ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

Zoom Conference and Video Call

February 16, 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, Patty Mott, James Driggers, Dale Boespflug, Jan Brown, Jim Lewis, and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by conference or video call. Leo Hudetz was excused.

GUESTS

Tim and Julie Reardon were present by video call.

MINUTES

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

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden was not available for the meeting.

LEGISLATURE

Brian Thompson was not available due to a meeting at the Capitol to discuss HJ 8, a House Joint Resolution put forward by Representative Garner which would establish an interim study of the public employee retirement systems.

The board discussed that if Brian Thompson is not available to attend the meetings, he should submit an update on the legislative session for the board to review.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers presented the February 2021 financial reports. There are two changes to the 2021 budget: Legal is reducing from $17,000 to $15,500 with the lobbying session fee remaining $10,000, and the interim work fee will be $5,500. James is requested approval for adjustments to the budget of reducing Legal by $2,500 and increasing the PayPal + Credit Card Fees by $200.

Patty Mott made a motion to approve the budget changes, reducing Legal by $2,500 and increasing the PayPal + Credit Card Fees by $200. Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the revised budget was approved unanimously.

James also stated that membership dues are an area of concern considering membership fees declined over the past several years. Secondly, the board may need to revisit the investment strategy and consider moving some CDs into mutual funds. Lastly, James is working on changing the PayPal account ownership from John McEwen to AMRPE being considered the owner. He has been unsuccessful in speaking to someone in customer service.

**Membership**

Patty Mott stated AMRPE received 100 members in each of the 2019 and 2020 September new membership drives. The renewal letter was sent at the end of January with a due date of March 1,2021. Currently, 57% of the members whose memberships are due have renewed. Patty has received over 600 payments with membership fees amounting to $21,000.

OLD BUSINESS

**Consider Further Newspaper Articles**

The board discussed the newspaper article distributed to the newspapers before the pandemic in March 2020. At this time, there are only a few bills having minimal potential impact and so the board decided to use the letter in some sort of follow-up to the session. Perhaps incorporate the letter into the newsletter to reach more audiences.

**Newsletter Timeline**

The newsletter schedule will be pushed back to April due to currently no legislative action on pensions this session. The article discussed earlier may be used in the newsletter to increase the audience and encourage members to share with other retirees.

**Reviewing of Membership List**

Lyle Manley encouraged all board members to review the membership list and make lists of potential board members with a focus of members outside of Helena.

New Business

**MPERA presentation**

Dales Boespflug stated he is working on the presentations for MPERA pre-retiree meetings. He asked the board members to send him ideas of what they believe should be in the presentation. Several ideas were discussed, like producing a video to be presented at the pre-retiree meetings, developing regional representatives to help gain members in different regions of the state, and promoting AMRPE membership through established organizations that typically have PERS retirees.

Cathy Kendall moved to adjourn. Jan Brown seconded. Motion to adjourn the February 16, 2021 board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

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