

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM - FUND B
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2009

**APPLICATION OF STATEMENT NO. 25 OF THE
GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD**

DISCLOSURE OF PENSION INFORMATION

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM - FUND B

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2009

A. Plan Description

1. The Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) is a cost sharing multiple employer public employee retirement system (PERS) established by the State of Connecticut and administered by the State Retirement Commission to provide pension benefits for the employees of participating municipalities. MERS is considered to be a part of the State of Connecticut's financial reporting entity and is included in the State's financial reports as a pension trust fund.

2. Any local government authority in the State of Connecticut, including towns, cities, boroughs, regional school districts, housing authorities, or other special districts, may elect to participate for one or more of its departments, including elective officers; only teachers who are covered under the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System are ineligible. As of July 1, 2008, there were 179 participating local government units (counting departments of municipalities which joined or report separately as separate units).

At July 1, 2008, the MERS membership consisted of:

	Retirees & Beneficiaries	Terminated Vested	Active Vested	Active Non-Vested
Police & Fire				
a. Without Social Security	308	17	472	259
b. With Social Security	225	15	274	125
General				
a. Without Social Security	2,148	174	2,086	777
b. With Social Security	2,774	335	3,252	1,560
Withdrawn				
Municipalities*	7	0	N/A	N/A
Total Members	5,455	541	6,084	2,721

* The head count shown is included in the groups above.

3. Plan provisions are set by statute of the State of Connecticut. MERS provides retirement benefits, as well as death and disability benefits. Annual cost of living increases are applied to disabled and non-disabled retirement benefits and vary based upon member age and date of retirement. For members that retired prior to January 1, 2002, increases between 3.0% and 5.0% are paid to those who have reached age 65 and (effective January 1, 2002) increases of 2.5% are paid to those who have not yet reached age 65. For members that retire after December 31, 2001, increases between 2.5% and 6.0% are paid, regardless of age. Benefits vest after 5 years of continuous service or 15 years of active aggregate service. Vested members who retire after age 55 or after 25 years of service, irrespective of age, are entitled to an annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, in an amount for each year of service equal to:
 - If not covered by Social Security: 2% of the average of earnings for the three highest paid years of service.
 - If covered by Social Security: 1-1/2% of the average of earnings for the three highest paid years of service not in excess of the year's breakpoint, plus 2% of the average of earnings for the three highest paid years of service in excess of the year's breakpoint. The year's breakpoint for 2008 is \$48,800.
4. Covered employees are required by State statute to contribute 2-1/4% of earnings upon which Social Security tax is paid plus 5% of earnings on which no Social Security tax is paid. Each participating municipality is required to contribute the amounts necessary to finance the remaining costs of the plan. Employees not covered by Social Security are required to contribute 5% of all earnings.

B. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters

1. Basis of Accounting

MERS financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Employee and employer contributions are recognized as revenues in the period in which employee services are performed.

2. Method Used to Value Investments

Retirement trust funds can invest in the following investment pools maintained by the State of Connecticut.

Mutual Fixed Income Fund - Investments consist principally of bonds and notes.

Mutual Equity Fund - Investments consist principally of common stocks.

Real Estate Fund - Investments consist principally of interest in commingled equity real estate funds.

Mutual Commercial Mortgage Fund - Investments consist principally of interest in commercial mortgages.

Mutual Venture Capital Fund - Investments consist principally of interests in venture capital partnerships which have common stock interests in emerging businesses.

Mutual International Stock Fund - Investments consist principally of international equity securities.

Liquidity Fund - Investments consist principally of money market instruments.

Private Equity - Investments comprised of various limited partnerships, limited liability companies and securities.

Investments in the pooled funds are valued at cost. Market values of the investment pools are determined by the Master Custodian based on the performance of the underlying securities. Investment income is recognized as earned. Gains and losses on sales and redemptions of investments are recognized on the transaction date. There are no investments in any organizations that represent 5% or more of the net assets available for benefits.

C. Funding Status and Progress

1. The actuarial accrued liability is a measure that uses the benefit provisions and is intended to (i) help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, and (ii) assess progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Allocation of the actuarial present value of projected benefits between past and future service was based on service using the entry age actuarial cost method. Entry age was established by subtracting credited service from current age on the valuation date. Assumptions, including projected pay increases, were the same as those used to determine the annual required contribution between entry age and assumed exit age.

The actuarial value of assets is based on a market-related method that recognizes i) 20% of any difference between actual and expected investment income (gain/loss) in the valuation year and ii) 20% of any previous years' unrecognized investment gains/losses. Such smoothed actuarial asset value shall not be less than 80% or greater than 120% of the market value of assets.

2. The actuarial accrued liability was determined as part of an actuarial valuation at July 1, 2008.
3. Significant actuarial assumptions used include:

- a. Rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 8.25% per year compounded annually.
 - b. Projected salary increases of 3.75% per year compounded annually, attributable to inflation.
 - c. Additional projected salary increases ranging from 7.50% to 0.75%, per year, attributable to seniority/merit.
 - d. Annual cost of living increases are applied to disabled and non-disabled retirement benefits and vary based upon member age and date of retirement. For members that retired prior to January 1, 2002, increases of 3.50% are assumed for those who have reached age 65 and (effective January 1, 2002) increases of 2.5% are assumed for those who have not yet reached age 65. For members that retire after December 31, 2001, increases of 2.6% are assumed, regardless of age.
4. Actuarial Accrued Liability as of July 1, 2008:
- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| Active Members | \$ 801,667,033 |
| Retirees and Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits | 885,135,408 |
| Terminated Employees not yet Receiving Benefits | <u>35,038,844</u> |
| Total Actuarial Accrued Liability | \$1,721,841,285 |
5. Actuarial Value of Assets 1,779,098,599
6. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability \$ (57,257,314)
7. During the year there were no changes in benefit provisions or actuarial methods, but there were changes in actuarial assumptions, as follows:

Demographic Changes:

Actives:

General Employees:

- For service retirements, commence rates at age 45 (currently age 50) and extend 100% retirement assumption to age 75 (currently age 70). Additionally, adjust the rates accordingly for all other ages.
- For withdrawal, move from unisex rates to sex-distinct rates.

