#### ADAMS COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING

# MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING 4430 SOUTH ADAMS COUNTY PARKWAY RETIREMENT CONFERENCE CENTER BRIGHTON, COLORADO 80601

## **APRIL 1, 2014**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Joe Pacyga – Chairman Ben Dahlman – Vice-Chairman Brigitte Grimm – Treasurer Marlise Bruno – Secretary Michael McIntosh

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Pamela Mathisen, Executive Director Debbie Haines, Senior Benefits Manager (Corresponding Secretary)

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP - Cindy Birley

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Wendy Dominguez – Innovest

Richard Todd – Innovest

Dale Connors – Watershed Investment Consultants

Gary Ratliff – Watershed Investment Consultants

Paul Schreder – Watershed Investment Consultants

Called to Order: 8:59 A.M.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY INNOVEST

Ms. Dominguez indicated that in preparing for their presentation Innovest will focus on two areas and hopefully change the perception of the Board. The first will be understanding the needs of the Adams County Retirement Plan and the second is the soundness of Innovest's approach. She stated that Innovest's specialty is in Public Sector Plans. Ms. Dominguez proceeded by introducing Mr. Richard Todd, Principal and CEO with 25 years of experience. Mr. Todd indicated that Innovest gathered as much information on the Adams County Retirement Plan as possible then benchmarked it against a Public Plan database. He proceeded by going over their findings with the Board. After Innovest's presentation the Board of Retirement proceeded to ask Innovest a set of questions. The final question for Innovest was why the Board of Retirement should hire Innovest to be the Plan's Investment Advisor. They responded by saying they have public sector expertise, portfolio construction experience, due diligence focus and comprehensive reporting.

Both Ms. Dominguez and Mr. Todd thanked the Board for their time.

Recess at 10:24 A.M. Reconvened at 10:36 A.M.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY WATERSHED INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS

Mr. Connors started by thanking the Board for allowing them to present. Mr. Schreder proceeded by giving an overview of Watershed. They are a non-discretionary institutional investment consultant registered with the SEC. Their sole agenda is providing their clients with unbiased investment advice on traditional and alternative strategies. Mr. Ratliff continued by saying Watershed is a conflict free firm with no financial relationship with any other organizations. Watershed is driven by research and they spend the majority of their time conducting proprietary in-house research. After Watershed's presentation the Board of Retirement proceeded to ask Watershed a set of questions. The final question for Watershed was what makes them the most qualified to be the Plan's Investment Advisor. Mr. Connors responded by saying first that Watershed has a very senior research team and second they are specialists in Defined Benefit Plans, are local and go above and beyond for their clients.

Mr. Connors thanked the Board for their time and stated that Watershed Investment Consultants really enjoy working with Adams County Retirement Plan and hopes to continue that relationship in the future.

Recess at 12:00 P.M. Reconvened at 12:48 P.M.

All Board members, Retirement staff and legal counsel present.

#### Discussion:

The Board discussed how the interviews went with both firms. Ms. Birley gave her opinion to the Board on each of the firms since she was familiar with them. After a lengthy discussion regarding risk tolerance each Board member was polled on how they rated each firm. The Board indicated that they were happy that they went through the proposal process for the Investment Advisory Services.

Mr. McIntosh moved to "Retain Watershed as our Investment Advisory". Ms. Bruno seconded the motion.

#### Discussion:

Mr. Dahlman indicated that he was not prepared to make that decision at this point. Ms. Grimm agreed that she was not fully prepared at that moment and would like to complete her score sheet.

Mr. Dahlman moved to table the original motion until the May 2014 Board meeting. Ms. Grimm seconded the motion.

#### Discussion:

Ms. Bruno feels that the information was fresh on everyone's minds. She would prefer if a decision was made today. Mr. McIntosh indicated that if Ms. Grimm and Mr. Dahlman was not prepared to make the decision today he was okay to wait until the May 2014 Board meeting.

Unanimously carried.

Mr. McIntosh moved to adjourn the Special Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Dahlman seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Haines, Senior Benefits Manager (Corresponding Secretary)

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014** 

REGULAR BOARD MEETING ADAMS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER 4430 SOUTH ADAMS COUNTY PARKWAY RETIREMENT CONFERENCE CENTER BRIGHTON, COLORADO 80601