

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 24, 2020

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were, Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Karen Williams, Elected Member, and Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Beth Matson Appointed member and Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member participated by video conference. A roll call vote was taken to open the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Retirement Board as the remote link to the meeting was posted with the agenda. There were no members of the public attending the meeting or connecting remotely. Denise Gregoire announced that she will be retiring from the Berkshire County Retirement System on January 22, 2021.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held October 21 and October 28, 2020, were signed and approved. *Beth Matson abstained*

A roll call vote to approve the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board reviewed the proposed 2021 annual budget for the Berkshire County Retirement Board. The Board reviewed each line item of the proposed budget. Items of note staff salaries the board would like a retirement payout added to the salaries line, with the retirement of one employee and the addition of a new employee the board wants to ensure that enough monies are budgeted for 2021, and a 3% COLA was budgeted for each employee in 2021. The insurance line item will be increased to accommodate 4 family plans to ensure enough monies are budgeted to cover the 3 employees and 1 retiree. Service contracts money was budgeted for the addition of the deduction posting module in anticipation of adding that module sometime in 2021. The Board asked that the new numbers be calculated and presented at the December meeting so if additional funds are required the Board will adjust the budget total in December. Paul Lisi made a motion to approve the budget as presented for a total \$543,850.00 and if additional funds are needed the budget will be adjusted in December. Second mark Bashara. Unanimous.

A roll call vote to approve \$543,850.00 for 2021 annual budget.

INVESTMENTS:

3.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for October 2020. The PRIT Fund returned -0.89% for the month of October.

A roll call vote to note the record.

BANK STATEMENTS:

4.) The Board is in receipt of the bank statements for October 2020. The Board is also in receipt of the budget for November 2020.

Note: copies of cashbooks for October 2020 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

A roll call vote to note the record.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 24, 2020

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

5.) The Board is asked to approve payment vouchers:

11-01-20	\$3,780.84
11-02-20	\$21,138.08
11-03-20	\$36,600.23
11-04-20	\$37,307.74
11-05-20	\$1,452,533.79

A roll call vote to approve payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

6.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Marlene Walsh, Lee Housing Auth, Director. The retirement will be effective 10/05/2020

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Susan Holmes, Lenox, COA Director. The retirement will be effective 12/10/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Constance Broggi, SBRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 2/5/2021.

A roll call vote to approve retirements as presented.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

7.) Melissa Joyce, a member in Sheffield, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 5 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Joyce pays \$3,838.33 into the annuity savings fund by December 31, 2020, the Board will grant 1 year and 5 months of creditable service.

A roll call vote to approve the buybacks as presented.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

8.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of William Zagorski, a member in Hinsdale to the Hampden County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 4 years and 8 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$23,325.24.

A roll call vote to approve transfers as presented.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

9.) The Board approved the applications for refunds from the following members: (Pending approval from Dept. of Revenue- child support division)

Sarah Tierney	MGRSD	\$11,761.53
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A roll call vote to approve the refund as presented.

Mrs. Hannum had prior service with the State Retirement System, Michael Ovitt questioned whether she was able to take a refund or if the money should be transferred to the State Retirement System. The Berkshire County Staff will check with State Retirement to ensure a refund is allowable. Paul Lisi made a motion to table second by Beth Matson.

Julie Hannum	Sheffield	\$1,513.46
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A roll call vote to table the request for a refund until December.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 24, 2020

INJURY REPORTS:

10.) There were injuries reported in BHRSD, SBRSD, Sandisfield and Williamstown in the month of November.

A roll call vote to note the record.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

11.) The Board approved for membership in the Berkshire County Retirement System the following members:

7133	CHRISTOPHER F GRACEFFA	FARMINGTON	9/14/2020	DRIVER	1
7158	FAYE A CYRULIK	CLARKSBURG	9/14/2020	TEACH ASST	1
7159	ZACHARY KELLOGG	CBRS	10/15/2020	CUSTODIAN	1
7160	MAURICE M KELLIHER	SBRSD	10/1/2020	CUSTODIAN	1
7161	LILY M PETERS	SBRSD	9/21/2020	PARA	1
7162	BARBARA J BRUCATO	WILLIAMSTOWN	10/12/2020	DISPATCH	1
7164	JOSEPH E KOZLOWSKI	EGREMONT	11/7/2020	OFFICER	4
7165	LORI J NEIL	SHEFFIELD	11/2/2020	ADMIN ASST	1
7166	PATRICK J COX	LEE	10/26/2020	CUSTODIAN	1
7167	ASHER I RABQUER	MGRSD	10/20/2020	PARA	1
7168	MEGAN G LaMARRE-SMITH	MGRSD	10/26/2020	PARA	1
7169	SHANNON L PERIN	MGRSD	10/27/2020	PARA	1
7170	STEPHANIE M SADLOW	MGRSD	11/2/2020	PARA	1
7171	ANDREW CONSOLE	BHRSD	10/13/2020	PARA	1
7172	LAUREN CONSOLE PEREZ	BHRSD	10/19/2020	PARA	1

A roll call vote to approve new members as presented.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

12.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Brenda Olivieri, SBRSD, as of 08/31/2020. Annual pension amount is \$8,714.28.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Peter Soules, Gt Barrington, as of 08/17/2020. Annual pension amount is \$32,347.08.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Donna Kresiak, Lee, as of 08/31/2020. Annual pension amount is \$21,961.08.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Donna Bercury, Lee, as of as of 08/31/2020. Annual pension amount is \$6,043.68.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Kenneth Walto, Dalton, as of as of 08/13/2020. Annual pension amount is \$75,004.56.

A roll call vote to note the record.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

13.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering Pittsfield Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Berkshire County Retirement Board \$27,432.55 a year toward the retirement allowance of Kenneth Walto.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 24, 2020

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

14.) The Board received from PERAC the following memorandums:
#33/2020 Prosper Benefit calculations

Note: copies of memorandums and letters given to each Board member

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

15.) There were no travel requests for the month of November.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) Copy of Spectrum contract for service upgrade.
- b.) Thank you note from the Doyle family.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 9:00am.
A roll call vote to adjourn at 10:25 am.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

Michael Ovitt, Chairman

Mark Bashara, Elected Member

Karen Williams, Elected Member

Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member

Beth Matson, 5th Member Appointed