## NORTH ATTLEBORO

RETIREMENT SYSTEM

AUDIT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2014 - DECEMBER 31, 2017



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#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

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JOHN W. PARSONS, ESQ., Executive Director

Auditor SUZANNE M. BUMP | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES M. MACHADO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN

July 8, 2021

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed an examination of certain activities of the North Attleboro Retirement System pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 21. The examination covered the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. Based on an assessment in accordance with the policy outlined in PERAC Memo #18/2019, the scope of this audit was modified as noted below and was conducted in accordance with the accounting and management standards established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission in regulation 840 CMR 25.00.

The specific objectives of our audit were to determine: I) that the Board is exercising appropriate fiduciary oversight, 2) that cash balances are accurately stated, 3) that investment balances are accurately stated, 4) that investment manager contracts were procured in compliance with the provisions of Section 23B of Chapter 32 and management fees paid were in accordance with the executed contract, 5) that travel expenses and credit card usage were properly documented and accounted for, 6) that retirement contributions are accurately deducted, 7) that retirement allowances were correctly calculated, and 8) that required member documentation is maintained.

To achieve these objectives, we inspected certain records of the North Attleboro Retirement Board in the above areas. Specifically, we reviewed the minutes of the Board meetings for compliance with fiduciary oversight, verified cash and investment balances, and tested a sample of travel and credit card expenses for Board approvals, supporting documentation, and proper accounting. We reviewed procurement files for contracts awarded to investment managers and confirmed that all required documents are maintained. We tested the payroll records of a sample of active members to confirm that the correct percentage of regular compensation is being deducted, including the additional two percent over \$30,000. We also tested a sample of members who retired during our audit period to verify that their retirement allowance was calculated in accordance with the statute. We reviewed a sample of member files for accuracy and completeness.

In our opinion, for those areas tested, the financial records are being maintained and the management functions are being performed in conformity with the standards established by PERAC with the exceptions noted in the findings presented in this report.

In closing, I acknowledge the work of the auditors who conducted this examination, and express appreciation to the Board and staff for their courtesy and cooperation.

John W. Parsons, Esq. Executive Director





#### EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### I. New Retirees:

Our examination of 16 new retirements during the audit period found the following errors:

- A member who was enrolled in 1986 and retired under accidental disability in 2017 had the allowance limited to 75%. The 75% cap in §7(2)(a)(ii) applies to members who have "not been continuously a member in service since" January I, 1988. The closest this member came to discontinuous service was when a transfer out from North Attleboro ended on a Friday and then service started the following Monday at a different system. A weekend does not count as a break in service. This retiree has been underpaid by about \$12,600 per year since February 2017. In addition, this accidental disability calculation was not approved by PERAC's Actuarial unit.
- One retiree's monthly pension was not adjusted to the full amount after the first month's prorated payment. This retiree has been underpaid by about \$1,700 per year since January 2016.
- One retiree's retirement allowance calculation overstated the creditable service by one year. The Administrator believes this occurred during the conversion to a new software system. This member has been overpaid by about \$1,300 per year since June 2016.

Also, five out of six Option C retirements sampled did not include the marriage certificate and/or beneficiary's birth certificate in the retired members' folders. We then expanded our testing to include all other Option C retirements during the audit period; 11 out of 15 tested (73%) did not have the required documents in their folders.

**Recommendation:** The Board needs to recalculate the retirement allowances for all members noted. Interest has to be included when correcting these benefits. The Board should review members in service during the conversion to their new software in order to correct creditable service totals.

When a member retires and chooses Option C, the Board must collect proof of both the beneficiary's age and their eligibility to be an Option C beneficiary.

#### **Board Response:**

#### **Capped Disability Allowance**

The member resigned from their position with the Town of North Attleborough on July 21, 2006 and was no longer employed in the performance of their duties. At this point, they became a member inactive in our system.

The Board contends that there is no mention in MGL C. 32 of allowing for creditable service after a member has voluntarily terminated employment. The cap, in this case, was appropriately applied based on the simple language of MGL c. 32, §3(1) which states: "Any member who is regularly employed in the performance of his duties," is defined as an active member. However, "In any event the status of a member in service shall continue as such until his death or until his prior separation from the service becomes effective by reason of his retirement, resignation, failure of re-election or reappointment, removal or discharge from his office or position, or by reason of an authorized leave of absence without pay other than as provided for in this clause."

The Board will submit this calculation to the Actuarial Unit for approval.

# EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

#### **Retirement Allowance Errors and Missing Documents**

The Board has corrected the monthly allowances. The Board is adopting a Supplementary Regulation to address the situations where interest is owed. Board staff are reviewing all retiree files for the required birth and marriage certificates and reaching out to the retirees for all missing documents. Board staff are also working with PTG to identify any member or retiree with data conversion issues.

