

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
April 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Melanie Symons at 9:32 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Melanie Symons, James Driggers, Patty Mott, Lois Menzies, and Tom Livers were present in person. Bruce Brensdal and Barbara Martens were present by video call. Leo Hudetz and Geoff Badenoch were excused.

GUESTS

Brian Thompson – Lobbyist with Browning Kaleczyc Berry & Hoven (BKBH) was present by video call later in the meeting.

MINUTES

There was no discussion or feedback regarding the February minutes. Patty Mott motioned to approve the minutes and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

House Bill 119 and HB180 will be combined with HB226. Senate Bill 74 passed as amended with the change of definition of “hours worked” removed. The interim study for PERS and TRS passed.

LOBBYING UPDATE

The remaining pension bills that are outstanding are HB569 and HB226. HB226 has some draft amendments that haven’t been put out yet. There is a lot of focus on pensions and the perception is that big numbers equal big liabilities.

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report

James Driggers mentioned that some money should be moved from the checking account to a CD.

Lois Menzies motioned to move \$15,285 from checking into a new CD for one year and Tom Livers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Patty Mott motioned to approve the April financial report and Melanie Symons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

There is a 67.7% return on renewals so far and 3.8% return on new memberships so far. The 3.8% encompasses a 3-year membership period rather than the normal 1-year period. Instead of another renewal reminder, Patty suggested putting a reminder in the upcoming newsletter and include when dues are due.

OLD BUSINESS

SEGBAC

The next meeting is in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter

There is a soft deadline of the end of April for newsletter content. There will be a President's message, legislative wrap up, membership update and renewal reminder, Board member recruitment, and any other pertinent information.

MPERA Presentations

There will be one per month now. The next is May 17 and then June 14. Patty will do May's and Tom may do June's if his schedule allows.

Website Review

The Board reviewed committee assignments to ensure the website is correct. We can update the final status of bills after the session ends.

Audit

There will be a financial audit in May and will have a report by the May Board meeting.

Board Member Recruitment

The Nominating Committee may meet to discuss recruitment methods. James and Patty will provide a list of duties for Treasurer and Secretary/membership chair respectively.

Melanie Symons adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

The next meeting will be on May 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.