

**SHREWSBURY
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
AUDIT REPORT
JAN. 1, 2018 - DEC. 31, 2021**



**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., Chair

WILLIAM T. KEEFE, Executive Director

Auditor DIANA DIZOGLIO | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES J. GUIDO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN, ESQ.

March 5, 2025

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed an examination of certain activities of the Shrewsbury Retirement System pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 21. The examination covered the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021. 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: 1) that the Board is exercising appropriate fiduciary oversight, 2) that cash balances are accurately stated, 3) that investment balances are accurately stated, 4) that retirement contributions are accurately deducted, 5) that retirement allowances were correctly calculated, and 6) that required member documentation is maintained.

To achieve these objectives, we inspected certain records of the Shrewsbury 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. 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 finding 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.

Sincerely,



William T. Keefe
Executive Director



EXPLANATION OF FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Cash General Ledger Accounting:

The Shrewsbury Retirement Board changed their accounting software from Tyler to PTG in January 2023 (which is after the audit period). In Tyler, the two local bank accounts (expenses and payroll accounts) were combined in general ledger (GL) account #1040 Cash instead of being in two separate GL accounts. This issue became apparent when the bank accounts were shown separately in the PTG-generated GL which listed the expenses account at \$52M, the payroll account at negative \$70M, and a third cash account at \$18M for PRIM cash exchanges as of December 31, 2021. As of July 2024, the most recent monthly accounting completed as of the start of audit fieldwork, the GL had \$62M in the expenses account, negative \$97M in the payroll account, and \$36M in the third cash account. This happened because deposits and withdrawals are not recorded to each bank account in the GL. For example, the payroll account is showing only withdrawals in the GL resulting in the increasing negative balance. All bank activity should be recorded to each separate and corresponding GL cash account. This is an accounting issue only; no funds were lost.

In addition, we noted transactions that net to zero were not recorded to the GL. Deposits were mistakenly made into retirement accounts which were returned to the Treasurer.

Recommendation: The Board should record all bank activity, including deposits, withdrawals, wire transfers, etc., to each separate and corresponding GL cash account. Every transaction in each bank account should be recorded to its corresponding GL cash account for full transparency.

Board Response:

In response to the Cash General Ledger Accounting issue, where the Transactions were recorded in one of three but not all relevant cash accounts, resulting in a display issue where the sub accounts on the general ledger showed negative or inflated balances, while still totaling to amount reflected on the Bank Statements, the Board will contact the PERAC Auditing Staff to make the correcting accounting entries to bring the accounts into balance and make all appropriate entries going forward.

As it regards to an ongoing issue wherein users of the Mass VendorWeb system incorrectly direct funds earmarked for the Town of Shrewsbury into the Retirement System's Account, by selecting the wrong ID, the Board considered the PERAC recommendation to record both the deposit of funds into the Retirement Account and the subsequent transfer to the Town Account.

Upon that consideration and further discussion with other Town Accountant's the Board feels that recording these entries would result in an overstatement of the revenues and expenses of the System. This could result in particularly large overstatements, as in one instance during a period prior to the auditing period when an erroneous deposit in excess of \$ 500,000.00 was made.

The Board proposes that the Ex-Officio work alongside the State Treasurer's Office to re-assign the current VendorWeb ID to the Town Account and issue a new non-sequential ID with a naming convention that differs from the Town's to reduce the frequency of such errors in the future.