#### **PERAC Reply:**

A weekend gap between one employing board and another is not considered a bona fide break in service. A member in service does not lose that status simply by switching employers. In this instance the member ended service in North Attleboro at the end of a work week and immediately began service in another system. He went from being regularly employed in the performance of his duties with one system and then being regularly employed in the second system at the start of the next work week. The Board should recalculate this accidental disability allowance without limiting it to the 75% cap and submit it to the Actuarial Unit for approval.

#### 2. Management Fees:

The Board did not record all management fees to General Ledger (GL) account #5304 during the years under audit. The Board prepared Schedule 7 reports for the Annual Statements which included more management fees than were recorded to the GL; for example, in 2017 the GL did not reflect about \$257,000 in fees mainly from 8 of the Board's funds, which is about half of the total fees paid. Also, we noted that even the Schedule 7 reports were missing fees from five investments in 2014 and from one investment in 2015 and 2016. These fees were not booked in the GL as well.

In addition, the Retirement Board is not comparing management fees charged to Fee Schedules from signed contracts. We were not able to determine if 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017 management fees were correct for two of the three investments tested.

**Recommendation:** The Retirement Board must not "net" management fees for accounting purposes, but should record all management fees to GL #5304 and record the gross income for each investment. The Retirement Board should review Fee Schedules from signed investment contracts in order to determine if the management fees charged are appropriate.

#### **Board Response:**

The Board acknowledges the importance of reviewing and reporting all management fees properly and this has been corrected going forward.

#### 3. Travel:

We noted the Board was using a credit card for travel and purchases of non-travel items, such as food for Board meetings. The Board does not have a supplementary regulation which authorizes the use of a credit card as required by 840 CMR 2.11. This regulation also limits the usage of a Board credit card to travel related expenses only. In addition, we noted several instances where supporting documentation for expenses was not available.

# EXPLANATION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

**Recommendation:** The Board must suspend all usage of the credit card pending submission and approval of a credit card regulation. Once a regulation is approved, the credit card should be used only for travel related expenses. The Board must collect and maintain supporting documentation for expenses.

#### **Board Response:**

The Board has suspended all usage of the credit card pending the adoption of a Supplementary Regulation.

#### 4. Board Administration:

Four out of 13 (31%) executive session meetings held from January 1, 2014 forward did not have minutes. These were from the following meetings: 5/24/18, 12/20/18, 3/28/19, and 10/23/19.

We observed that the monthly financial reports were not always presented to the Board members each month, and sometimes when they were presented it was not on a timely basis. For example, the March-October 2017 financial reports were provided at the December 2017 meeting.

A complete financial packet should include the following:

- Trial Balance
- Cash Receipts
- Cash Disbursements
- Adjusting Journal Entries
- Cash reconciliations, including bank statements
- Cash Flow Forecast
- Investment Fund Manager statements
- Budget to Actual Expense Comparison (if not monthly, then quarterly)

**Recommendation:** The Retirement Board must keep records of all regular and executive session meetings per the Open Meeting Law. Board staff must provide the monthly financial reports for review by the Board members on a timely basis. A detailed listing of reports, including the names and dates, should be documented in the minutes.

#### **Board Response:**

The Board acknowledges the failure to locate and provide the listed meeting minutes to the auditors, however, the Board maintains that these minutes were produced. Every effort is being made to find these and have them properly recorded and stored. The Board also agrees to the importance of always adhering to Open Meeting Law requirements as well as PERAC regulations. The Board is now receiving all the noted financial reports at the monthly meeting. These documents will also be recorded properly in the meeting minutes.

#### **FINAL DETERMINATION:**

PERAC Audit staff will follow up in six (6) months to ensure appropriate actions have been taken regarding all findings.

## ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted)

## STATEMENT OF LEDGER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		AS OF DEC	CEMBER 31,	
	2017	2016	2015	2014
Net Assets Available For Benefits:				
Cash	\$13,237,101	\$3,110,647	\$4,005,179	\$3,030,189
Equities	23,948,892	25,795,973	26,339,568	27,726,687
Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	31,025,415	30,408,470	23,999,464	23,223,679
Pooled International Equity Funds	12,654,190	8,092,387	8,527,052	8,509,561
Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	20,605,765	19,875,937	19,078,289	19,109,833
Pooled Real Estate Funds	15,633,250	14,989,086	14,462,375	13,120,719
Interest Due and Accrued	9,322	447	0	0
Accounts Receivable	18,631	2,750	35,236	95,700
Accounts Payable	(52,048)	(76,161)	(277,626)	(83,818)
Total	\$117,080,518	\$102,199,535	\$96,169,538	\$94,732,550
Fund Balances:				
Annuity Savings Fund	\$26,600,009	\$25,788,694	\$25,125,047	\$24,279,457
Annuity Reserve Fund	6,641,706	6,460,668	6,300,704	5,523,746
Pension Fund	0	0	0	0
Military Service Fund	6,051	6,045	6,039	6,033
Expense Fund	0	0	0	0
Pension Reserve Fund	83,832,752	69,944,129	64,737,748	64,923,314
Total	\$ <u>117,080,518</u>	\$ <u>102,199,535</u>	\$ <u>96,169,538</u>	\$ <u>94,732,550</u>

