

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

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

GUESTS

Bill Holahan (MPERA Executive Director) was present in person. Brian Thompson (AMRPE Lobbyist with Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry, & Hoven) was present by video call.

MINUTES

Leo Hudetz moved to approve the October minutes as submitted and Lois Menzies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MPERA PRESENTATION

Bill Holahan reported that the Governor's Budget Office released their intention to stabilize funding for PERS by earmarking \$300 million to help sustain any market loses. This money would be a set-aside from the surplus. This does not indicate any anticipation that the market will drop. The implementation legislation is still being worked on.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Brian Thompson reported that Democrats gained some seats back in both chambers. The House will have 42 Democrats and 58 Republicans, and the Senate will have 18 Democrats and 32 Republicans. Caucus elected leadership and committees have been released.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report

Bruce Brensdal reported that the budget is fine. There was a question about Gain Investment Interest only showing 24% of the budget and it was reportedly due to interest not being picked up until CDs mature.

Geoff Badenoch moved to accept the Treasurer Report and Melanie Symons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Lois reported that of the 74 responses to the new member letter, 36 were new members and 38 were renewals. Lois also emailed current members who received the new member letter acknowledging the error and asking them to ignore the letter. Lois also reported that the return this year is low compared to previous years, and that we may have missed some new members with this error. Next year, the printer will be sent a smaller extract of the AMRPE database, and the final mailing list will be cross referenced with the database to mitigate the issue.

Nominating Committee

There are three seats up for renewal. Of those three, one will renew, one will not, and one will renew with the understanding that he may resign within a year or two and the Board would need to do a mid-term replacement. There is one person interested in joining the Board and will interview the first week of December.

The Nominating Committee will also bring the slate of officers to the Board at the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Newsletter Draft Review

The fall newsletter is in its second iteration. After review, Board members provided feedback and ideas for improvement. These changes will be made and then the newsletter will be re-circulated to the Board via email. The newsletter will be mailed out in the first week of December.

Geoff moved to authorize the Newsletter Committee to spend up to \$3,000 on mailing and postage to get the newsletter out. If the quote exceeds \$3,000, it will go back to the Executive Committee to approve. Bruce Brensdaled seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Social Media

Tyler will continue figuring out the best way to share the Facebook group page. Geoff and Carol Grell Morris will join and help with testing and content.

NEW BUSINESS

Items for December Agenda

- Approve new Board members and slate of officers

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

Tom Livers adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

The next meeting will be on December 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. by video conference call or in-person.