ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

100 North Park Avenue, MPERA Conference Room

September 19, 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, Lyle Manley, James Driggers, Jim Lewis, Patty Mott, Cathy Kendall and Kim Hoxie (staff). John McEwen, Jan Brown and Dale Boespflug were excused.

GUESTS

Dore Schwinden, Executive Director MPERA

Bill Holahan, Legal Counsel, MPERA

Steve Garrison

**Montana Public Employees Retirement Association**

Dore Schwinden thanked James Driggers and Patty Mott for participating in the retirement benefits website testing. The testing helped to make some changes to the website. Dore also asked if James Driggers and Patty Mott would be willing participating in the testing using their home computers this time. Both James Driggers and Patty Mott agreed to do testing from their home computers.

Dore Schwinden stated that MPERA has been very busy after the Governor announced that he will be reducing the state budgets by $227 million dollars. He has been talking to agencies about the costs associated with RIFs.

Bill Holahan stated that MPERA has been working on clarifying the language on the retirement Option 2 application. MPERA just recently finished a court case where the Judge declared that on the retirement material, the retirement Option 2 did not clearly state what would happen to the remaining benefits after the member and the contingent annuitant had died. MPERA now believes that the language is stated clearly that after the member and the contingent annuitant die the remaining benefits will go back to the trust fund.

MINUTES

Jim Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, James Driggers seconded the motion, and the amended May minutes were approved unanimously.

Correction on page 2, Update on MPERA website, the report was given by James Driggers.

OLD BUSINESS

**Membership letter**

September membership letter was sent out the week of September 11th and 2,059 letters were mailed. Patty stated that she has already received 6 new member applicants and 2 are life time members.

There was discussion about the membership committee developing a postcard to send to new members to let them know AMPRE had received their membership. Patty Mott will work on this and will bring a report back to the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

**Board Succession Planning**

Mike O’Connor stated that Patty Mott, James Driggers, and John McEwen Board terms expire December 2017. John McEwen, Treasurer, has not decided if he will re-apply for a Board position. Mike O’Connor stated that the Board needs to plan and discuss how to replace Board members.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

Cathy Kendall made a motion to approve the September Treasurer’s Report, Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the September Treasurer’s Report was approved unanimously.

**Public Employees Retirements Board Meeting**

Mike O’Connor stated that the evaluation for the Public Employees’ Retirement Board’s Experience Study will be out in October. The Experience Study looks for system trends and makes demographic and economic assumptions for future actuarial valuations. The report uses historical data as well as current information to project how the pension plan is going to perform for retirees and current employees.

Cathy Kendall did not set up a report on the Retiree Health Plan for the September Board meeting. She will contact Marilyn Bartlett, Administrator for the Health Care & Benefits Division, and see if she is available for the October board meeting.

Lyle Manley moved to adjourn. Jim Lewis seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:15A.M.

The next meeting will be held in the MPERA conference room at 100 North Park Avenue in Helena on October 17, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.