

Retirement Board Work Session (Special Meeting)
July 17, 2014
11:00 AM

Members Present: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Courtney, Commissioner Kopas, Treasurer Jared Squires, Controller Balzer

16 RFP's for Investment Consulting Services were received and were individually reviewed by the Board.

Discussions were held between the Board members as to the advantage of the Investment Consulting Firm's style of managing the Westmoreland County Pension Fund. A few Firms wanted to have complete control over the type of funds used and the decisions to move money when deemed appropriate. Tyler Courtney expressed a desire to hire such a firm to do this rather than have the Board decide to move or change funds and amounts based on information and advice from the manager. Some firms recommended co-fiduciary style, while others would do whatever the Board wanted to do. It was noted that sometimes the Board goes along with Christian Brokaw, the current manager from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., and sometimes the Board chooses to not follow said advice. Several of the responding firms were proposing to do everything themselves without input from the Board. Specifically Cornerstone was charging a larger fee to be able to solely manage the County's pension.

Controller Balzer then made a motion to retain Arthur J. Gallagher & Co to manage Westmoreland County's pension fund, seconded by Commissioner Kopas. Additional discussions occurred before a vote was taken.

The Retirement Board has always maintained the ability to manage the County pension using the recommendations of the current manager. This has been the County Policy in regard to the Westmoreland County Pension.

The vote was taken and the Board agreed to retain Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. A 3-2 vote resulted with Controller Balzer, Treasurer Squires, and Commissioner Kopas voting yes and Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Courtney voting no.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was not against retaining Arthur J. Gallagher, but rather wanted to go through the process to explore different philosophies of managing the Retirement Fund.

Treasurer Squires wanted to thank all the companies that took the time to submit a proposal.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Anderson seconded by Controller Balzer. Unanimous.