

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
February 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Melanie Symons at 9:31 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 were present by video call. Tom Livers was present later in person. Geoff Badenoch was excused.

GUESTS

No guests were present.

MINUTES

There was no discussion or feedback regarding the January minutes. Patty Mott motioned to approve the minutes and James Driggers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Due to there being no Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) representative present, Patty looked up some of the bills' statuses and gave updates. Senate Bill 348 is a new one and eliminates GABA for anyone hired after July 1, 2023, in any of the systems. This bill is up for a hearing on February 24th. James motioned to instruct Brian to oppose this bill on AMRPE's behalf and Tom Livers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA issued a notice of rule amendment that adopts the most recent actuarial rates and assumptions that the actuaries came up with in June of 2022.

LOBBYING UPDATE

No update.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the February financial report. Leo Hudetz motioned to accept the February 2023 financial report and approve the final 2023 budget and Barbara Martens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

The renewal letter for 2023 dues went out February 8th. We have had over 200 renewals so far in a couple of weeks. We received over 100 more since this report was developed and that raised our renewal rate to 15%. One year renewal is the most popular option. We usually get between 80%-90% return on renewals. New memberships are still slowly coming in. We usually send a renewal reminder in May.

OLD BUSINESS

SEGBAC

The next meeting is March 7th via Zoom. Bruce has volunteered to be the AMRPE representative. Patty motioned to accept this representation and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MPERA Presentations

Geoff Badenoch did the February presentation. Patty is doing the March presentation.

Website Review

James, Lois, and Geoff met and went through the website for proposed changes. James met with Tyler and made the identified changes. There are a few more changes coming up.

Senate Bil 74

Brian Thompson firmly believes the amendment does not do what the bill sponsor thinks it does, but MPERA already sent out the letter changing their process. Brian did not appear at the hearing. The Board will await further advice and instruction from the lobbyist before making any decisions.

Melanie Symons adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

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