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

	Annuity Savings Fund	Annuity Reserve Fund	Pension Fund	Military Service Fund	Expense Fund	Pension Reserve Fund	Total All Funds
Beginning Balance 2014	\$23,551,215	\$4,949,842	\$0	\$6,027	\$0	\$60,033,894	\$88,540,978
Receipts	2,587,907	149,440	3,591,537	6	582,117	5,876,358	12,787,365
Interfund Transfers	(1,340,483)	1,340,483	986,938	0	0	(986,938)	0
Disbursements	( <u>519,183</u> )	(916,018)	( <u>4,578,475</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>582,117</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>6,595,793</u> )
Ending Balance 2014	24,279,457	5,523,746	0	6,033	0	64,923,314	94,732,550
Receipts	2,584,918	174,471	3,734,257	6	587,452	1,111,976	8,193,080
Interfund Transfers	(1,530,808)	1,530,808	1,297,541	0	0	(1,297,541)	0
Disbursements	(208,520)	(928,322)	( <u>5,031,798</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>587,452</u> )	<u>0</u>	(6,756,092)
Ending Balance 2015	25,125,047	6,300,704	0	6,039	0	64,737,748	96,169,538
Receipts	2,257,352	193,004	3,821,742	6	541,453	6,779,605	13,593,163
Interfund Transfers	(1,029,739)	1,023,928	1,579,036	0	0	(1,573,225)	0
Disbursements	( <u>563,966</u> )	( <u>1,056,968</u> )	(5,400,778)	<u>0</u>	( <u>541,453</u> )	<u>0</u>	( <u>7,563,166</u> )
Ending Balance 2016	25,788,694	6,460,668	0	6,045	0	69,944,129	102,199,535
Receipts	2,415,098	195,131	3,912,295	6	557,039	15,566,298	22,645,867
Interfund Transfers	(1,111,416)	1,108,310	1,680,780	0	0	(1,677,674)	0
Disbursements	<u>(492,367)</u>	(1,122,403)	(5,593,075)	<u>0</u>	(557,039)	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,764,884)</u>
Ending Balance 2017	\$26,600,009	\$ <u>6,641,706</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>6,051</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$83,832,752	\$117,080,518

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

	F	OR THE PERIOD E	NDING DECEMBER	R 31,
	2017	2016	2015	2014
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Members Deductions	\$2,247,754	\$2,193,182	\$2,149,349	\$2,169,242
Transfers from Other Systems	121,650	19,689	382,362	358,916
Member Make Up Payments and Re-deposits	14,704	13,870	14,898	19,731
Investment Income Credited to Member Accounts	30,990	30,611	38,309	40,019
Sub Total	2,415,098	2,257,352	2,584,918	2,587,907
Annuity Reserve Fund: Investment Income Credited to the Annuity Reserve				
Fund	195,131	193,004	174,471	149,440
Pension Fund:				
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements from Other Systems Received from Commonwealth for COLA and	76,056	99,586	86,025	84,893
Survivor Benefits	21,234	54,709	53,603	35,122
Pension Fund Appropriation	3,808,004	3,667,448	3,594,629	3,467,772
Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims	7,000	0	0	3,750
Recovery of 91A Overearnings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub Total	3,912,295	3,821,742	3,734,257	3,591,537
Military Service Fund: Investment Income Credited to the Military Service				
Fund	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
Expense Fund:				
Investment Income Credited to the Expense Fund	557,039	541,453	<u>587,452</u>	582,117
Pension Reserve Fund:				
Federal Grant Reimbursement	4,330	12,024	2,481	22,154
Interest Not Refunded	0	0	(2,906)	3,106
Miscellaneous Income	0	0	2,253	1,696
Excess Investment Income	15,561,968	6,767,581	1,110,147	5,849,402
Sub Total	15,566,298	6,779,605	1,111,976	5,876,358
Total Receipts, Net	\$22,645,867	\$13,593,163	\$8,193,080	\$12,787,365

### STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

	I	OR THE PERIOD E	NDING DECEMBER	R 31,
	2017	2016	2015	2014
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Refunds to Members	\$85,644	\$157,013	\$168,793	\$298,863
Transfers to Other Systems	406,723	406,953	39,728	220,319
Sub Total	492,367	563,966	208,520	519,183
Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Annuities Paid	1,118,060	1,056,968	928,322	809,234
Option B Refunds	4,343	0	0	106,785
Sub Total	1,122,403	1,056,968	928,322	916,018
Pension Fund:	1,:22,:00	1,000,100	120,022	********
Pensions Paid:				
Regular Pension Payments	4,065,266	3.977.037	3,663,547	3.327.886
Survivorship Payments	161,393	164,942	163,229	157,456
Accidental Disability Payments	983,734	902,658	825,828	806,208
Accidental Death Payments	80,642	58,502	57,242	56,072
Section 101 Benefits	9,773	14,550	19,277	18,716
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements to Other Systems	<u> 292,267</u>	<u>283,089</u>	<u>302,674</u>	<u>212,137</u>
Sub Total	5,593,075	5,400,778	5,031,798	4,578,475
Expense Fund:				
Board Member Stipend	15,000	15,000	13,500	12,000
Salaries	87,443	86,282	84,015	74,166
Legal Expenses	7,023	7,067	2,327	3,576
Travel Expenses	174	2,374	5,087	453
Administrative Expenses	9,903	9,308	180,11	11,103
Professional Services	37,581	22,460	14,367	14,536
Education and Training	3,852	2,243	0	2,037
Furniture and Equipment	2,048	600	0	1,075
Management Fees	245,079	251,589	290,048	305,521
Custodial Fees	64,499	56,590	82,128	78,867
Consultant Fees	42,000	42,000	42,000	39,563
Rent Expenses	16,800	16,800	14,800	14,400
Service Contracts	25,638	24,320	23,420	20,265
Fiduciary Insurance	<u>0</u>	<u>4,821</u>	<u>4,680</u>	<u>4,556</u>
Sub Total	557,039	541,453	<u>587,452</u>	582,117
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>7,764,884</u>	\$ <u>7,563,166</u>	\$ <u>6,756,092</u>	\$ <u>6,595,793</u>

## **INVESTMENT INCOME**

		FOR THE PERIOD E	NDING DECEMBEI	R 31,
	2017	2016	2015	2014
Investment Income Received From:				
Cash	\$34,920	\$3,583	\$906	\$34,715
Equities	341,174	424,886	420,351	471,038
Pooled or Mutual Funds	<u>235,962</u>	<u>147,337</u>	<u>193,890</u>	<u>325,317</u>
Total Investment Income	612,056	575,807	615,147	831,069
Plus:				
Realized Gains	3,410,169	1,267,717	828,063	1,981,561
Unrealized Gains	15,387,013	13,833,946	10,790,987	10,222,000
Interest Due and Accrued - Current Year	9,322	<u>447</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub Total	18,806,505	15,102,110	11,619,049	12,203,562
Less:				
Realized Loss	1,116,781	824,801	1,565,095	1,080,644
Unrealized Loss	1,956,198	7,320,460	8,758,715	5,333,002
Interest Due and Accrued - Prior Year	447	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub Total	3,073,426	8,145,261	10,323,810	6,413,647
Net Investment Income	16,345,135	7,532,655	1,910,386	6,620,984
Income Required:				
Annuity Savings Fund	30,990	30,611	38,309	40,019
Annuity Reserve Fund	195,131	193,004	174,471	149,440
Military Service Fund	6	6	6	6
Expense Fund	<u>557,039</u>	541,453	<u>587,452</u>	<u>582,117</u>
Total Income Required	<u>783,167</u>	765,075	800,239	<u>771,582</u>
Net Investment Income	16,345,135	7 522 455	1,910,386	4 420 994
		7,532,655		6,620,984
Less: Total Income Required	<u>783,167</u>	<u>765,075</u>	800,239	771,582
Excess Income (Loss) To The Pension				
Reserve Fund	\$15,561,968	\$ <u>6,767,581</u>	\$ <u>1,110,147</u>	\$5,849,402

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS OWNED

(percentages by category)

	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017			
	PERCENTAG			
	OF TOTAL			
	MARKET VALUE	ASSETS		
Cash	\$13,237,101	11.3%		
Equities	23,948,892	20.5%		
Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	31,025,415	26.5%		
Pooled International Equity Funds	12,654,190	10.8%		
Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	20,605,765	17.6%		
Pooled Real Estate Funds	<u>15,633,250</u>	<u>13.3%</u>		
Grand Total	<u>\$117,104,612</u>	100.0%		

For the year ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the North Attleboro Retirement System was 15.42%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the rate of return for the investments of the North Attleboro Retirement System averaged 10.56%. For the 33-year period ending December 31, 2017, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the rate of return on the investments of the North Attleboro Retirement System was 8.79%.

The composite rate of return for all retirement systems for the year ending December 31, 2017 was 17.63%. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the composite rate of return for the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.83%. For the 33-year period ending December 31, 2017, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the composite rate of return on the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.36%.

#### SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan covering all North Attleboro Retirement System member unit employees deemed eligible by the retirement board, with the exception of school department employees who serve in a teaching capacity. The Teachers' Retirement Board administers the pensions of such school employees.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

There are 104 contributory retirement systems for public employees in Massachusetts. Each system is governed by a retirement board and all boards, although operating independently, are governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. This law in general provides uniform benefits, uniform contribution requirements and a uniform accounting and funds structure for all systems.

