

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE PENSION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
June 26, 2020**

A meeting of the Pension Oversight Commission (POC) for the Howard County Retirement Plan and the Howard County Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan was held Friday, June 26, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. via WebEx online event. Present for all or part of the meeting were the following voting members of the Commission:

Ken Barnes
Jae Chon
Todd Snyder
Mitchell Stringer

Also present in person for all or part of the meeting was Scott Southern from the Office of Human Resources. Mr. Snyder chaired the meeting and Mr. Southern served as secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. Mr. Snyder brought to the attention of the other Commissioners that he received a call from Ms. Wanda Hutchinson, Chair of the Joint Retirement Plan Committees, to see if the Pension Oversight Commission would need to delay the production of their annual report. Normal operating conditions for the county were shut down and access to material was limited due to the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID 19). The commission did not feel that an extended timeframe would be necessary.

Mr. Snyder asked if the other Commission Members had comments about the draft of the annual report that he had sent out to each of them individually. The Commission felt that the report was compiled well given the extenuating circumstances. There was discussion about the investment return assumption. The Commission speculated about how seriously the Retirement Plan Committee takes its recommendation to lower that assumption. The commission addressed that the market conditions have changed drastically over the last year.

A discussion followed about how lowering the discount rate would lower the funded ratio of the plans. Commission members expressed the importance that the Retirement Plan Committee know the impact of the funding ratio with various investment return assumptions.

The Commission considered the conflict of interest that may be present for the Retirement Plan Committee members, given that they are employees of the county that may have to consider the budget as well as their fiduciary duties to the retirement plans.

Mr. Southern raised the question if the Commission would like to discuss their report with members of the Retirement Plan Committee before submitting the final report. The Commission declined as it may appear that its opinion was influenced. Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Southern to contact Ms. Hutchinson and see if she has time to talk on Tuesday so he could give her advanced notice of the topics covered in the report. The commission members agreed to cancel the scheduled meeting for Monday June 29, 2020 and meet on June 30, 2020 to finalize the report.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Southern", written over a horizontal line.

Scott Southern
Office of Human Resources