

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room and Video Conference
September 21, 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, Cathy Kendall, and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by conference or video call.

GUESTS

Dore Schwinden, Executive Director, MPERA

Mike O'Connor

Brian Thompson, AMRPE Lobbyist

MINUTES

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

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden stated he will be attending the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) interim meetings as the committee discusses HJ 8, which Representative Garner sponsored. The next SAVA meeting is on November 4, 2021.

Dore Schwinden stated he will be presenting the Actuary Evaluation to the Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) on October 7, 2021, and is scheduled to present the Actuary Evaluation on December 16, 2021, to the combined SAVA and Legislative Finance Committee meeting.

Dore Schwinden stated that he would like to see the interim committee fund the Game Wardens' and Peace Officers' Retirement System (GWPORS) to amortize in under 30 years.

Dore Schwinden reported that there have been some staffing changes. Bill Holahan has returned to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) as the Deputy Director, and Nick Domitrovich is now the Chief Legal Counsel.

Dore Schwinden stated there is no update on the lawsuit originally starting with PureView Health Center and Lewis and Clark County.

LEGISLATURE

Brian Thompson stated that he has been attending the SAVA meetings and contacted the committee members on behalf of AMRPE to be available as a resource or answer questions regarding the retirees' interest in the pension plans. After talking to the committee members, he does not feel there is a high degree of concern that any major changes will come from the committee. He will continue to attend the meetings and keep the board informed.

Brian Thompson also stated that the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) has been attending the SAVA meetings because they are interested in the outcome of the committee as well.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

James Driggers presented the September 2021 financial report. He stated that AMRPE is doing well this year, with revenue about \$10,000 over budget. He put the additional \$10,000 in a CD and moved the expired CD funds into the CD, earning 3%.

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

Membership

Patty Mott stated eighty-eight percent (88%) of the membership dues have been collected. Patty will be working on the new member letter that will go out in October. The breakdown of renewals is as follows: Lifetime, 41 (4%); 1 year, 773 (72%); 2 year, 162 (15%); 3 year, 94 (9%).

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee (Lyle Manley, Cathy Kendall, and Dale Boespflug) presented and recommended Geoff Badenoch and Melanie Symons to fill board member positions starting January 1, 2022.

Cathy Kendall made a motion to approve new board members Geoff Badenoch and Melanie Symons starting January 1, 2022. Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the two new board members were approved unanimously.

New Business

MPERA presentation

Dale Boespflug is working with Joel Thompson, MPERA Trainer, to have a board member attend the retiree presentations to answer questions after the video is presented. James Driggers will attend the September 28th, Connie Welsh will attend the October 6th, and Patty Mott will attend the October 20th presentations.

Audit

Leo Hudetz stated that the committee tested the transactions, membership receipts, and expenditures, and found no findings. Therefore, the only recommendation is not to record interest on the CDs until they have matured. He also stated that the cash controls are good.

Website Suggestions

Jan Brown acquired an independent person to review the website and provide comments. One of the comments was to make the website mobile-friendly. The estimate for the expense is about \$1050.

Jim Lewis made a motion to approve making the website mobile-friendly. Patty Mott seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

State Employee Group Benefits Advisory Council (SEGBAC)

Jim Lewis reported that there will be no increase in health insurance for active state employees. Retirees with Medicare will receive a 2% increase and an average increase of 4% for those not on Medicare. The actuary did recommend an additional increase for new retirees, but the Governor rejected that idea.

Connie Welsh moved to adjourn. James Driggers seconded. Motion to adjourn the September 21, 2021 board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting will be on October 19, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at 100 North Park – PERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room, and/or video conference call.