#### PARTICIPATION

Participation is mandatory for all full-time employees. Eligibility with respect to part-time, provisional, temporary, seasonal or intermittent employment is governed by regulations promulgated by the retirement board, and approved by PERAC. Membership is optional for certain elected officials.

There are 4 classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the State Police. The other 3 classes are as follows:

#### Group I:

General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical and all other employees not otherwise classified.

#### Group 2:

Certain specified hazardous duty positions.

#### Group 4:

Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

#### MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

Prior to 1975: 5% of regular compensation 1975 - 1983: 7% of regular compensation 1984 to 6/30/96: 8% of regular compensation 7/1/96 to present: 9% of regular compensation

1979 to present: an additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000.

In addition, members of Group I who join the system on or after April 2, 2012 will have their withholding rate reduced to 6% after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

#### RATE OF INTEREST

Interest on regular deductions made after January I, 1984 is a rate established by PERAC in consultation with the Commissioner of Banks. The rate is obtained from the average rates paid on individual savings accounts by a representative sample of at least 10 financial institutions.

#### RETIREMENT AGE

The mandatory retirement age for some Group 2 and Group 4 employees is age 65. Most Group 2 and Group 4 members may remain in service after reaching age 65. Group 4 members who are employed in certain public safety positions are required to retire at age 65. There is no mandatory retirement age for employees in Group 1.

#### SUPERANNUATION RETIREMENT

A person who became a member before April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- · completion of 20 years of service, or
- attainment of age 55 if hired prior to 1978, or if classified in Group 4, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service, if hired after 1978, and if classified in Group 1 or 2.

A person who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 is eligible for a superannuation retirement allowance (service retirement) upon meeting the following conditions:

- attainment of age 60 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 1, or
- attainment of age 55 with 10 years of service if classified in Group 2, or
- attainment of age 55 if classified in Group 4.

#### AMOUNT OF BENEFIT

A member's annual allowance is determined by multiplying average salary by a benefit rate related to the member's age and job classification at retirement, and the resulting product by his creditable service. The amount determined by the benefit formula cannot exceed 80% of the member's highest three year (or five year as discussed below) average salary. For veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. I, there is an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

For employees who become members after January I, 2011, regular compensation is limited to 64% of the federal limit found in 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(17). In addition, regular compensation will be limited to prohibit "spiking" of a member's salary to increase the retirement benefit.

- For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 3 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 3 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, Average Salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the 5 consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last 5 years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement.
- The Benefit Rate varies with the member's retirement age. For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012 the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group I employees who retire at or after age 65, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 60, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 55. A .1% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group. For Group 2 employees who terminate from service under age 55, the benefit rate for a Group I employee shall be used.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with less than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group I employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .15% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.
- For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012 and retire with more than 30 years of creditable service, the highest rate of 2.5% applies to Group I employees who retire at or after age 67, Group 2 employees who retire at or after age 62, and to Group 4 employees who retire at or after age 57. A .125% reduction is applied for each year of age under the maximum age for the member's group.

#### DEFERRED VESTED BENEFIT

A participant who has attained the requisite years of creditable service can elect to defer his or her retirement until a later date. Certain public safety employees cannot defer beyond age 65. All participants must begin to receive a retirement allowance or withdraw their accumulated deductions no later than April 15 of the calendar year following the year they reach age 72.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions may be withdrawn upon termination of employment. The interest rate for employees who first become members on or after January I, 1984 who voluntarily withdraw their contributions with less than 10 years of service will be 3%. Interest payable on all other withdrawals will be set at regular interest.

#### **DISABILITY RETIREMENT**

The Massachusetts Retirement Plan provides 2 types of disability retirement benefits:

#### ORDINARY DISABILITY

**Eligibility:** Non-veterans who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition with at least 10 years of creditable service (or 15 years creditable service in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 6(1) has not been adopted).

Veterans with ten years of creditable service who become totally and permanently disabled by reason of a non-job related condition prior to reaching "maximum age". "Maximum age" applies only to those employees classified in Group 4 who are subject to mandatory retirement.

**Retirement Allowance:** For persons who became members prior to April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she is entitled.

For persons in Group I who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 60. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding I2 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 60, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

For persons in Group 2 and Group 4 who became members on or after April 2, 2012, the benefit is equal to the accrued superannuation retirement benefit as if the member was age 55. If the member is a veteran, the benefit is 50% of the member's final rate of salary during the preceding 12 months, plus an annuity based upon accumulated member contributions plus credited interest. If the member is over age 55, he or she will receive not less than the superannuation allowance to which he or she would have been entitled had they retired for superannuation.

#### ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY

**Eligibility:** Applies to members who become permanently and totally unable to perform the essential duties of the position as a result of a personal injury sustained or hazard undergone while in the performance of duties. There are no minimum age or service requirements.

Retirement Allowance: 72% of salary plus an annuity based on accumulated member contributions, with interest. This amount is not to exceed 100% of pay. For those who became members in service after January 1, 1988 or who have not been members in service continually since that date, the amount is limited to 75% of pay. There is an additional pension of \$897.72 per year (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 7(2)(a)(iii) has not been adopted), per child who is under 18 at the time of the member's retirement, with no age limitation if the child is mentally or physically incapacitated from earning. The additional pension may continue up to age 22 for any child who is a full time student at an accredited educational institution. For systems that have adopted Chapter 157 of the Acts of 2005, veterans as defined in G.L. c. 32, s. I receive an additional benefit of \$15 per year for each year of creditable service, up to a maximum of \$300.

#### ACCIDENTAL DEATH

**Eligibility:** Applies to members who die as a result of a work-related injury or if the member was retired for accidental disability and the death was the natural and proximate result of the injury or hazard undergone on account of which such member was retired.

Allowance: An immediate payment to a named beneficiary equal to the accumulated deductions at the time of death, plus a pension equal to 72% of current salary and payable to the surviving spouse, dependent children or the dependent parent, plus a supplement of \$897.72 per year, per child (or \$312.00 per year in systems in which the local option contained in G.L. c. 32, s. 9(2)(d)(ii) has not been adopted), payable to the spouse or legal guardian until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

The surviving spouse of a member of a police or fire department or any corrections officer who, under specific and limited circumstances detailed in the statute, suffers an accident and is killed or sustains injuries while in the performance of his duties that results in his death, may receive a pension equal to the maximum salary for the position held by the member upon his death. In addition, an eligible family member may receive a one-time payment of \$300,000.00 from the State Retirement Board. This lump sum payment is also available to the family of a public prosecutor in certain, limited circumstances.

#### DEATH AFTER ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Effective November 7, 1996, Accidental Disability retirees were allowed to select Option C at retirement and provide a benefit for an eligible survivor. For Accidental Disability retirees prior to November 7, 1996, who could not select Option C, if the member's death is from a cause unrelated to the condition for which the member received accidental disability benefits, a surviving spouse will receive an annual allowance of \$6,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 28 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010, the amount of this benefit is \$9,000. For Systems that accept the provisions of Section 63 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, the amount of this benefit is \$12,000.

#### DEATH IN ACTIVE SERVICE (OPTION D)

Allowance: An immediate allowance equal to that which would have been payable had the member retired and selected Option C on the day before his or her death. For a member who became a member prior to April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 55 benefit rate is used. For a member classified in Group I who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 whose death occurred prior to the member's superannuation retirement age, the age 60 benefit rate is used. If the member died after age 60, the actual age is used. For a member classified in Group 2 or Group 4, whose death occurred prior to the member's minimum superannuation retirement age, the benefit shall be calculated using an age 55 age factor. The minimum annual allowance payable to the surviving spouse of a member in service who dies with at least two years of creditable service is \$3,000 unless the retirement system has accepted the local option increasing this minimum annual allowance to \$6,000, provided that the member and the spouse were married for at least one year and living together on the member's date of death.

The surviving spouse of such a member in service receives an additional allowance equal to the sum of \$1,440 per year for the first child and \$1,080 per year for each additional child until all dependent children reach age 18 or 22 if a full time student, unless mentally or physically incapacitated.

#### **COST OF LIVING**

If a system has accepted Chapter 17 of the Acts of 1997, and the Retirement Board votes to pay a cost of living increase (COLA) for that year, the percentage is determined based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index used for indexing Social Security benefits, but cannot exceed 3.0%. Section 51 of Chapter 127 of the Acts of 1999, if accepted, allows boards to grant COLA increases greater than that determined by CPI but not to exceed 3.0%. Only a certain portion of a retiree's total allowance is subject to a COLA. The total COLA for periods from 1981 through 1996 is paid for by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Under the provisions of Chapter 32, Section 103(j) inserted by Section 19 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, systems may increase the maximum base on which the COLA is calculated in multiples of \$1,000. For many years the COLA base was calculated based upon the first \$12,000 of a retiree's allowance. Now the maximum base upon which the COLA is calculated varies from system to system. Each increase in the base must be accepted by a majority vote of the Retirement Board and approved by the legislative body.

#### METHODS OF PAYMENT

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of 3 forms of payment.

**Option A:** Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.

**Option B:** A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member, provided, however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree's beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.

Option C: A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member's designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or "pops up" to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable "pops up" to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

#### ALLOCATION OF PENSION COSTS

If a member's total creditable service was partly earned by employment in more than one retirement system, the cost of the "pension portion" is allocated between the different systems pro rata based on the member's service within each retirement system. In certain circumstances, if a member received regular compensation concurrently from two or more systems on or after January 1, 2010, and was not vested in both systems as of January 1, 2010, such a pro-ration may not be undertaken. This is because such a person may receive a separate retirement allowance from each system.

