

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
September 19, 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, Geoff Badenoch, Barbara Martens, Tom Livers (late), and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present in person. Bruce Brensdal was present by video call. Lois Menzies and Leo Hudetz were excused.

GUESTS

Brian Thompson (BKBH) and Dave Ashley (prospective Board member) were present in person.

MINUTES

Geoff Badenoch moved to adopt the minutes as submitted and James Driggers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA UPDATE

Melanie Symons listened to the PER Board meeting recently – there are two (2) new members (Doug Kary and Dave Galt).

LOBBYING UPDATE

The Legislative Interim Committees began their work. Very few Joint Resolutions passed sine die; however, a couple statutory studies got through. One was for a Pension Study Bill for the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs committee (SAVA). Three (3) retirement systems now have layered amortization, and the SAVA committee showed interest in applying this type of amortization to the PERS system. There are new Legislative maps this year and there will likely be a lot of changes to the Legislative Body.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

There will be maturing CDs next spring that will need decisions made as to what to do with them. James reported that he is not anticipating a lot of expenditure or membership dues renewals through the end of the year.

Geoff moved to adopt the Treasurer's report and Patty Mott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Patty reported that there are 123 new members to date, which is a 3.9% return on new member letters sent. This is 3.9% of a larger number as outreach went further back than normal. Newsletters were sent in June to members current through 2019 in attempt to get more members caught up. The return on membership dues was enough to cover the costs of producing the newsletter as the newsletter replaced the membership reminder this year.

The new member letter is usually sent out in September, but a goal was set to get this out in October this year. There was some discussion around outreach timeframes and if the association

should switch new member letters and membership reminder letters to increase outreach effectiveness to new retirees. Switching to quarterly new member letters was also considered and decisions will be dependent on cost comparisons. Barbara Martens also suggested finding out if AMRPE can put paperwork into the retiree packet that people get.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting with MPERA

Tom Livers volunteered to ask about putting AMRPE paperwork in the retiree packet. No other updates since the email was sent out.

Meeting Guests

Melanie mentioned asking Dan Villa from the Board of Investments to talk about GABA and may ask Mike O'Connor to speak at a Board meeting.

Nominating Committee

There are two (2) prospective new Board members for 2024. The committee interviewed one (1) and will interview the other when the committee can all meet.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Next Officer elections are in December. The committee will meet with current officers to determine their interest in maintaining their roles. Treasurer and Secretary will be vacant, and Bruce Brensdal may put in for Treasurer.

MPERA Presentations

Defined Benefit presentations are still ongoing once a month. Patty reported that she facilitated for the August (28 participants) and September webinars (44 participants). Webinars for October through December are not yet posted to the PERS site. Tom Livers and Geoff Badenoch volunteered to staff these. Patty will notify of dates.

SEGBAC

Bruce reported that participants in the program for active employees went up slightly while retired participants went down slightly. 2024 rates for medical are going up 4% for retirees in 2024.

Contractor Coordination Committee

The CMS contract will expire at the end of 2023. James and Tyler (CMS) will work together to get a new contract drafted.

Constitution and Bylaws

No updates.

October Agenda Items

There will be nominations for new Board members in October.

Melanie Symons adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

The next meeting will be on October 17, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.