

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
Zoom Conference and Video Call
January 19, 2021

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, Leo Hudetz, Patty Mott, James Driggers, Dale Boespflug and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by conference or video call. Jan Brown and Jim Lewis were excused.

GUESTS

All guests were present by conference or video call.

Dore Schwinden , MPERA

Mike O'Connor

MINUTES

Cathy Kendall made a motion to approve the December minutes, Dale Boespflug seconded the motion, and the December minutes were approved unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden stated MPERA has made a motion to consolidate the Lewis Clark County and MACo lawsuits into one case and one judge.

HB 81 sponsored by Representative Hamilton, a general revision bill to make some changes to the administration of the systems, has been passed and sent to the Senate.

HB 44 sponsored by Representative Geraldine Custer to fund the Game Wardens and Peace Officers' retirement system; HB 59 sponsored by Representative Hamilton to increase employer contributions to the PERS System; HB 72 sponsored by Representative Frank Garner to fund Highway Patrol Officers' retirement system(HPORS) were scheduled to have executive action today but may be reviewed tomorrow.

MPERA has been working with Representative Garner on a Work Group Study Bill for interim work for the next legislative session.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

James Driggers presented the 2020 year-end and January 2021 financial reports. He has put together a budget for 2021, and it is a pretty tight budget. AMRPE is still operating in the black. There is a CD expiring next month, and the money will be transferred into another established CD.

Connie Welsh made a motion to approve the year-end 2020 financial statement and adopt the 2021 proposed budget. Leo Hudetz seconded the motion, and the year-end financial statement and the 2021 proposed budget were approved unanimously.

Letter Agreement with BKBH

The board discussed the proposed letter of agreement with BKBH for lobbying services. James Driggers and Connie Welsh will send follow-up emails for clarification and request a meeting to finalize the agreement.

Membership

Patty Mott stated AMRPE received 100 members in the 2020 membership drive. The renewal letter will be sent out by the end of the month. The plan to change the website's payment plan will progress with James Driggers working to set up the Pro PayPal account. The Pro PayPal account fees are \$30 a month with a 2.8% + \$.30 transaction fee.

Cathy Kendall made a motion to transfer the PayPal account from the former treasurer, John McEwen, to the current AMRPE Treasurer, James Driggers. Connie Welsh seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Creating graphs and charts in response to Pew and Reason Foundation

The board reviewed and discussed the graph, and Mike O'Connor will add a legend for clarification.

Consider Further Newspaper Articles

Discussion of newspaper articles was rescheduled for next month.

Newsletter Timeline

The newsletter will go out in March. Article topics ideas are increased membership dues, ability to use credit cards on the website, legislative update, president's message, advertising for new board members, and membership updates.

Reviewing of Membership List

Lyle Manley, Cathy Kendall, and Leo Hudetz have reviewed the membership lists for members looking for members to contact about becoming a board member. Lyle Manley requested the remaining board members review the list for potential candidates. The board is working on a plan to advertise for new board members because two board positions will be vacant in December.

New Business

MPERA presentation

Dales Boespflug will contact MPERA about webinars. Patty Mott suggested having a media company put together a professional 30 or 60-second promotion piece to attach to the end of the retirement webinars.

Dale Boespflug moved to adjourn. Kathy Kendall seconded. Motion to adjourn the January 19, 2021, board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room, and/or video conference call.