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 DECEMBER 31,			
	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net Assets Available For Benefits:				
Cash	\$824,869	\$1,175,872	\$1,030,294	\$161,123
Equities	36,927,959	29,807,849	25,210,173	0
Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	11,993,215	13,848,146	11,520,485	29,287,361
Pooled International Equity Funds	7,802,583	7,410,751	6,371,663	5,176,603
Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	6,098,647	6,092,966	5,439,162	4,891,250
Pooled Alternative Investment Funds	11,732,398	9,408,633	9,017,305	8,145,031
Pooled Real Estate Funds	19,575,361	14,113,359	14,026,614	12,682,127
PRIT Cash Fund	35	43	50,688	120
PRIT Core Fund	86,922,805	76,885,519	70,555,617	61,547,377
Interest Due and Accrued	11	0	1,088	14
Accounts Receivable	78,037	25,198	25,198	25,198
Accounts Payable	0	0	(124,430)	0
Total	\$181,955,920	\$158,768,336	\$143,123,856	\$121,916,203
Fund Balances:				
Annuity Savings Fund	\$28,007,055	\$27,705,056	\$27,899,054	\$27,126,243
Annuity Reserve Fund	8,536,613	7,883,424	6,676,683	6,460,734
Pension Fund	5,173,370	1,906,836	4,410,478	5,845,053
Military Service Fund	49,786	49,736	49,686	36,294
Expense Fund	0	0	0	0
Pension Reserve Fund	140,189,097	121,223,284	104,087,955	82,447,880
Total	\$181,955,920	\$158,768,336	\$143,123,856	\$121,916,203

ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

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 2018	\$26,076,616	\$6,614,306	\$6,101,083	\$36,257	\$0	\$86,347,977	\$125,176,240
Receipts	2,584,140	190,602	6,636,289	36	639,084	(4,043,874)	6,006,278
Interfund Transfers	(1,234,524)	1,090,747	0	0	0	143,776	0
Disbursements	(299,989)	(1,434,921)	(6,892,320)	0	(639,084)	0	(9,266,314)
Ending Balance 2018	27,126,243	6,460,734	5,845,053	36,294	0	82,447,880	121,916,203
Receipts	2,735,654	195,171	5,777,238	13,393	678,864	21,609,368	31,009,688
Interfund Transfers	(1,569,612)	1,538,905	0	0	0	30,707	0
Disbursements	(393,232)	(1,518,127)	(7,211,813)	0	(678,864)	0	(9,802,035)
Ending Balance 2019	27,899,054	6,676,683	4,410,478	49,686	0	104,087,955	143,123,856
Receipts	2,884,664	211,458	5,219,338	50	859,544	17,139,072	26,314,125
Interfund Transfers	(2,637,360)	2,641,103	0	0	0	(3,743)	(0)
Disbursements	(441,302)	(1,645,820)	(7,722,980)	0	(859,544)	0	(10,669,645)
Ending Balance 2020	27,705,056	7,883,424	1,906,836	49,736	0	121,223,284	158,768,336
Receipts	3,181,583	246,591	1,515,562	50	1,040,450	28,983,842	34,968,078
Interfund Transfers	(2,221,313)	2,239,342	10,000,000	0	0	(10,018,029)	0
Disbursements	(658,270)	(1,832,744)	(8,249,029)	0	(1,040,450)	0	(11,780,494)
Ending Balance 2021	\$28,007,055	\$8,536,613	\$5,173,370	\$49,786	\$0	\$140,189,097	\$181,955,920

ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,				
	2021	2020	2019	2018
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Members Deductions	\$2,626,277	\$2,556,570	\$2,469,887	\$2,474,497
Transfers from Other Systems	428,455	259,792	180,561	27,317
Member Make Up Payments and Re-deposits	85,910	24,885	51,321	46,398
Investment Income Credited to Member Accounts	40,940	43,416	33,885	35,928
Sub Total	<u>3,181,583</u>	<u>2,884,664</u>	<u>2,735,654</u>	<u>2,584,140</u>
Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Investment Income Credited to the Annuity Reserve Fund	<u>246,591</u>	<u>211,458</u>	<u>195,171</u>	<u>190,602</u>
Pension Fund:				
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements from Other Systems Received from Commonwealth for COLA and Survivor Benefits	290,651	229,322	196,674	198,587
Pension Fund Appropriation	64,947	71,120	74,005	129,505
Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims	1,058,364	4,902,396	5,445,268	6,293,197
Recovery of 91A Overearnings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,750</u>	<u>15,000</u>
Sub Total	<u>101,601</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>57,540</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,515,562</u>	<u>5,219,338</u>	<u>5,777,238</u>	<u>6,636,289</u>
Military Service Fund:				
Contribution Received from Municipality on Account of Military Service	0	0	13,356	0
Investment Income Credited to the Military Service Fund	50	50	36	36
Sub Total	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>13,393</u>	<u>36</u>
Expense Fund:				
Investment Income Credited to the Expense Fund	<u>1,040,450</u>	<u>859,544</u>	<u>678,864</u>	<u>639,084</u>
Pension Reserve Fund:				
Interest Not Refunded	0	246	0	39
Miscellaneous Income	1,333	0	215	90
Excess Investment Income	28,982,509	17,138,827	21,609,153	(4,044,003)
Sub Total	<u>28,983,842</u>	<u>17,139,072</u>	<u>21,609,368</u>	<u>(4,043,874)</u>
Total Receipts, Net	<u>\$34,968,078</u>	<u>\$26,314,125</u>	<u>\$31,009,688</u>	<u>\$6,006,278</u>

ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,				
	2021	2020	2019	2018
Annuity Savings Fund:				
Refunds to Members	\$215,301	\$216,313	\$109,916	\$131,548
Transfers to Other Systems	<u>442,969</u>	<u>224,988</u>	<u>283,316</u>	<u>168,440</u>
Sub Total	<u>658,270</u>	<u>441,302</u>	<u>393,232</u>	<u>299,989</u>
Annuity Reserve Fund:				
Annuites Paid	1,832,744	1,645,820	1,518,127	1,397,972
Option B Refunds	0	0	0	36,949
Sub Total	<u>1,832,744</u>	<u>1,645,820</u>	<u>1,518,127</u>	<u>1,434,921</u>
Pension Fund:				
Pensions Paid:				
Regular Pension Payments	6,487,875	5,940,620	5,502,431	5,188,150
Survivorship Payments	279,419	306,359	300,437	306,793
Ordinary Disability Payments	33,777	33,057	32,337	31,617
Accidental Disability Payments	879,829	889,194	883,940	824,324
Accidental Death Payments	198,411	222,001	219,717	216,762
Section 101 Benefits	46,895	45,529	44,203	45,236
3 (8) (c) Reimbursements to Other Systems	<u>322,823</u>	<u>286,219</u>	<u>228,749</u>	<u>279,438</u>
Sub Total	<u>8,249,029</u>	<u>7,722,980</u>	<u>7,211,813</u>	<u>6,892,320</u>
Expense Fund:				
Board Member Stipend	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Salaries	82,215	76,047	66,458	62,940
Legal Expenses	1,775	2,535	5,899	1,290
Medical Expenses	1,974	0	0	85
Travel Expenses	0	0	2,947	2,680
Administrative Expenses	4,307	4,408	4,153	3,198
Actuarial Services	11,500	11,500	9,000	11,550
Education and Training	100	0	2,400	1,600
Furniture and Equipment	0	467	0	360
Management Fees	877,585	670,001	532,316	501,894
Custodial Fees	19,604	17,229	4,074	0
Consultant Fees	32,000	35,000	21,000	24,000
Service Contracts	250	33,596	21,983	21,100
Fiduciary Insurance	<u>6,141</u>	<u>5,760</u>	<u>5,635</u>	<u>5,387</u>
Sub Total	<u>1,040,450</u>	<u>859,544</u>	<u>678,864</u>	<u>639,084</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$11,780,494</u>	<u>\$10,669,645</u>	<u>\$9,802,035</u>	<u>\$9,266,314</u>

ANNUAL STATEMENTS (as submitted) (Continued)