- For death-in-service, add rates for ages 70 through 74.
- For disability retirements, add rates for ages 70 through 74.

Police and Fire:

- For service retirements, increase the rates for ages 45 through 52.

- All Pensioners:**
- Update mortality for healthy male and female retirees to the RP-2000 mortality table, set forward one year for males and set back one year for females.
 - Update mortality for disabled male and female retirees to the RP-2000 mortality table, set forward five years for males and set forward one year for females.

Economic Changes:

- Reduce the overall interest rate from 8.50% to 8.25%.
- Reduce the price inflation assumption from 3.75% to 3.50%.
- Decrease the annual cost-of-living adjustment assumption from 4.00% to 3.50%.

D. Contributions Required and Contributions Made

1. Each covered municipality is required by State statute to pay an actuarially determined percentage of covered payroll to provide for benefits based on current service. This percentage varies for police and fire versus general employees, and within those two groups, may vary for populations covered by Social Security versus those not covered by Social Security. The statute also requires each municipality to pay an annual amount for benefits based on service prior to the unit's date of participation. This amount is a level dollar amortization (including interest and principal) over varying time periods depending upon the unit's date of participation and other factors.
2.
 - a. The contributions are actuarially determined using the entry age normal method.
 - b. The actuarial assumptions are the same as those used to compute the actuarial accrued liability discussed in Section C above.
 - c. Contributions totaling \$50,730,967 (\$35,936,510 employer and \$14,794,457 employee) were made for the plan year ending June 30, 2009 in accordance with actuarially determined contribution requirements based on an actuarial valuation performed as of July 1, 2008. These contributions consisted of: (a) \$45,156,546 normal cost and (b) \$5,574,421 amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The employer and employee

contributions represent 8.7% and 3.6% of covered payroll as of July 1, 2008, respectively.

E. Ten Year Historical Trend Information

Ten-year historical trend information designed to provide information about MERS' progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the supplement immediately following these notes to financial statements.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ANALYSIS OF FUNDING PROGRESS

(IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Fiscal Year Ending	Value Of Assets (1)		Rate Of Return (2)		Actuarial Liability (AAL) (3)	% Funded (4) = (1) / (3)		Unfunded AAL (5) = (3) - (1)		Annual Covered Payroll (6)	Unfunded AAL as a % of Covered Payroll (7) = (5) / (6)	
	Actuarial	Market	Actuarial	Market		Actuarial	Market	Actuarial	Market		Actuarial	Market
1999	\$1,101	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$860	128.0%	N/A	\$(241)	N/A	\$269	\$(90)	N/A
2000	1,252	1,377	14.25	13.38	1,153	108.6	119.4	(99)	(224)	290	(34)	(77)
2001	1,353	1,300	10.41	(3.62)	1,238	109.3	105.0	(115)	(62)	311	(37)	(20)
2002	1,403	1,187	6.02	(6.47)	1,319	106.4	90.0	(84)	132	322	(26)	41
2003	1,418	1,175	3.46	1.89	1,379	102.8	85.2	(39)	204	326	(12)	63
2004	1,434	1,306	3.80	14.49	1,393	102.9	93.8	(41)	87	333	(12)	26
2005	1,512	1,398	6.51	9.89	1,465	103.2	95.4	(47)	67	352	(13)	19
2006	1,588	1,509	7.19	10.39	1,550	102.5	97.4	(38)	41	366	(10)	11
2007	1,701	1,729	8.96	16.60	1,640	103.7	105.4	(61)	(89)	388	(16)	(23)
2008	1,779	1,632	6.32	(4.03)	1,722	103.3	94.8	(57)	90	412	(14)	22

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

REVENUES BY SOURCE AND EXPENSES BY TYPE

(IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

Revenues by Source							Expenses by Type		
Fiscal Year	Employee Contributions	Employer Contributions*	Investment Income	Realized Gains	Other	Total	Benefits	Refunds	Total
1999 - 00	\$12.3	\$32.0	\$47.7	\$24.5	\$0.0	\$116.5	\$48.4	\$1.3	\$49.7
2000 - 01	10.7	15.5	46.2	(0.3)	0.0	72.1	52.1	1.4	53.5
2001 - 02	11.4	15.3	44.8	0.0	0.0	71.5	55.8	1.2	57.0
2002 - 03	11.2	15.9	52.1	1.4	0.0**	80.6	59.7	1.1	60.8
2003 - 04	11.7	16.3	51.6	7.9	0.0	87.5	63.6	0.9	64.5
2004 - 05	12.2	21.8	54.0	0.2	0.0	88.2	68.4	1.3	69.7
2005 - 06	12.9	28.7	53.2	1.6	0.0	96.4	72.8	1.2	74.0
2006 - 07	13.1	39.4	61.0	19.3	0.0	132.8	78.9	1.5	80.4
2007 - 08	17.6	38.8	66.1	135.5	0.0	258.0	83.5	1.1	84.6
2008 - 09	14.8	35.9	48.5	1.5	0.0	100.7	89.3	1.3	90.6

* Contributions were made in accordance with actuarially determined requirements.

** Transfer of assets from Fund A of \$9,977.