

**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**  
**Board Minutes**  
**100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**January 17, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Melanie Symons at 9:30 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Melanie Symons, James Driggers, Patty Mott, Lois Menzies, and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present in person. Leo Hudetz, Bruce Brensdal, and Barbara Martens (member-elect) were present by video call. Geoff Badenoch was present later in the meeting by video call. Tom Livers was excused.

**GUESTS**

Dore Schwinden (MPERA Executive Director) and Brian Thompson (Lobbyist with BKBH) were present in person. Dayna Gilman (retiree) was also present by video call.

**MINUTES**

James Driggers and Melanie Symons both suggested some clarification language for the December minutes. James also pointed out some corrections for the December minutes. There was general discussion to reduce the length and detail of the minutes and instead attach any reports with the minutes.

Patty Mott motioned to approve the minutes as amended and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**MPERA UPDATE**

Dore Schwinden state that MPERA was up at the legislature on five bills as primary testifiers and two agency overviews last week. The five bills were SB 29, SB 74, SJ 4, HB 119, and HB 180. SJ 4 is requesting an interim study. Over the past two interims SAVA has reviewed the risk study and actuary studies. SJ 4 adds the Legislative Finance Interim committee to this review.

**LOBBYING UPDATE**

Brian Thompson commented that SJ 4 is an interim study of retirement systems and pension and benefit systems. He has the same plan as with HJ 8 last session. He thinks last session was successful in educating members of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) committee. With AMRPE's approval, Brian will continue to educate SJ4 committee members on pension liabilities.

SB 74 is MPERA's generally revised bill. This bill may have an adverse effect to working retirees. The discussion revolved around the adverse effects of PERS retirees working in a PERS system. The reason for the change is, "it makes sense." The published fiscal impact is zero.

Patty motioned to allow Brian to speak with MPERA about potentially changing the language (worked instead of compensated) and Geoff Badenoch seconded. There were 6 aye votes and 1 abstain.

## REPORTS

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023 budget. Leo Hudetz motioned to approve the 2022 financial statement and Geoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lois motioned to adopt the 2023 budget as amended and Geoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed laddering CDs and the different options' rates and fees. James motioned to adopt the laddering layout of Stockman 15-month CD for \$70,000, Rocky Mountain 24-month CD for \$30,000, and Rocky Mountain 36-month CD for \$60,000. Leo Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership Report**

The new member letter was sent mid-December and was sent to 3,129 people. So far, we have received about 3% of them as new members. We will also be sending the renewal letter soon. It will be sent to about 1,282 people.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **New Board Members**

The Nominating Committee unanimously agreed to recommend appointment of Barbara Martens to the Board. Lois motioned to approve the appointment of Barb to the Board and Geoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lois motioned to accept the BKBH Lobbying Contract and James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Melanie motioned to accept the AMRPE Committee composition as proposed, and Leo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

There are two MPERA presentation coming up; Geoff volunteered to take the February presentation. Patty volunteered to do the March presentation.

James, Lois, and Geoff have worked on proposed changes to the website. James will meet with Tyler and relay those changes to be made. Next month (February), the group will meet to go over some less urgent changes.

Melanie Symons adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

The next meeting will be on February 21, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.