INVESTMENT INCOME

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31,				
	2021	2020	2019	2018
Investment Income Received From:				
Cash	\$479	\$781	\$1,915	\$696
Equities	321,346	289,641	76,901	0
Pooled or Mutual Funds	<u>3,586,814</u>	<u>3,079,790</u>	<u>3,656,768</u>	<u>3,646,270</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>3,908,639</u>	<u>3,370,212</u>	<u>3,735,584</u>	<u>3,646,965</u>
Plus:				
Realized Gains	10,315,039	5,879,755	7,531,903	5,857,282
Unrealized Gains	22,268,670	27,469,752	20,332,482	8,509,656
Interest Due and Accrued - Current Year	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>14</u>
Sub Total	<u>32,583,721</u>	<u>33,349,507</u>	<u>27,865,473</u>	<u>14,366,952</u>
Less:				
Paid Accrued Interest on Fixed Income Securities				
Realized Loss	(292,687)	(1,862,882)	(240,688)	(285,722)
Unrealized Loss	(5,889,133)	(16,602,455)	(8,843,245)	(20,906,541)
Interest Due and Accrued - Prior Year	<u>(0)</u>	<u>(1,088)</u>	<u>(14)</u>	<u>(6)</u>
Sub Total	<u>(6,181,820)</u>	<u>(18,466,425)</u>	<u>(9,083,948)</u>	<u>(21,192,270)</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>30,310,540</u>	<u>18,253,294</u>	<u>22,517,110</u>	<u>(3,178,352)</u>
Income Required:				
Annuity Savings Fund	40,940	43,416	33,885	35,928
Annuity Reserve Fund	246,591	211,458	195,171	190,602
Military Service Fund	50	50	36	36
Expense Fund	<u>1,040,450</u>	<u>859,544</u>	<u>678,864</u>	<u>639,084</u>
Total Income Required	<u>1,328,031</u>	<u>1,114,468</u>	<u>907,957</u>	<u>865,650</u>
Net Investment Income	<u>30,310,540</u>	<u>18,253,294</u>	<u>22,517,110</u>	<u>(3,178,352)</u>
Less: Total Income Required	<u>1,328,031</u>	<u>1,114,468</u>	<u>907,957</u>	<u>865,650</u>
Excess Income (Loss) To The Pension Reserve Fund	<u>\$28,982,509</u>	<u>\$17,138,827</u>	<u>\$21,609,153</u>	<u>(\$4,044,003)</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENTS OWNED (percentages by category)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021		
	MARKET VALUE	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSETS
Cash	\$824,869	0.5%
Equities	36,927,959	20.3%
Pooled Domestic Equity Funds	11,993,215	6.6%
Pooled International Equity Funds	7,802,583	4.3%
Pooled Domestic Fixed Income Funds	6,098,647	3.4%
Pooled Alternative Investment Funds	11,732,398	6.5%
Pooled Real Estate Funds	19,575,361	10.8%
PRIT Cash Fund	35	0.0%
PRIT Core Fund	<u>86,922,805</u>	<u>47.8%</u>
Grand Total	\$181,877,872	100.0%

For the year ending December 31, 2021, the rate of return for the investments of the Shrewsbury Retirement System was 19.64%. For the ten-year period ending December 31, 2021, the rate of return for the investments of the Shrewsbury Retirement System averaged 11.55%. For the 37-year period ending December 31, 2021, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the rate of return on the investments of the Shrewsbury Retirement System was 9.57%.

The composite rate of return for all retirement systems for the year ending December 31, 2021 was 19.51%. For the ten-year period ending December 31, 2021, the composite rate of return for the investments of all retirement systems averaged 10.86%. For the 37-year period ending December 31, 2021, since PERAC began evaluating the returns of the retirement systems, the composite rate of return on the investments of all retirement systems averaged 9.58%.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan covering all Shrewsbury 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 1:

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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 1 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 1, 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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. 1, 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 1, 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 1 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 1 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 1 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 1 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 73.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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 1, 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 1 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 12 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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 \$1,010.28 per year (or \$312 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. 1 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 \$1,010.28 per year, per child (or \$312 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 from the State Retirement Board. This lump sum payment is also available to the family of a public prosecutor in certain, limited circumstances.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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 1 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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.

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

Short Term Investments 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 administrative expenses of the system.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

The Annuity Savings Fund 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 Annuity Reserve Fund 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 Special Military Service Credit Fund 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 Expense Fund contains amounts transferred from investment income for the purposes of administering the retirement system.

