ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room

February 20, 2018

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, Jan Brown, Patty Mott, James Driggers, Dale Boespflug and Connie Welsh and Kim Hoxie (staff). Jim Lewis and Cathy Kendall were excused.

GUESTS

Tim and Julie Reardon

MPERA Update – Dore Schwinden, Executive Director

Dore Schwinden reported that the 1099’s and benefit changes mailings to retirees have been completed.

Dore Schwinden distributed a copy of an editorial from the Bozeman Chronicle by Rep. Tom Burnett and a copy of the Montana Teachers’ and Public Employees’ Retirement System letter in response to the editorial. Dore Schwinden stated that response was approved by the Governor’s office and he wanted the Board to be notified of TRS and PERA’s response to the information presented in the editorial.

MINUTES

Dale Boespflug made a motion to approve the minutes, Jan Brown seconded the motion, and the January minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers stated that the financial report will no longer have the membership information included on the report. Patty Mott, membership chair, will give a report on membership. Mike O’Connor requested that the financial report look more like an income statement and mentioned that he would be willing to help making the changes.

James Driggers reviewed the expense categories for the month’s expenses to help familiarize the Board with where expenses are categorized. During the audit of the expenditures, James and Mike will review the expense categories with John McEwen to ensure consistency of expense reporting.

James Driggers stated that with the new slate of officers for 2018, the signing authorization on the bank accounts needs to be changed to reflect Mike O’Connor, President; Jan Brown, Secretary; and James Driggers, Treasurer.

Patty Mott moved that the Rocky Mountain Credit Union account and all financial institution accounts authorized signatures be changed to reflect Mike O’Connor, President; Jan Brown, Secretary and James Driggers, Treasurer. Dale Boespflug seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

After the financial report was presented there was discussion regarding placing more cash funds in a higher rated CD at Rocky Mountain Credit Union. Also, there was discussion of moving CD’s to low risk mutual funds when the two current CD’s mature. Lyle Manley suggested James to do some research on low risk mutual funds in the next couple of months before one of the CD’s expire in September.

Dale Boespflug moved that $10,000 from the available cash be moved to a CD at Rocky Mountain Credit Union. Lyle Manley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Lyle Manley moved to approve the February financial report. Jan Brown seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Membership**

Patty Mott reported that the January renewal letter was mailed to 1,492 members. Currently, 738 members have renewed their membership in the following categories;

43 new lifetime, 535 (1) year, 90 (2) year, and 70 (3) year memberships. The follow-up reminder letter will go out in May.

Patty Mott stated that the printer used the incorrect return envelope in the renewal mailing, so there was some confusion on the instructions for the members. After a brief discussion, the board decided to ask the printer for a discount on the invoice for the January renewal mailing.

OLD BUSINESS

**Broadcasting Meetings**

The State is implementing a new conferencing system that should be available for members to listen to the board meeting starting in March. As soon as the Skype for Business is ready, information will be made available to the membership.

**Audit Committee Update**

Mike O’Connor stated he and Cathy Kendall completed the revenue portion of the audit at CMS. The expenditure section of the audit will be scheduled shortly.

**Web Committee Update**

Patty Mott stated that she and Cathy Kendall met with CMS to review the website. The decision was made to move the lawsuit information from the news section to the legislative page and to update the legislative page to suggest members to get to know who their representatives are for the next session.

It was decided that the pictures on the website should be updated and an email blast was sent out to ask members for pictures. There has been a great response and have received some beautiful pictures. Patty Mott and Cathy Kendall will be working on how best to use the picture on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

**Editorial by Rep. Tom Burnett, Bozeman Chronicle**

The decision was made that the AMRPE Board should also respond to the editorial by Tom Burnett. Mike O’Connor will draft a letter and submit to the board for input. The editorial by Rep. Tom Burnett, the Montana Teachers’ and Public Employees’ Retirement System response letter and the letter by AMRPE will be put on the website for the membership. An email blast will be sent to make sure the members of AMRPE know the letters are available for them to read.

Lyle Manley moved to adjourn the meeting. Dale Boespflug seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

The next meeting will be held in the MPERA conference room at 100 North Park Avenue in Helena on March 20, 2018 at 9:30 A.M.

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Jan Brown, Secretary