

CHARLOTTE FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 16, 2021

PRESENT: John Carr, Joey Hager, Teresa Smith, Marvin Wilson

STAFF: Sandy Thiry, Desiré Dixon, Tony Bass

GUEST: Carl Roberts, Taylor Ridgely – Colchester

OFFICIAL CALL TO ORDER by John Carr at 8:00 a.m. and attendance was taken via roll call.

I. MEETING MINUTES

Marvin Wilson motioned to approve the minutes for the August 26, 2021 meeting and Teresa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried via roll call vote.

II. ASSET ALLOCATION REVIEW

The August 31, 2021 Asset Allocation Report was reviewed. It was noted that the \$4M cash draw down in September was not reflected in the August 31, 2021 asset balance for SSgA Russell 1000 Index fund. Reporting for Lazard will be one month in arrears due to timing of reports.

III. INTERNATIONAL FIXED INCOME REVIEW

Introductions were made. Taylor Ridgely, product specialist based in New York, worked with Janhavi Kumar prior to her departure from Colchester. Ed Sasinowski, newly hired Head of Distribution, replaced Janhavi. Ed was scheduled to be on the call but due to family emergency he could not attend. Carl Roberts, Investment Officer based in London, spoke to the Committee last year, and has been with the firm for four years.

Taylor mentioned a few firm updates which included the hiring of additional staff and the opening of a satellite office in Dublin. The Dublin office will complement the New York and London offices.

Carl Roberts noted that the investment process remains unchanged. The fund performed well in 2020, however, has underperformed in 2021. The bond and currency detractors and contributors were reviewed. Carl explained that the drop in currency return was due to the strong dollar and that the US dollar has been over-valued for quite a long time. He also stated that nominal real yields may look low and unattractive. Concern was raised regarding the performance of the fund over the past four years and the fees commensurate to the performance. Taylor will escalate the concern within Colchester.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Sandy Thiry reminded the Committee of drafting a public forum protocol for Board and Committee meetings. She presented feedback from both Committees. Additional suggestions were made by the Investment Committee which included longer time allotment to address the Board, the forum should only be for Board meetings, and that it should be part of the Communications Policy.

V. INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Committee was presented with the final, red-lined draft, which will be provided to the Board for adoption in October. No additional changes were made.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Marvin Wilson recognized the death of active Firefighter II, Jeff Hager.

Marvin Wilson motioned to adjourn at 10:11 a.m. and Joey Hager seconded the motion. The motion carried via roll call vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

cc: Vanessa Heffron, Board Chair
Lisa Flowers, Assistant City Attorney