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

The Pension Reserve Fund 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 Investment Income Account 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

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: Zhmin Li

Appointed Member: Michael Hale Term Expires: 06/30/2027

Elected Member: Ralph Iaccarino Term Expires: 12/14/2027

Elected Member: Mary E. Thompson, Chairperson Term Expires: 09/30/2025

Appointed Member: Alice M. Ferro Term Expires: 04/24/2025

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 Shrewsbury Retirement Board has adopted Supplemental Regulations which are available on the PERAC website at <https://www.mass.gov/shrewsbury-retirement-board-regulations>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (Continued)

MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Retirement in Past Years										
Superannuation	16	14	16	13	13	13	16	12	27	21
Ordinary Disability	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidental Disability	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Total Retirements	19	14	17	13	13	14	17	14	27	21
Total Retirees, Beneficiaries and Survivors	253	250	261	267	273	276	283	291	303	314
Total Active Members	541	539	512	493	472	467	464	458	430	426
Pension Payments										
Superannuation	\$3,994,072	\$4,116,551	\$4,334,028	\$4,537,108	\$4,823,866	\$5,056,905	\$5,188,150	\$5,502,431	\$5,940,620	\$6,487,875
Survivor/Beneficiary Payments	168,002	191,643	219,645	249,916	265,452	280,663	306,793	300,437	306,359	279,419
Ordinary Disability	37,497	37,488	38,208	47,369	44,757	30,898	31,617	32,337	33,057	33,777
Accidental Disability	744,493	762,436	808,208	820,752	809,312	831,614	824,324	883,940	889,194	879,829
Other	<u>454,001</u>	<u>437,425</u>	<u>443,085</u>	<u>436,729</u>	<u>436,186</u>	<u>499,236</u>	<u>541,436</u>	<u>492,669</u>	<u>553,749</u>	<u>568,129</u>
Total Payments for Year	\$5,398,065	\$5,545,543	\$5,843,173	\$6,091,874	\$6,379,572	\$6,699,317	\$6,892,320	\$7,211,813	\$7,722,980	\$8,249,029

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission

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Web: www.mass.gov/perac

PERAC

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

PHILIP Y. BROWN, ESQ., Chair

WILLIAM T. KEEFE, Executive Director

Auditor DIANA DIZOGLIO | KATHLEEN M. FALLON | KATE FITZPATRICK | JAMES J. GUIDO | RICHARD MACKINNON, JR. | JENNIFER F. SULLIVAN, ESQ.

December 29, 2025

Amy Li, Chairperson
Shrewsbury Contributory Retirement System
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

REFERENCE: Report of the Examination of the Shrewsbury Contributory Retirement System for the four-year period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021.

Dear Chairperson Li:

The Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission has completed a follow-up review of the finding and recommendation contained in its audit report of the Shrewsbury Retirement Board for the period referenced above. We conduct these visits as a regular part of the oversight process to ensure the timely implementation of the recommendation contained in that report. The examination also addressed the other matters discussed at the completion of the audit. The results are as follows:

1. The Audit Report cited a finding that combined cash accounts prior to a software conversion were now showing as three separate general ledger accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were not recorded to each separate account, resulting in two accounts with inflated positive balances and a third with a large negative balance. Also, net zero transactions were not recorded to the general ledger.

Follow-up Result: Journal entries were posted at the end of 2024 to the general ledger to correct each account balance. In 2025, the entries are made separately to each account. Zero net transactions were identified as Town of Shrewsbury monies rather than belonging to the Retirement Board. The depositor was contacted and fixed the error (related to bank account numbers) on their end so that the wiring of funds now flows to the town rather than to the Retirement Board. This issue is resolved.

The additional matters discussed have been reviewed and have been partially resolved.

December 29, 2025

Shrewsbury Follow up

Page Two

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the effort demonstrated by the staff of the Shrewsbury Contributory Retirement System to correct most of the issues from the most recent examination of the system.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



William T. Keefe
Executive Director

WTK/cms

cc: Shrewsbury Contributory Retirement System Members