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PENSION BOARD FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

TIME:

6:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

P E N S I O N B O A R D M E M B E R S :

- MAX CONWAY, MAYOR
- WILLIAM BONAVOGLIA
- GREG WOLFF
- MARK BURTON
- GREG KAMLA
- LAWRENCE DURKIN, Esquire, Solicitor

MICHELLE SMOLSKIS
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 ATTY. DURKIN: So, we're here for
2 the March 12th meeting for the Dunmore Pension
3 Board. Could we start with roll call?

4 MR. KAMLA: Greg Kamla.

5 MR. BURTON: Mark Burton.

6 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Bill Bonavoglia.

7 MAYOR CONWAY: Max Conway.

8 MR. WOLFF: Greg Wolff.

9 ATTY. DURKIN: Larry Durkin. In
10 terms of our agenda today, I think we don't
11 really have much on the agenda.

12 MR. WOLFF: There's really nothing
13 on the agenda, just that discussion topic that
14 we spoke of.

15 ATTY. DURKIN: Okay. We don't have
16 any applications for membership, we don't have
17 any applications for retirement, you know, at
18 this point.

19 MR. WOLFF: Nope.

20 ATTY. DURKIN: In terms of the
21 last -- we've already approved the minutes from
22 the last meeting we had, I think, because that
23 was in September.

24 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Yeah, we did.

25 MR. WOLFF: Well, we missed the

1 December meeting.

2 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. So, I think
3 we're -- I don't think we have anything --

4 MR. WOLFF: No.

5 ATTY. DURKIN: -- on that.

6 MR. WOLFF: Oh. Correct. Correct.

7 Yes.

8 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah.

9 MR. WOLFF: Correct.

10 ATTY. DURKIN: So, in terms of new
11 business, there's a topic that -- and Ralph
12 Colo is not here tonight, you know, he gave us
13 our packet but he's obviously not going to be
14 doing a presentation, but we have the plan's
15 current results, which we'll make a part of
16 this by reference, but there's a question on --
17 Greg.

18 MR. WOLFF: So, it was brought to us
19 from the police union, a question. They are in
20 contract negotiations and arbitration. So, the
21 question was asked, if someone was to retire,
22 so say the effective date was today, and the
23 arbitration ruling came back and awarded them
24 raises, would the pension calculation be
25 adjusted to --

1 ATTY. DURKIN: To reflect the
2 arbitration --

3 MR. WOLFF: To reflect the
4 arbitration, whatever the raise is?

5 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. In my opinion,
6 yeah. Yes.

7 MR. WOLFF: Is that accurate?

8 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. The short
9 answer is yes. Like, if there's something
10 awarded in the arbitration which change, you
11 know, would retroactively change, you know, the
12 calculation of your pension, then, yeah, the
13 pension would have to be adjusted and there
14 would be two components to it.

15 One would be, like, say you retired
16 today and six months from now the award comes
17 out and, you know, you start receiving your
18 payments today and, you know, your salary for
19 the last three years went up by X, you know,
20 that six month's gap, there should be a lump
21 sum payment of the difference between what you
22 went out at and what you should have gone out
23 at. And then prospectively from that point
24 forward it should be increased to whatever.

25 So, I think what we would be looking

1 at is, like, well what does the arbitration
2 award say? Like, what does it award? If it
3 awards salary and that's in your pension, then,
4 yeah, that would be affected. If it awards
5 something else that's not in your pension,
6 that's not a part of your -- then it wouldn't
7 be affected.

8 So, that's the only caveat I'm
9 giving is, like, we need to see the
10 arbitrator's award, but anything in the award
11 which has an impact on the calculation of your
12 pension, in my view, yes, that would have to
13 be -- we'd have to go back and adjust that both
14 for the period of retirement and prospectively
15 for the rest of your retirement.

16 But we need to see the award. Like,
17 the details matter, you know, and we don't have
18 that yet, so -- or settlement, whatever it is.
19 You know, like, if it -- I guess we're not
20 going to have a settlement if we're waiting
21 for -- is the arbitration -- are the hearings
22 done? Are we just waiting for an award or --

23 MR. WOLFF: The hearing's done. The
24 arbitrators have been going back and forth, but
25 we are hopefully home stretch.

1 ATTY. DURKIN: Okay.

2 OFFICER IGOE: Hopefully.

3 ATTY. DURKIN: Do we know what years
4 are in play?

5 MR. WOLFF: Last year and this year.

6 ATTY. DURKIN: Okay.

7 MR. WOLFF: So, '23 and '24.

8 ATTY. DURKIN: Do we have any police
9 retirees in '23?

10 OFFICER IGOE: No.

11 MR. BONAVOGLIA: No.

12 ATTY. DURKIN: Okay.

13 MR. WOLFF: Yes.

14 OFFICER IGOE: Wait. The two.

15 MR. WOLFF: We have the two, Ruddy,
16 Garzella.

17 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Oh, yeah. Garzella
18 and Ruddy.

19 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. So, I mean,
20 we'd have to look at that and see where they
21 fit into it. But, yeah, my opinion is yeah.

22 We'd have to go back and look at the
23 award, look at who went out in that time frame,
24 and make whatever the adjustment is. I don't
25 see that as -- I think that's straightforward.

1 I think that would have to occur.

2 MR. WOLFF: Does that satisfy
3 your -- it's on record. No, just so --

4 OFFICER IGOE: Yes.

5 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Yeah.

6 MR. WOLFF: So, it is in writing,
7 and, obviously, I post these on the website and
8 these are available. They're public documents.

9 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. I saw an
10 e-mail but I didn't want to respond to the
11 e-mail until we came here because, number one,
12 I work for the Board; and, number two, you
13 know, the details matter, you know? But, in
14 general, that's my -- the details meaning what
15 does the award actually say.

16 OFFICER IGOE: Okay.

17 ATTY. DURKIN: You know, that's the
18 only thing that I could put it in writing, but
19 I'd like to see the award --

20 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Yeah.

21 ATTY. DURKIN: -- because until
22 then, until --

23 MR. BONAVOGLIA: If it's a year and
24 a half of back pay --

25 ATTY. DURKIN: Yeah. Until then,

1 I'm just kind of -- like, there's too many
2 hypotheticals to put it into writing. But once
3 I see the award, you know, my opinion would be
4 consistent with what we're talking about here.
5 I wouldn't want it to be inconsistent.

6 Does anybody from the Board have any
7 questions or topics, you know, that they want
8 to address?

9 (No response.)

10 ATTY. DURKIN: I don't think we have
11 any other old business.

12 MR. WOLFF: I don't believe we do.
13 That was the big thing that I just wanted to
14 get --

15 ATTY. DURKIN: Okay.

16 MR. WOLFF: -- cleared up for them.

17 ATTY. DURKIN: And then our next
18 meeting is three months from now.

19 MR. WOLFF: Three months from now,
20 yeah.

21 ATTY. DURKIN: So, it's in June. I
22 know we sent out an e-mail before. We'll send
23 out one beforehand.

24 MR. WOLFF: Yeah.

25 ATTY. DURKIN: But other than that,

1 I think we just need a motion to adjourn.

2 MR. BURTON: Motion.

3 MR. BONAVOGLIA: Second.

4 ATTY. DURKIN: All in favor?

5 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

6 ATTY. DURKIN: All right.

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8 (Meeting adjourned.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Michelle Smolskis
Official Court Reporter

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