

**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**  
**Board Minutes**  
**Zoom Conference and Video Call**  
**May 18, 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, Patty Mott, James Driggers, Dale Boespflug, Jan Brown, Leo Hudetz, Jim Lewis, Connie Welsh and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by conference or video call. Cathy Kendall was excused.

**GUESTS PRESENT BY ZOOM CALL**

Bill Holahan and Jim Maliza, MPERA

Mike O'Connor

Josh Johnson, Tell Media

**MINUTES**

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

**Video Production for AMRPE Recruitment**

Josh Johnson, Tell Media, made a presentation to the board outlining how he will develop the member recruitment video. Lyle Manley mentioned that the committee interviewed several companies and selected Tell Media for Board approval. The video production will start in June with a completion date of mid-August. The committee of Lyle Manley, James Driggers, Cathy Kendall, and Dale Boespflug will continue working on the project and update the board throughout the process.

Jim Lewis made a motion to approve contracting with Tell Media to develop the membership recruitment video. Connie Welsh seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**MPERA UPDATE**

Bill Holahan announced he would be leaving Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) and taking a position at the Department of Justice. He gave an update on the bills that MPERA has been monitoring.

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

SR 86, carried by Senator Kary, confirmed Sonja Woods, Jason Stouf, and Terry Halpin to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

HB 72, carried by Representative Gardner, a funding measure for the highway patrol, passed on May 12, 2021.

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

HJ8, carried by Representative Garner, which calls for an interim study of the pension systems, passed and signed by the governor.

SB 175, employer contribution holiday for the Judge's retirement system for two years, passed and 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.

SB 389, carried by Senator Hoven, to reform the PERS and the teacher retirement system, 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.

Bill stated that from the MPERA viewpoint, the legislative session was a success.

Bill also mentioned that the two lawsuits, PureView/Lewis & Clark County and MACo, have been combined and heard by Judge Menahan. The lawsuit is currently at a standstill.

Bill also stated that the state employees will receive a \$.55 pay increase this year.

The board discussed a plan for board members to become involved in the Montana Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) and State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) meetings to develop relationships with new board members and advocate for retirees at the SAVA meetings during the discussion on the pension interim study. Connie Welsh will get SAVA meeting dates and Lyle Manley will get the date for the next PERB meeting in June. All board members are encouraged to attend the PERB June meeting.

## REPORTS

### **Treasurer's Report**

James Driggers presented the May 2021 financial reports. He stated that AMRPE is doing well even with the additional expenditures for the member recruitment video. Leo Hudetz was unable to attend the meeting in person today, and so the remainder of the audit will be done electronically.

Patty Mott made a motion to approve the May financial statement, Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the May financial statement was approved unanimously.

### **Membership**

Patty Mott stated seventy-nine percent of the membership dues has been collected and two hundred and fifty people have not renewed. Patty would like to send a reminder email to those members that have not paid. The breakdown of renewals is as follows: Lifetime, 29 (3%); 1 year, 708 (73.5%); 2 year, 145 (15.1%); 3 year, 81 (8.4%).

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Newspaper Articles**

The board decided a newspaper article is not needed right now.

### **Newsletter**

The board discussed the legislative news article for the newsletter. Connie Welsh will draft an article and have Brian Thompson review for any additions or changes.

### **Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee for new board members will be Lyle Manley, Cathy Kendall, and Dale Boespflug. After the newsletter is published, the committee will review the responses and look at possible board member candidates.

## New Business

### **MPERA presentation**

Dales Boespflug stated he will have more details after the member recruitment video is completed.

Connie Welsh moved to adjourn. Dale Boespflug seconded. Motion to adjourn the May 18, 2021 board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

The next meeting will be on September 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room, and/or video conference call.