ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

Zoom Conference and Video Call

November 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Lyle Manley at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Lyle Manley, Connie Welsh, Cathy Kendall, Jan Brown, , Leo Hudetz, Patty Mott, James Driggers, and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by conference or video call. Dale Boespflug and Jim Lewis were absent.

GUESTS

All guests were present by conference or video call.

Brian Thompson, AMRPE Lobbyist

Bill Holahan, Chief Legal Counsel , MPERA

Mike O’Connor

MINUTES

Jan Brown made a motion to approve the October minutes, James Driggers seconded the motion, and the October minutes were approved unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Bill Holahan stated that Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) is working on four legislative bills. At the State Administration and Veterans’ Affairs (SAVA) meeting, the pre-drafted bills were approved. PERS, Game Wardens and Peace Officers’ retirement system, and the Highway Patrol Officers’ retirement system(HPORS) each have a funding bill because the systems amortize over 30 years. The final bill is a general revision bill to make some changes to the administration of the systems.

Bill Holahan stated the Lewis and Clark County/PureView lawsuit has had no ruling, and no scheduling order has been issued.

Legislative Finance Committee

Brian Thompson stated he sent Lyle Manley a report of ramifications on the election for the board to review. On Wednesday of this week, the leadership for the legislative session will be selected, and rules for the session will be set. Brian has no indication of what the session will look like yet. Representative Hamilton did request an actuary for the Legislature. However, SAVA did not appear to be interested.

There are several bill drafts titled “pensions” but Brian has not seen anything to be concerned about at this time.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers presented the financial report and commented that membership dues seem lower than last year.

James reviewed the CDs that are expiring in 2021 and presented options for investing the funds. The two options are remaining in the CDS with low return rates or looking into putting some funds into mutual funds that have higher returns. The first CD does not expire until February, so the Board will decide at the January meeting after reviewing the lobby fees for the session and the 2021 budget.

Connie Welsh made a motion to approve the November financial statement, Cathy Kendall seconded the motion, and the November financial statement was approved unanimously.

**Membership**

Patty Mott stated that typically during the new membership campaign, about 6% of the total number of new retirees that receive letters become members. There are only 3.6% or 75 new members, which are considerably lower than last year. Annual memberships are still the most common membership and AMRPE has received 10 Lifetime memberships. Patty suggested one way to increase membership would be to more visible with an Op-Ed. The Board discussed how to introduce AMRPE to the TRS membership and ask other organizations to allow AMRPE to put some membership information on their website.

OLD BUSINESS

**Creating graphs and charts in response to Pew and Reason Foundation**

Lyle stated that Mike O’Connor is continuing his work on developing the graphs.

**Letter agreement with BKBH**

Brian Thompson, BKBH, stated that he is waiting to get approval from his boss on the Letter of Understanding.

**What can we do to encourage members who live outside Helena to apply for Board positions or other volunteer activities?**

The board discussed that it was important to use all our resources to keep the members engaged. Two board members will be leaving the Board in December 2021 because they have served three terms. The Nominating Committee will start looking at ways to look for new board members. The committee will review the membership list from different geographical areas of Montana to target new board members. The Nominating Committee will be Cathy Kendall, Dale Boespflug, Lyle Manley, Jan Brown, Leo Hudetz, and Connie Welsh.

**Consider Further Newspaper Articles**

The Board discussed waiting to see what the Legislative session looks like before determining the next steps.

**Newsletter Timeline**

The timeline will be determined at the December meeting, but typically, it goes out in January.

New Business

**MPERA Presentations to New Retirees**

Dale Boespflug will give an update in December.

**Expiring Board Terms**

Connie Welsh, Patty Mott, and James Driggers all agreed to continue as board members.

Patty Mott asked to be taken off the legislative committee for the next year.

Connie Welsh moved to adjourn. Jan Brown seconded. Motion to adjourn the November 17, 2020, board meeting carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 15, 2020, 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room and/or video conference call.