

These minutes from the September 5, 2013 Benefits Committee meeting were approved and executed at the October 8, 2013 committee meeting.

**Benefits Committee  
Board of Trustees  
September 5, 2013**

**The Public Minutes**

**New Hampshire Retirement System  
54 Regional Drive  
Concord, NH 03301**

*Committee Members:* George Walker, *Chair*; John Beardmore; David McCrillis; Don Roy; Jack Wozmak, *(telephonically)*.

*Trustee:* Germano Martins

*Staff:* George Lagos, *Executive Director*; Tim Crutchfield, Esq., *Chief Legal Counsel*; Denise Call, *Director of Employer & Retiree Services*; Nancy Miller, *Director of Member Services*; Carolyn Johnson, Esq., *Hearings Examiner*; Mark Cavanaugh, Esq., *Regulatory Compliance Officer*; Kathy DeNutte, *Employer Services Team Lead*; Chris Stoddard, *Retiree Services Team Lead*; Shannan Hudgins, *Administrative Coordinator*.

Trustee Walker called the Committee meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and requested a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes of the July 31, 2013, meeting. Moved by Trustee McCrillis, and seconded by Trustee Roy, the minutes were approved. Trustee Beardmore abstained.

On a motion by Trustee Beardmore, seconded by Trustee McCrillis, the Committee unanimously voted to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) to discuss the disability matters of J.B., on a roll call vote, as follows:

*Ayes:* Trustees Walker, Beardmore, McCrillis, and Roy.

*Nays:* None.

Staff members Kathy DeNutte, Chris Stoddard, Nancy Miller, and Denise Call were excused from the meeting.

Trustee Wozmak joined the meeting at 8:38 a.m., telephonically.

On a motion by Trustee Roy, seconded by Trustee McCrillis, the Committee unanimously voted to conclude the non-public session. Staff members returned to the meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Wozmak, seconded by Trustee Beardmore, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the full Board that it approve the Hearings Examiner's recommendation in the matter of J.B.

Atty. Crutchfield presented revisions to Ret. 309 Disability Benefits Rule, explaining the benefit of a formal mechanism to review continued eligibility status of disability benefit recipients. Emphasizing the re-examination purpose of the rule, Mr. Lagos stated that retirees who met age and service requirements would continue to receive vested retirement benefits, if upon reevaluation they were deemed no longer disabled. Atty. Crutchfield also stated the reexamination provision would not apply to retirees over age 60.

The Independent Medical Examiner *curriculum vitae* were discussed by Atty. Crutchfield, who explained that NHRS required an annual review of the IME's statement of credentials. Noting that the cv's had been included in the September Board materials, he offered a general explanation of the process of disability applications and the role of the IMEs in that process.

At the close of agenda-related discussions, Mr. Lagos addressed the flurry of press inquiries related to the recent settlement reached between Belknap County and NHRS. He reported that public interest had been focused on aspects of the settlement that did not reveal all the facts, many of which were confidential. He described the System's response to inquiries through analogy: of the seven similar cases under scrutiny, two had been dropped, two had been settled, two had been paid, and one had been appealed to the NH Supreme Court.

On a motion by Trustee Roy, seconded by Trustee McCrillis, the Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:37 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Shannan Hudgins*