**ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**Board Minutes**

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

**February 18, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

GUESTS

No guests were present.

MINUTES

Dave Ashley moved to approve the minutes and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

No Update.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No Update.

REPORTS

**Legislative Report**

Tom Livers reported that there is one new bill the Legislative Committee has identified for AMRPE support. Senate Bill 287 (SB287) affects the distribution of investment income and includes provisions for transfers from the Pension State Special Revenue Account into the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Teachers’ Retirement System, subject to certain provisions. The bill also provides for an increase to the employer supplemental contribution rate.

**Treasurer Report**

Bruce Brensdal reported that a CD on a 24-month term with 3.5% interest came due, so he renewed it for another 24-month term with 3.5% again. He also mentioned that a few other CDs will come due within the next few months. There was discussion about the revenue budget and that it seemed slightly low. Leo Hudetz moved to accept the report and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Contract Coordination**

The Board had an open discussion regarding the legal and governmental affairs services contract, currently with Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, which provides legislative monitoring and lobbying services. Members identified a need to create more specific contract deliverables and timelines. The Contract Coordination Committee will redraft the contract scope for the Board’s review at the March meeting. The contract with the updated scope and duties section will then be presented to Brian Thompson (Lobbyist) in April. Due to the legislative session lasting into May, and the AMRPE Board’s hiatus starting after May, the Contract Coordination Committee will request extending the current contract through September to allow for a negotiation period and to ensure vital work, such as attending interim committee meetings, can continue.

**Membership Report**

Lois reported that two new members have joined since the January meeting. She also reported that 1,052 renewal letters were sent in January, and so far, 642 members have renewed (61%). Renewals have slowed down but are expected to continue. Additionally, approximately $1,100 has been donated along with the renewals, and a couple of members have sent letters expressing their gratitude for the organization.

OLD BUSINESS

**Committee Selections**

Tom reported that this was finalized between meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

**Proposed Member Communications Committee**

The Newsletter Committee was an ad hoc committee created in 2024 to lead the development of the newsletters (annual and legislative alert). The Board discussed making it a standing committee and renaming it the Member Communications Committee as to not limit the scope to just the newsletter. The Board decided that a committee summary of responsibilities and duties should be drafted before members vote to create this new committee. The summary should be finished by the March meeting, and this vote will be tabled until then.

**2025 Budget**

The Board continued the discussion regarding the revenue budget, and it was mentioned that the annual newsletter usually results in more renewals and revenue. Leo suggested increasing the revenue budget to match 2024 actual revenue, which would increase the budget by $1,000, up to $40,000. It was also pointed out that the overall budget was not balanced and that it is overspending by approximately $6,000. This is anticipated due to the increase in costs from lobbying. It was also pointed out that the deficit is less than the net income from 2024.

Leo moved to approve the budget with the discussed change of the revenue budget from $39,000 to $40,000, and Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Items For March Agenda**

* Legislative Committee to work with Brian for legislative updates and start laying the groundwork for contract negotiations.
* Contract Coordination Committee to draft the scope for the legislative contract and articulate any discussed needs and/or plans.
* Membership Communications Committee abstract to be developed and start discussing Spring communications.

Geoff moved to adjourn the meeting and Carol seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

The next meeting will be on March 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.