#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting records of the System are maintained on a calendar year basis in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

<u>Cash</u> accounts are considered to be funds on deposit with banks and are available upon demand.

<u>Short Term Investments</u> are highly liquid investments that will mature within twelve months from the date of acquisition.

Investments are reported at their fair value. Securities traded on recognized exchanges are valued at the most recent sales price at year end. If no sale was reported, the mean of the bid and asked price is used when available, or the most recent bid price. Mutual, commingled and pooled funds are valued based on the net asset or unit value at year end. Real estate and alternative investments are valued based on estimates provided by the managers of those respective investments. Purchases and sales of securities are reflected on the date the trade is initiated. Realized gain or loss is largely based on the difference between the cost or the value at the prior year end and the funds realized upon liquidation. Dividend income is generally recorded when received. Interest income is recorded as earned on an accrual basis. Income from alternative investments is recorded as reported by the managing partner. Appreciation or depreciation in the value of investments consists of the unrealized gains and losses reported as the difference between the previous period and the current value.

The system makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported values of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts added and deducted during the reporting periods. The fair value of real estate and alternative investment holdings are generally estimated in the absence of reliable exchange values. The actual funds realized upon liquidation may differ from these estimates.

The provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32, § 23(2) generally govern the investment practices of the system. The Board retains an investment consultant to closely monitor the implementation and performance of their investment strategy and advise them of the progress toward full funding of the system. That strategy seeks to balance the exposure to common deposit and investment risks related to custody, credit concentrations, interest rate and foreign currency fluctuations.

Operating expenses include the ordinary and necessary cost of investment and professional services and the other miscellaneous <u>administrative expenses</u> of the system.

The <u>Annuity Savings Fund</u> is the fund in which members' contributions are deposited. Voluntary contributions, re-deposits, and transfers to and from other systems, are also accounted for in this fund. Members' contributions to the fund earn interest at a rate determined by PERAC. Interest for some members who withdraw with less than ten years of service is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund. Upon retirement, members' contributions and interest are transferred to the Annuity Reserve Fund. Dormant account balances must be transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund after a period of ten years of inactivity.

The <u>Annuity Reserve Fund</u> is the fund to which a member's account is transferred upon retirement from the Annuity Savings Fund and Special Military Service Credit Fund. The annuity portion of the retirement allowance is paid from this fund. Interest is credited monthly to this fund at the rate of 3% annually on the previous month's balance.

The <u>Special Military Service Credit Fund</u> contains contributions and interest for members while on a military leave for service in the Armed Forces who will receive creditable service for the period of that leave.

The <u>Expense Fund</u> contains amounts transferred from investment income for the purposes of administering the retirement system.

The <u>Pension Fund</u> contains the amounts appropriated by the governmental units as established by PERAC to pay the pension portion of each retirement allowance.

The <u>Pension Reserve Fund</u> contains amounts appropriated by the governmental units for the purposes of funding future retirement benefits. Any profit or loss realized on the sale or maturity of any investment or on the unrealized gain of a market valued investment as of the valuation date is credited to the Pension Reserve Fund. Additionally, any investment income in excess of the amount required to credit interest to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is credited to this Reserve account.

The <u>Investment Income Account</u> is credited with all income derived from interest and dividends of invested funds. At year-end the interest credited to the Annuity Savings Fund, Annuity Reserve Fund, Expense Fund, and Special Military Service Credit Fund is distributed from this account and the remaining balance is transferred to the Pension Reserve Fund.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM**

The System is administered by a five-person Board of Retirement consisting of the Town Accountant who shall be a member ex-officio, a second member appointed by the governing authority, a third and fourth member who shall be elected by the members in or retired from the service of such system, and a fifth member appointed by the other four board members.

Ex-officio Member: Linda M. Cantanzariti

Appointed Member: Vacant

Elected Member: Craig R. Chapman, Chairperson Term Expires: 8/31/23

Elected Member: Brian D. Brousseau Term Expires: 8/31/23

Appointed Member: Lynn Carley Term Expires: 1/31/22

The Board members are required to meet at least once a month. The Board must keep a record of all of its proceedings. The Board must annually submit to the appropriate authority an estimate of the expenses of administration and cost of operation of the system. The board must annually file a financial statement of condition for the system with the Executive Director of PERAC.

The investment of the system's funds is the responsibility of the Board. All retirement allowances must be approved by the Retirement Board. The PERAC Actuary performs verification prior to payment, unless the system has obtained a waiver for superannuation calculations allowing them to bypass this requirement. All expenses incurred by the System must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. Payments shall be made only upon vouchers signed by two persons designated by the Board.

