

ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
Board Minutes
100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room
March 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Lois Menzies, Melanie Symons, Carol Grell Morris, Dave Ashley, and Tyler Coenen (staff) were present in person. Bruce Brensdal was present in person after the SEGBAC meeting ended. Tom Livers, Leo Hudetz, and Barbara Martens were present by video call. Geoff Badenoch was excused.

GUESTS

No guests were present.

MINUTES

Lois Menzies moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Melanie Symons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

No update.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No update.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Money was added to the member education/recruitment section which will cover two (2) newsletters in the year.

Dave Ashley moved to approve the new budget and Carol Grell Morris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

The renewal letter went out in February and included members current from 2020 through 2023. We've seen a good return so far by this time. No database issues were found this time. We have been able to fill in a lot of missing information such as email addresses, phone number, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Database

The database was moved from Dropbox to OneDrive and has not had any data retention issues since. However, for Dave Cooper to work on it, it will have to be sent to him which means dues cannot be processed while he is working on it. Due to being in the middle of the renewal period, no progress has been made on the renewal thank you/receipt.

Newsletter

The Ad-Hoc Newsletter committee met and provided recommendations to continue with the annual newsletter early to mid-year, and to introduce a late-year, one-page letter recommended to be called a Legislative Alert. Members generally agreed there would be adequate content even in non-legislative years. Cost was not an issue since additional money was added to the Member Education/Recruitment budget. It was also suggested that the Board poll membership regarding distribution preference (e.g., USPS or via email). Tom Livers announced that Board members will look at recommended content and will volunteer to write newsletter articles. Lois also mentioned the Board should consider creating a permanent Newsletter Committee with a chair. Carol volunteered to coordinate the newsletter in the meantime.

Dave motioned to have two newsletters per year and Leo Hudetz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lois moved to exclusively mail the upcoming full newsletter and late-year Legislative Alert, and to start collecting delivery preferences for following newsletters and alerts in 2025 and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA Administrative Change Discussion

The Board discussed and agreed to support the idea of increasing the definition of working hours from 960 hours to 1,040 hours as this would eliminate negative effects on working retirees and allow MPERA to address their concerns of fraud. The Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) has not committed to making this change but expressed support of the idea during the February Board meeting. Lois recommended finding out if this change would be included in the general administrative clean-up bill or a separate bill. Tom Livers agreed to reach out to MPERA and express support for the idea on behalf of the Board while asking for clarification on which bill it would be in.

NEW BUSINESS

Desk Manual Changes

Lois is working on the Desk Manual and found corresponding changes that need to be made to the Bylaws as well. Lois plans to propose more edits in April to both documents. Digital record management will be part of the recommended changes.

Social Media

The Ad-Hoc Newsletter committee briefly discussed the establishment of AMRPE social media accounts for Facebook and Instagram. Carol mentioned she will write up the discussion and recommendation for more discussion in April.

Items for April Agenda

Social media, MPERA communication, Newsletter coordination, desk manual and bylaw updates, and website review.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting and Melanie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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