglas Browning, Retiree Representative
- Jeff Hyatt, FOP 102 (Law Enforcement) Representative
- Michael Bird, FOP 102A (Corrections) Representative
- John Neary, IAFF Representative

Also present at the invitation of the Committee were: Robert Goff, Shanna Gibbons, and Angela Baldwin with Frederick County Government, in person. Additionally, Patrick Wing with Marquette Associates (“Marquette”); Mary Claire Chesshire with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston; Jim Ritchie and Jordan McClane with Bolton; Shannon Powell and Susan Keller with Frederick County Government; and two guests, virtually via Microsoft Teams. Emily Fiftal was Chairperson and Shanna Gibbons was the Recording Secretary of this meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:01pm. The Meeting Minutes from the April 9, 2024, meeting was reviewed and approved as presented. Upon a motion duly made by Michael Mills and seconded by Michael Gastley, there being no opposition, this motion was unanimously passed.

Patrick Wing, with Marquette, presented the *Frederick County, Maryland – Employee’s Retirement Plan Trust | Quarterly Performance Report dated March 31, 2024*. As of March 31, 2024, the value of the Plan’s assets was \$1.01 billion. The Plan had a net investment change of \$51.3 million and a quarterly return of 5.3% (net) versus the policy index of 5.2%. Positive

attribution for the quarter from: asset allocation, outperformance by most active U.S. equity and Fixed Income managers, as well as Fixed Income structure. Negative attribution for the quarter from: underperformance by active Non-U.S. equity managers and underperformance by IFM.

Mr. Wing then reviewed the *Frederick County – Pension | Asset Value Update dated May 10, 2024*, with the Committee. As of May 10, 2024, the value of the Plan’s assets was \$1,002,568,872. Marquette recommended the Committee approve the reallocation of \$12M from U.S. Equity (\$6M from each Vanguard Institutional Index Fund Inst Plus and Robeco Boston Partners Mid Cap Value Equity) to U.S. Fixed Income (\$6M to each Vanguard ST Corporate Bond Index Fund Inst and Vanguard ST Inf.-Protected Sec. Index Fund Inst).

MOTION: The Committee agreed to the rebalance recommended by Marquette. Upon a motion duly made by Michael Mills and seconded by Erin White, this motion was unanimously passed.

As discussed in a previous meeting there are residual cash balances in accounts that no longer have active investments and the Committee had approved those balances to be transferred to the Baird Aggregate Bond Fund. Additionally, there are some active accounts that also have nominal cash balances. As of May 14, 2024, there is a total of \$67,212.69. Marquette recommends the Committee approve the collection of these residual cash balances be invested into the Baird account.

MOTION: After further discussion, the Committee agreed to the reinvestment of the residual cash balances; and any subsequent interest payments on those cash balances should immediately be reinvested in order to bring cash balances to \$0. With a motion duly made by Michael Mills and seconded by Erin White, this motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wing then presented the *Frederick County, Maryland – Defined Benefit DROP Plan | Quarterly Performance Report dated March 31, 2024*. As of March 31, 2024, the value of the Plan’s assets was \$1.2 million. Target Date Funds as of March 31, 2024: 40.2% of Plan assets. Active Equity Manager performance: most active equity managers outperformed their respective benchmarks. Active Fixed Income Manager performance: Dodge & Cox beat its benchmark. Target Date Funds: performance was strong across the series in Q1, and longer-term results remain strong across the series. Looking ahead, American Funds has been invited to present in September to the Deferred Compensation Plan and Pension Plan Committees.

Mr. Wing then reviewed the 98445-03 *Frederick County Uniformed Retirement Plan | Rate of Return as of 03/31/2024* from Empower, with the Committee. As of 03/31/2024, the median was 15.8% for the one-year return compared to the benchmark median of 14.6%.¹

The Chair provided an opportunity for public comment. There was none.

The next Committee meeting will be in-person at Winchester Hall (12 E Church St, Frederick, MD 21701) with a virtual call-in option on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 1:00pm.

There being no further business, a motion was made to end the meeting by Michael Mills and seconded by Michael Gastley, there being no opposition, this motion was unanimously passed, and the meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna Gibbons
Recording Secretary

¹ Only participants with a result across all months in the period are included.