ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Board Minutes

Zoom Conference and Video Call

April 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Cathy Kendall at 9:34 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT BY ZOOM CALL

Dore Schwinden, MPERA

Mike O’Connor

Brian Thompson, Lobbyist, BKBH

MINUTES

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

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden gave an update on the bills that MPERA has been monitoring.

HB 44, carried by Representative Custer, a funding measure for the game warden system, was tabled after its first hearing in House State Administration.

HB 59, carried by Representative Hamilton, a PERS funding measure, was also tabled in House State Administration.

HB 72, carried by Representative Gardner, a funding measure for the highway patrol, is languishing and awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

HB 81, carried by Representative Hamilton, MPERA general revision bill, has been signed by the governor.

HB 323, carried by Representative Moore, which called for a 20-year amortization plan for both PERS and the Teachers Retirement System, was tabled.

HB 421, carried by Representative Hinkle, which would have included volunteer emergency medical technicians in the volunteer fireman's compensation plan, was tabled.

HB 574, carried by Representative Hamilton, would have allowed the legislative fiscal division to hire an actuary. It failed on the third reading in the house.

HB 670 and House Bill 683 directed some of the adult use marijuana tax distribution to the PERS system. However, HB 683 has been tabled, and HB 670 is still being discussed.

HJ8, carried by Representative Garner, which calls for an interim study of the pension systems, has passed and will be enacted into law.

SB 175, employer contribution holiday for the Judge’s retirement system for two years. No decision yet

SB 389, carried by Senator Hoeven, to reform the PERS and the teacher retirement system, was tabled.

SR 16, carried by Senator Kary, confirmed Rich Hickel to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

SR 23, the hearing on the Governor Bullock appointees to the Public Employees Retirement Board was tabled.

SR 86, the hearing on the new three appointments to the Public Employees Retirement Board, is having its second reading today.

Dore also mentioned that the two lawsuits, PureView/Lewis & Clark County and MACo, have been combined and will be heard by Judge Menahan. Nothing further has happened.

REPORTS

**Treasurer’s Report**

James Driggers presented the April 2021 financial reports. He will be rolling the CD that expires this summer into another CD and may look at moving some funds from the checking account to a CD. The website will now take credit cards through PayPal for membership dues.

**Membership**

Patty Mott stated renewal memberships are trickling in still. Seventy-nine percent of the membership dues has been collected. Most of the members are annual memberships. The breakdown of renewals is as follows: Lifetime, 29 (3%); 1 year, 701 (73.3%); 2 year, 145 (15.2%); 3 year, 81 (8.5%).

OLD BUSINESS

**Interim Pension Study**

The board discussed that a plan needs to be formalized for who participates as the AMRPE representative in the interim study meetings and Brian Thompson’s role and billing procedures.

**Newsletter**

The newsletter will be completed in May. Brian Thompson will complete his article after the session. Mike O’Connor will write an article about the interim study, and Cathy Kendall will review some ideas for another article.

LEGISLATURE

Brian Thompson stated that this was a good session for the pension plans.

He stated that the goal for the interim study is to require direct input and educate the committee about the pension plans.

New Business

**Video Production for AMRPE Recruitment**

Lyle Manley, Cathy Kendall, and James Driggers have met with several videographers to discuss the recruitment video. The proposed video will be about 3-5 minutes long and is estimated to be about $5,000. A meeting to discuss this video and content will be May 6, 2021.

James Driggers made a motion to proceed with the recruitment video, and the sub-committee will acquire a final proposal to send to the board for review and electronic vote. Jan Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**MPERA presentation**

Dales Boespflug stated he will have an update after the May 6th recruitment video discussion meeting.

**Audit**

The board discussed the 2021 audit, and it will take place after the May board meeting.

**Format of May Meeting**

The board agreed to meet in person next month at MPERA, as long as current COVID conditions remain the same or improve.

**Montana Public Employee Retirement Board (MPERB)**

Cathy Kendall asked if anyone is interested in attending the MPERB to let Lyle know.

Cathy Kendall moved to adjourn. Jan Brown seconded. Motion to adjourn the April 20, 2021 board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

The next meeting will be on May 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room, and/or video conference call.