

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
January 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Leo Hudetz at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Mott, James Driggers, Leo Hudetz, Dale Boespflug, Jim Lewis, Geoff Badenoch, Melanie Symons, Lois Menzies, and Kim Hoxie (staff) were present by video call. Lyle Manley was excused.

GUESTS

Brian Thompson, BKBH, AMRPE Lobbyist

MINUTES

Geoff Badenoch made a motion to approve the December minutes, James Driggers seconded the motion, and the December minutes were approved unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Dore Schwinden was not able to make the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Brian Thompson attended the December joint State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) and the Interim Finance Committee meeting. The SAVA committee is looking at options to fix the Game Wardens' and Peace Officers' (GWPORS) pension plan to amortize in less than 30 years. There was some discussion on pensions and the history of how the state pension has been funded, but nothing to be concerned with at this time.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

James Driggers presented for board discussion if the secretary position should be a signatory on the AMRPE checkbook and other bank accounts. There has never been a time when the secretary has been needed to sign checks or take care of banking issues. After some discussion, the board agreed, Patty Mott, the new secretary, will not be added as a signatory on the checkbook and other bank accounts.

Jim Driggers made a motion to remove Jan Brown as a signatory on the Valley Bank account, Stockman Bank account, and the Rocky Mountain Credit Union account. Loise Menzies seconded the motion, and Jan Brown will be removed as a signatory from the Valley Bank account, Stockman Bank account, and Rocky Mountain Credit Union account, and the motion was approved unanimously.

James Driggers reviewed the 2022 financial report with the board. One of the changes is that the interest on CDs will not be reported on the financial statement until the CD has expired. Secondly, the Rocky Mountain Credit Union CD expires in February, and he would like board guidance on what to do with the CD considering the interest rate is so low. A committee was formed including James Driggers, Patty Mott, Dave Mott, and Dale Boespflug to research and present options at the next board meeting.

Dale Boespflug made a motion to approve the year-end financial statement and the 2022 budget, Patty Mott seconded the motion, and the financial statement and the 2022 budget was approved unanimously.

Membership

Patty Mott reported that the new member campaign has brought in 79 new members. Most of the members are annual memberships. The breakdown of new members is as follows: Lifetime, 19%; 1 year, 52%; 2 year, 19%; 3 year, 10%.

Patty stated that the new member video is being presented at the Ready to Retire Seminars put on by MPERA. Geoff Badenoch and Melanie Symons agreed to participate in the February and March seminars with Patty to be trained to take a turn representing AMRPE at future webinars.

Patty also mentioned that the membership renewal letters would be mailed on Wednesday.

OLD BUSINESS

Welcome to New Board Members

Leo Hudetz officially welcomed Geoff Badenoch, Melanie Symons, and Lois Menzies to the board.

New Business

By-Law Committee

Jim Lewis stated that he would be organizing a By-Law committee to review the by-laws and current suggestions.

MPERA Presentation

MPERA Presentations were discussed in the membership report.

State Employee Group Benefits Advisory Council (SEGBAC)

Jim Lewis stated he attended the December 9th State Employee Group Benefits Advisory Council (SEGBAC) meeting. Jim gave a brief overview of what the council does for new board members and commented that all contract agreements were to be executed by 2022. He also stated that 2021 claims are higher than 2020, and the 2022 and 2023 claim projections will be below revenue. The committee has been monitoring COVID claims, and the claims have steadily increased each month from July – October 2021. He also noted that cancer claims continue to be the most expensive claims.

Geoff Badenoch moved to adjourn. Jim Lewis seconded. Motion to adjourn the January 18, 2022 board meeting carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.