ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

100 North Park Avenue, MPERA Conference Room

January 17, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Mike O’Connor at 9:30 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike O’Connor, Jan Brown, John McEwen, James Driggers, Patty Mott, Cathy Kendall, and Kristyn Bohlander (staff). Jim Lewis, Dale Boespflug, and Lyle Manley were excused.

GUESTS

Dore Schwinden, Dave Galt, Brian Thompson, Tim Reardon, Julie Reardon.

MINUTES

John McEwen made a motion to approve the minutes, Jan Brown seconded the motion, and the December minutes were approved unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden provided a brief update from MPERA. Currently, MPERA has three bills: HB 101, HB 85, and HB 136. The bills concern general revisions of MPERA retirement systems, actuarial funding for the Sheriffs’ retirement system, and actuarial funding for the Game Wardens’ and Peace Officers’ retirement system. HB 101 and HB 136 have been heard, and Dore expects the Sheriffs’ bill to get dropped in the hopper this week. Dore anticipates that most bills regarding retirement will not get dropped in.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dave Galt and Brian Thompson provided the board with a legislative update. The new bill tracking system allows quick notification of interesting bills being introduced, and allows user access to the most recent information available. They explained that many bill drafts are being cancelled or held, and that bills with a fiscal note are unlikely to be passed. Dave and Brian will coordinate with the AMRPE legislative committee if any bills arise that imply critical changes to retiree benefits.

Mike O’Connor stated that he would like teacher-related bills included on the tracking sheet.

Mike O’Connor entertained a motion to support House Bill 85 and House Bill 136, which provide actuarial funding for the Sheriffs’ retirement system, and actuarial funding for the Game Wardens’ and Peace Officers’ retirement system. John McEwen moved to approve, Cathy Kendall seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

John McEwen stated that the financials were good. During 2016, AMRPE experienced higher income and lower expenses than originally anticipated. John also informed the board that renewal letters were recently mailed, and membership dues are being collected.

OLD BUSINESS

The board discussed the January newsletter, and expressed the desire to make future newsletters primarily electronic. In order to do so, efforts need to be made to collect more members’ email addresses.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reviewed the proposed budget. Budgeted income and expenses remained generally consistent with the previous year, with the exception of the legal and lobbying fees.

Cathy Kendall moved to approve the 2017 budget, Patty Mott seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee assignments will remain the same as 2016. An audit will be performed by the Audit Committee in the spring.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

The next meeting will be held in the MPERA conference room at 100 North Park Avenue in Helena on February 21, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.