**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**Board Minutes**

**100 North Park – MPERA Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**December 17, 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

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

GUESTS

Bill Holahan (MPERA Executive Director) was present in person. Sheri Scurr (prospective Board member) was present in person.

MINUTES

Bruce Brensdal moved to approve the November minutes as submitted and Geoff Badenoch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

Bill Holahan reported that the MPERA Board met last Thursday and covered the legislative landscape as it exists right now. He reported that there are three State Administration and Veterans’ Affairs (SAVA) interim committee bills. They are also tracking several other bills in both the House and Senate that may be relevant to retirement systems.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Brian Thompson was not present to provide a legislative update.

REPORTS

**Legislative Report**

Melanie Symons reported that there are now three requestors for the elimination of taxing social security and requested additional information on LC2310 regarding the elimination of Montana state income tax on Social Security retirement benefits. The Board also discussed how to best relay information for bills on the website and determined to keep the AMRPE site simple and link to the legislative website for dynamic information.

**Treasurer Report**

Bruce Brensdal reported the budget is at 92% of the revenue projection and 77% of the expenses with a couple of pending expenses coming up (insurance and Fall newsletter mailing). The audit will happen by May at the latest.

**Contract Coordination**

Bruce reported that he has not received the Browning Kaleczyc Berry & Hoven, P.C. (BKBH) lobbying contract yet, but there are not any expected changes. It was determined that Bruce will send the old contract to the Board for review and the Contract Committee will work on an extension amendment to give more time to Brian Thompson to send the new contract.

**Membership Report**

Lois Menzies reported that we received four new members and three more renewals since the last report. The Board is gearing up for the renewal letter in January.

OLD BUSINESS

**Fall Newsletter**

The cost for the Fall newsletter came in just under $2,000. The newsletter included a link to the new Facebook page. Tyler Coenen reported that it did not generate any traffic to the page.

**Social Media**

The Board discussed further outreach to membership about the Facebook page. The Board decided to do outreach by highlighting a bill, including another link to the page, and limiting the outreach to smaller groups to manage the growth of the page.

NEW BUSINESS

**Member Terms**

Barbara Martens reported that there were three seats up for renewal, with two of those seats planning to renew their terms – Leo Hudetz and Geoff Badenoch – and one not renewing. The Nominating Committee interviewed Sheri Scurr and unanimously recommended her for the open Board position. Barbara motioned to accept the renewals and the new nomination, Lois seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Officer Slate**

Barbara presented the 2025 Officer Slate as Tom Livers for President, Leo Hudetz for Vice President, Bruce Brensdal for Treasurer, and Lois Menzies for Secretary. Barbara motioned for the approval of this slate, Carol Grell Morris seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2025 Legislative Committee Establishment**

Tom Livers asked Board members for their interest in serving on the Legislative Committee. Sheri expressed interest. Geoff Badenoch expressed interest but mentioned he has other obligations in January that may limit his participation. Tom also expressed interest, and as President, will determine the chair of the committee.

Lois moved to adjourn the meeting and Leo Hudetz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

The next meeting will be on January 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.