**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**Board Minutes**

**100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**April 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Tom Livers at 9:34 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Livers, Leo Hudetz, Bruce Brensdal, Lois Menzies, Geoff Badenoch, Barbara Martens, Carol Grell Morris, and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present by video call. Dave Ashley and Sheri Scurr were excused.

GUESTS

Hollie Resler (MPERA Deputy Director) was present by video call.

MINUTES

Leo Hudetz moved to approve the minutes and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

Deputy Director Hollie Resler reported on several bills and their statuses. She reported that House Bill (HB) 62, HB 85, and HB 516 were all scheduled for second readings. HB 358 passed third reading and will be sent to the Governor’s Office. She also reported that Senate Bill (SB) 7, SB 56, and SB 208 have all been sent to the Governor’s Office. SB 20 was scheduled for the judiciary but was canceled and has not been rescheduled. SB 316 was amended and returned to the senate for a hearing. Hollie also reported that there have not been any study resolutions concerning pensions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tom Livers reported that HB827, regarding Social Security taxes, had a hearing on the 14th. He was unsure of how the hearing went as the bill tracker had not been updated yet. Tom mentioned that he would check on it and look into whether AARP testified.

REPORTS

**Treasurer Report**

Bruce Brensdal reported that a CD is maturing in a few days in April, and he will review current rates to roll it forward. He also reported that he will meet with the Audit Committee soon to review the audit.

**Contract Coordination**

Bruce reported BKBH did not have time to negotiate a 2.5-year contract while still in the legislature and asked to have time to review after. Bruce proposed an extension of the current contract to the end of 2025 to allow more time for negotiations, which are planned to start around October or November. The plan is to negotiate a two-year contract starting January 2026 and going through December 2027 to allow for future negotiations during non-legislative years.

**Membership Report**

Lois Menzies reported that there have been no new members and twenty-four renewals since the March meeting. Lois mentioned that a slowdown is expected, but that the numbers are a little lower compared to previous years.

**Audit Committee Report**

Leo Hudetz reported that the committee will meet Thursday to get a presentation ready for the May meeting regarding a review of the 2024 financials.

**Member Communication Report**

Carol Grell Morris reported that the Communication committee met last week and talked about the 2025 Spring newsletter. Layout, color, and topics were discussed and brought to the Board. The timeline was updated to focus on getting draft articles written to be reviewed at the May meeting, final approvals over email, and then publishing the newsletter in June.

OLD BUSINESS

**Council of Public Retiree Association Executives**

Tom reported that he plans to attend the May 15th meeting (via Zoom) to assess the organization and bring back discussion points for the Board on whether it will be an effective use of time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

**Items For May Agenda**

* Newsletter topics
* Legislative wrap up
* Interstate council report
* Audit Committee presentation

Lois Menzies moved to adjourn the meeting and Geoff Badenoch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.