Retirement board members and employees are bonded by an authorized agent representing a company licensed to do business in Massachusetts. Fidelity insurance is the only required policy coverage under Ch. 32 §21 and §23 as well as 840 CMR 17.01. The policy is designed to cover specific intentional acts such as theft, fraud or embezzlement and also specify who commits such acts, most commonly employees of the system. This coverage reimburses the system for the losses it suffers as a result of its employees' actions. It does not insure the employees for their illegal acts. Statutorily required coverage is provided by the current fidelity insurance policy to a limit of \$1,000,000 with a \$10,000 deductible issued through Travelers Casualty and Surety Company. The system also has Fiduciary coverage to a limit of \$50,000,000 under a blanket policy issued through the Massachusetts Association of Contributory Retirement Systems.

#### **BOARD REGULATIONS**

The North Attleboro Retirement Board has adopted Supplemental Regulations which are available on the PERAC website at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/north-attleboro-retirement-board-regulations">https://www.mass.gov/north-attleboro-retirement-board-regulations</a>.

### **ACTUARIAL VALUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

The most recent actuarial valuation of the System was prepared by Segal as of January 1, 2020.

The actuarial liability for active members was The actuarial liability for retired and inactive members was	\$79,375,432 92,055,956
The total actuarial liability was	\$171,431,388
System assets as of that date were (actuarial value)	125,422,852
The unfunded actuarial liability was	\$ <u>46,008,536</u>
The ratio of system's assets to total actuarial liability was	73.2%
As of that date the total covered employee payroll was	\$26,079,093

The normal cost for employees on that date was 10.0% of payroll

The normal cost for the employer including administrative expenses was 1.7% of payroll

The principal actuarial assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

Investment Return: 7.25% per annum Rate of Salary Increase: 3.00% per annum

### SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2020

	Actuarial	Actuarial	Unfunded			UAAL as a
Actuarial	Value of	Accrued	AAL	Funded	Covered	% of
Valuation	Assets	Liability	(UAAL)	Ratio	Payroll	Cov. Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	( b-a )	( a/b )	( c )	( (b-a)/c )
1/1/2020	\$125,422,852	\$171,431,388	\$46,008,536	73.2%	\$26,079,093	176.4%
1/1/2019	\$118,385,186	\$153,123,059	\$34,737,873	77.3%	\$25,158,932	138.1%
1/1/2017	\$104,796,414	\$125,653,891	\$20,857,477	83.4%	\$22,915,682	91.0%
1/1/2015	\$90,465,068	\$114,331,979	\$23,866,911	79.1%	\$22,706,208	105.1%
1/1/2013	\$72,945,050	\$101,674,707	\$28,729,657	71.7%	\$20,031,655	143.4%

### **MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Retirement in Past Years										
Superannuation	6	11	10	18	16	5	17	20	14	13
Ordinary Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidental Disability	2	2	2	0	I	0	0	I	2	3
Total Retirements	8	13	12	18	17	5	17	21	16	16
Total Retirees, Beneficiaries										
and Survivors	203	213	215	226	236	232	233	239	248	263
Total Active Members	568	563	535	529	502	494	494	497	499	509
Pension Payments										
Superannuation	\$2,335,965	\$2,391,652	\$2,539,900	\$2,726,680	\$3,101,265	\$3,206,063	\$3,327,886	\$3,663,547	\$3,977,037	\$4,065,266
Survivor/Beneficiary Payments	79,814	114,109	150,675	147,681	150,366	148,281	157,456	163,229	164,942	161,393
Ordinary Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
Accidental Disability	453,308	546,456	626,495	685,457	714,056	864,426	806,208	825,828	902,658	983,734
Other	221,980	226,824	256,353	235,225	253,681	245,265	286,925	379,194	356,141	382,682
Total Payments for Year	\$3,091,067	\$3,279,041	\$ <u>3,573,423</u>	\$ <u>3,795,043</u>	\$ <u>4,219,368</u>	\$ <u>4,464,035</u>	\$ <u>4,578,475</u>	\$ <u>5,031,798</u>	\$ <u>5,400,778</u>	\$ <u>5,</u> 593,075

### **LEASED PREMISES**

The North Attleboro Retirement Board leases approximately 1,000 square feet of space for its offices located at 500 Washington Street in North Attleboro. They signed an initial 5-year lease term (\$14.40 per sq. ft.) which expired October 31, 2015 and a second 5-year lease which expired October 31, 2020. A 3-year lease extension was signed and will expire October 31, 2023. The landlord is Tower Square Realty Trust.

The following schedule displays the minimum lease obligations on non-cancelable operating leases as of December 31, 2017:

For the year ending:	<u> Annual Rent</u>
2018	\$16,800
2019	\$16,800
2020	\$17,600
2021	\$21,780
2022	\$22,869
2023 (through October 31)	<u>\$19,845</u>

Total future minimum lease payments required \$115,694

