

**Minutes of the May 25, 2022**  
**Carver-Wareham Regional Refuse Disposal District**  
**Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

PRESENT: Robert Belbin, Kevin Bradshaw, Amanda Cobb, Dave Menard, Judith Whiteside

ABSENT: Mary Dormer

ALSO PRESENT: Executive Director Jeffrey Osuch, Paul Conlon (Eastern Bank), Kate Cannie (PARS-Plymouth County)

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm by Chairman Belbin.

The Committee thanked Selectman Jim Munise for serving as Board of Selectmen member over the last few years, and welcomed Judith Whiteside as our new Select Board member.

MINUTES: Reviewed April 6 meeting minutes. Mr. Menard moved to accept; Mr. Bradshaw seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Abstained. 4-0-1.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Reviewed payroll for April (\$2,155,28) and May (\$2,155,28). Ms. Cobb moved to accept; Ms. Whiteside seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 5-0-0.

Reviewed April (\$3,094.86) and May (\$2,106.86) bill warrants.

Ms. Cobb moved to accept April warrant; Ms. Whiteside seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 5-0-0.

Ms. Cobb moved to accept May warrant; Ms. Whiteside seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 5-0-0.

UPDATE: Mr. Belbin reviewed the Carver Town Meeting which went on for 3 days; ultimately the CMWRRDD Agreement was passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Whiteside will make sure the Carver-Wareham Agreement gets on the Wareham Town Meeting Warrant by the time it closes on September 20.

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Osuch introduced Kate Cannie of Plymouth County PARS (Public Agency Retirement Services). They partner with Plymouth County - while they don't provide actual benefits, they do manage the cost of benefits. As we have no current employees, we discussed best options for OPEB benefits. PARS would get the Trust documents in place, then take care of developing and managing our portfolio, with U.S. Bank serving as Custodian in a co-fiduciary role. There is no setup cost. Vote of Convening Board and Execution of Documents is all that is required.

This would be a "closed plan" in which the investment portfolio is not FDIC insured. We could choose a balanced or conservative portfolio, especially important as we are withdrawing assets out of the portfolio. Rates of returns are currently 5.6% (conservative), 6.4% (middle range) and 7.5% (growth) over 30 years.

How much should we put in? Ms. Cannie suggested we contact Parker Elmore of Odyssey Advisors (actuary firm) to get a "fully funded number" for an investment of \$100K-150K. Fees would be based on assets under management - 38 basis points, or \$380 per \$100,000.

The process would be: our Treasurer signs documents, we adopt state statutes which allow us to invest in an OPEB Trust. There is a 90-day hold - and once assets go into trust, they become irrevocable for anything other than retiree healthcare (this is called a Section 115 Trust). Once the beneficiaries pass away, the District's assets in trust would revert to our General Fund. PARS also offers the option to pay our health insurance and life insurance costs directly to providers.

Next steps are that Ms. Cannie will provide Mr. Osuch with vote language we will need to adopt the statutes, as well a sample documents for our review.

Mr. Belbin suggested we take a preliminary vote, and also that we have the documents forwarded to legal counsel. Ms. Whiteside made a motion to adopt PARS, seconded by Ms. Cobb. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 5-0-0.

Ms. Whiteside also suggested that Ms. Cannie forward documents to the District and that we reach out to John Foster to help us calculate the amount to invest - she will ask on behalf of the Committee.

Ms. Whiteside moved to hold our next meeting on Wednesday, June 29, and Ms. Cobb seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Mr. Menard-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 5-0-0.

Mr. Menard left the meeting at 5:48pm.

5:46pm Paul Conlon of Eastern Bank's Marion branch joined the meeting. He had sent 2 examples of bond ladders for our review. Since we have a substantial cash position at the moment, how do we safely grow the account so it will last as long as we need it, and additionally keep pace with inflation (currently 8%; historically 2-3%). Safety of principal is our primary concern.

In the 3-year ladder example, maturity dates are staggered. Mostly invested in corporate debt of Fortune 500 companies with an eye on their credit ratings. If we hold each bond to maturity, our monies will be returned with interest. As each bond matures, we will need to decide if/how to reinvest. We can expect a yield to maturity of around 3%.

Mr. Osuch suggested we choose bonds maturing every 6 months vs. every 3 months due to the frequency of our meetings. Mr. Belbin asked if there is a maximum term for bonds? And is this legal for us as a Waste District?? Mr. Conlon said they are flexible in the number of years. And there is no prohibition - the Investment Management Agreement would need to be signed and that the documentation would be vetted by legal counsel.

Ms. Whiteside suggested that we look at investing a higher amount (e.g., \$500K). Mr. Osuch pointed out that \$150K is already set aside for PARS, and that our Route 28 facility is also considered part of our total assets (worth \$250K).

Ms. Whiteside suggested that Mr. Conlon send us documents prior to the next meeting, and that we also forward to counsel.

Ms. Cobb moved to authorize counsel to review (and District to pay for) Eastern Bank documents; Ms. Whiteside seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 4-0-0.

Eastern Bank's management fee on the first \$500K is normally 1.25%, but Mr. Conlon said they will provide a 40% discount, resulting in 0.6-0.75%, depending on the amount invested. He will get the documents to us by the end of next week.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mayflower's rates will increase by 3% in July; Mayflower health insurance and Boston Mutual life insurance payments combined will total approximately \$800/month.

The District has a \$10M Pollution Liability Policy with Zurich for the Carver Landfill for which SEMASS pays the Policy Premium. The current Policy expires in 2025, and SEMASS will pay the premium for another 10-year Pollution Protection Policy with another Insurance Company as Zurich has dropped this line of business.

Eastern Bank Accounts: OPEB Start with \$100,000. Also - Wareham owes the District \$24,500, which appears as a credit on our books. Ms. Whiteside asked Mr. Osuch to send a "demand" letter to the Town of Wareham, and she will put it on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant to request repayment to the District. Mr. Belbin suggested we vote at our next meeting to put it on the Fall Warrant.

Our Eastern Bank accounts total \$1,205,827.23 as of the beginning of May.

Mr. Osuch will notify PRIM that we have decided to go with PARS.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Belbin brought up Committee terms and elections – to be discussed at our next meeting. Also - is there a plan for a Hazardous Waste Day in 2022?

Should we set up a Transfer Station Tour for our members? We will put it on the agenda for our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 29 at 5:00pm

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Cobb moved to adjourn; Ms. Whiteside seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Belbin-Y, Mr. Bradshaw-Y, Ms. Cobb-Y, Ms. Whiteside-Y. 4-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amanda Cobb, Secretary, CMWRRDD

Documents reviewed in this meeting:

- CMWRRDD Board Meeting Minutes 4-06-22
- April 2022 P&L
- April, May CMWRRDD payroll warrant
- April, May CMWRRDD bill warrant
- Carver Marion Wareham Wealth Management Services (Eastern Bank)
- Fixed Income Ladder (Sample Bond Ladders) dated March 21, 2022 (Eastern Bank)
- Fixed Income Ladder (Sample Bond Ladder) dated May 20, 2022 (Eastern Bank)

The foregoing minutes were submitted to the Town Clerk on September 22, 2022.