

**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**  
**Board Minutes**  
**100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room**  
**December 19, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting of the Association of Montana Retired Public Employees was called to order by Melanie Symons at 9:31 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**GUESTS**

Dore Schwinden (Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) Executive Director), Bill Holahan (MPERA Deputy Director), Brian Thompson (BKBH Associate & AMRPE Lobbyist), and Carol Grell Morris (2024 AMRPE Board Member) were present in person.

**MINUTES**

Leo Hudetz moved to adopt the minutes as submitted and Patty Mott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**MPERA PRESENTATION**

Bill Holahan and Dore Schwinden presented Montana Public Employees' Retirement Board DC and 457 Fund Lineup Changes. MPERA noted that the reasons for changing the lineup included their responsibility to monitor participant fees and to evaluate an optimal investment menu for these plans that incorporated a simplification of investment menus with core menus, reduced fees, improved investment options, and increased efficiency by utilizing the same menu across plans.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Brian Thompson reported that he is working on changes to the layered amortization systems – specifically the Highway Patrol System and the Sheriff's System – as actuaries are recommending a 4% reduced employer contribution to these systems. Brian is working on implementing a minimum that employer contributions can be reduced to; hopefully a minimum to match employee contributions.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**

James Driggers reported that he and Bruce Brensdal (the 2024 AMRPE Treasurer) have talked about their transition.

Lois Menzies moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted and Patty Mott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Leo proposed a resolution to approve Tom Livers as President and Bruce Brensdal as Treasurer as account signatories and to include access to all electronic or paper statements or transactions for Valley Bank, Rocky Mountain Credit Union, Vanguard, and Pay Pal, effective January 1, 2024, and to remove the current signatories of Melanie Symons as President and James Driggers as Treasurer, effective January 1, 2024. Geoff Badenoch seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **Membership Report**

Patty reported that we have received a 2.5% return of new member letters sent in late November so far, which is 67 new members. Patty also reported that we have received a 77.7% return of renewal letters sent in February of 2023, which is 1,056 renewing members.

Tyler Coenen reported that he will be meeting with Dave Cooper who developed the AMRPE database to correct any deficiencies in the data that may have led to current members receiving new member letters.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Newsletter Responsibilities**

It was noted that Newsletter responsibilities don't necessarily fall under the Membership Committee's responsibilities, so the Board will need to determine who will lead this effort.

### **Communication and Management Services, LLC (CMS) Contract**

The contract has been updated and accepted by both AMRPE and CMS and will just need to be signed. Lois motioned to approve the acceptance of this contract and Leo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Amendment For Mail and Check Collection**

After some discussion around the risk and exposure associated with it, Lois motioned to amend the Desk Manual, section 1.1 Deposits, Dues, and Donations to say, "a Board member or the Board's designee" to allow a designee to collect mail and money paid for memberships. James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Geoff motioned to designate Patty Mott as the Desk Manual, section 1.1 designee for picking up mail and dues. James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MPERA Presentations**

Geoff volunteered to staff the January presentation. The Membership Committee planned to discuss the continued staffing of these presentations.

### **Items for January Agenda**

The January agenda will include receipt options for membership dues with potential electronic receipts generated by the database, verifying insurance for the Board's designee under Desk Manual, section 1.1, and the FY2024 budget.

Melanie Symons adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

The next meeting will be on January 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.