



**CHESHIRE RETIREMENT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
(PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)**

*Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw
Public comments accepted at Comments@cheshirect.org and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638. Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at www.cheshirect.org as soon as possible.*

In attendance were Chairman Michael Evans, members Mark Izzo, Paul Shay and Dennis Flagg; Police Department representatives Kevin Costa and Steve Jester; Finance Director James Jaskot; Town Council Liaison David Borowy (until 6:30 p.m.); Ross Charkatz and Amanda Thome of Graystone Consulting.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Chairman Evans called the roll and a quorum was determined.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes for February 2020 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Izzo made a motion to accept minutes for regular meeting – February 2020. Mr. Shay seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

There was no old business to report

6. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Mr. Jaskot stated the current slate of officers. They were all re-elected as follows:

MOTION: Mr. Flagg made a motion to nominate Mr. Evans as Chairman. Mr. Izzo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Evans made a motion to nominate Mr. Flagg as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Shay seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Evans made a motion to nominate Mr. Izzo as Secretary. Mr. Flagg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

b. Investment Update and Market Comments

Mr. Charkatz made no recommendations at this time. The Coronavirus crisis has triggered investment views playing out as muted returns, bonds' inability to diversify, and an increase in volatility. Ten year equity returns are somewhat improved but offer lower than average potential across Large Cap US stocks and higher than average potential outside the US and in Emerging Markets. It is thought that an opportunity lies in earning equity-like returns with a margin of safety across a range of credit-oriented assets (investment grade, asset backed, distressed debt). Reverberations from the crisis will play out over years rather than months. While the outcome of the crisis is unknown, inflation, deflation, and a combination of both are likely to be drivers.

Graham Absolute Return is a fund being watched and will be reviewed during the August meeting. In March 2020 it was down 11.9% resulting from losses from 2 of its 17 underlying strategies. Graham Absolute Return has revised its risk allocations in an effort to minimize downfalls.

ClearBridge Large Cap Growth – Management Presentation

James Basnight and Jacob Drossner presented the ClearBridge Large Cap Growth strategy. It invests in large cap growth stocks incorporating Grow A Reasonable Price philosophy ('GARP') that emphasizes companies with incorporate growth rates and profitability. Fifty percent of its portfolio is dedicated to 'Stable Growth' stocks where companies show proven returns and high free cash flows. Additionally 30% focuses on faster growing 'Select Growth' companies and 20% on 'Cyclical Growth' stocks with favorable trade valuations. Focus on quality provides some protection during downturns.

c. Pension Disbursements – For Information Only

d. Summary of Bills – For Information Only

7. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shay. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted:



Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary