

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
April 25, 2018

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, Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Karen Williams, Elected Member and Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Retirement Board. No comments.

**MINUTES:**

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held March 28, 2018, were signed and approved.  
**Voted to approve the minutes.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2.) The Board approved a 3% Cost of Living Allowance for the retirees of the Berkshire County Retirement System who retired on or before June 30, 2017. The COLA will be calculated on the first \$14,000 and will be effective July 1, 2018.  
**Voted to approve the 3% COLA.**

**INVESTMENTS:**

3.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for March 2018. The PRIT Fund returned .32% for the month of March.  
**Voted to note the record.**

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

4.) The Board received the bank statements for March 2018 and the budget for April 2018.  
*Note: copies of cash books for February and March 2018 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.*  
**Voted to note the record.**

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

5.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

03-05-18	\$1256514.60
04-01-18	\$1024.81
04-02-18	\$19183.19
04-03-18	\$15683.91
04-04-18	\$57844.24

**Voted to approve payments as presented.**

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

6.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Patricia Wooliver, Lanesboro, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective March 2, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Susan O'Grady, Savoy, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 20, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Bonnie Burns, Williamstown, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 25, 2018.

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The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Martha Gurney, Williamstown, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 26, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Kristine Warfield, Richmond, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 30, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Timothy Webb, CBRSD, custodian. The retirement will be effective July 2, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Ronald Getchell, BHRSD, Maintenance. The retirement will be effective Aug 8, 2018.

**Voted** to approve the retirements as presented.

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

7.) Rebecca Stone, a member in Otis, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 3 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Stone pays \$3503.65 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 1 year and 3 months of creditable service. **Refund buyback**

Rebecca Stone, a member in Otis, is eligible to buy back 9 years and 8 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Stone pays \$46028.96 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 9 years and 8 months of creditable service. **Refund buyback**

Rebecca Stone, a member in Otis, is eligible to buy back 10 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Stone pays \$355.40 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 10 months of creditable service. **Refund buyback**

Shauna Slater, a member in Stockbridge, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 10 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Slater pays \$4280.96 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 1 year and 10 months of creditable service.

Vicki Breitmaier, a member in CBRSD, is eligible to buy back 1 year of prior creditable service. If Ms. Breitmaier pays \$3071.79 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 1 year of creditable service.

Vicki Breitmaier, a member in CBRSD, was enrolled on August 14, 2017, but deductions were sent to OBRA in error. Ms. Breitmaier must pay \$1949.44 into the annuity savings fund to correct the error and omission of the treasurer. If Ms. Breitmaier does not pay the amount into the annuity savings fund the amount will be deducted from her pension when she collects a retirement allowance.

**Voted** to approve the buyback requests as presented.

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Jane Wright, a member in SBRSD, is eligible to buy back 3 years and 7 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Wright pays \$2449.78 into the annuity savings fund by May 31, 2018, the Board will grant 3 years and 7 months of creditable service. Ms. Wright should have been enrolled on 2/2/1987, since she met the eligibility requirements to become a member, however she was not enrolled until 9/5/1990. Interest has been calculated at the error rate set by the Board of .01 for a total interest payment of \$642.67. The Board also has the ability to waive the interest under the Needham Bill. *Paul Lisi Jr. made a motion to not waive the interest on the buyback for Ms. Wright, second Mark Bashara, 4 in favor- Gerald S. Doyle, Jr. opposed*  
**Voted** to approve the buyback request as amended with no waiver of interest.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

8.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Nicholas Fahey, a member in Clarksburg to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$3432.77.  
**Voted** to approve transfers as presented.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

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

6790	Lori Crum	BHRSD	4/2/2018	Paraprofessional	1
6791	Carmelo Guarda	Egremont	3/26/2018	Highway laborer	1
6792	Kira Bingemann	Williamstown	3/1/2018	Librarian	1
6793	Meghan Bowler	BHRSD	3/21/2018	Paraprofessional	1
6794	Erika Brazeau	Lanesboro	4/5/2018	Paraprofessional	1
6795	Erik Josephson	Egremont	3/5/2018	Police Chief	4
6796	Kalvin Dziedziak	Williamstown	3/26/2018	Dispatcher	1
6797	JOHN O OLESON	FLORIDA	3/26/2018	HIGHWAY	1

**Voted** to approve new members as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

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

Connie Carmer	Lanesboro	\$14696.48
Elizabeth Johnson	Williamstown	\$960.31
Theresa Munch	CBRSD	\$2644.16
Timothy O'Neil	Sandisfield	\$20707.40
Rebecca Tillinghast	Gt Barrington	\$12552.48

**Voted** to approve refunds as presented.

**INJURY REPORTS:**

11.) The Board was notified of the following injuries:

Deanna Strout – Dalton- 03/16/18 – lost time  
Jacob Stringer- West Stockbridge- 4/5/18 – lost time

**Voted** to note the record.

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**RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:**

12.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to James Rathbun, Lanesboro as of January 6, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$29384.28.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Gerald Coppola, Richmond as of January 5, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$42332.04.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Catherine Astore, SBRSD as of March 13, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$7311.96.

**Voted** to note the record.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

13.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Berkshire County Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Teacher's Retirement Board \$1154.02 a year toward the retirement allowance of Sue Farley-Turner.

The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Berkshire County Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the State Retirement Board \$4469.51 a year toward the retirement allowance of Stephen Kerr.

The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Berkshire County Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Hampshire County Retirement Board \$2525.25 a year toward the retirement allowance of Alma Owen.

**Voted** to note the record.

**TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:**

14.) The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila LaBarbera to attend the PPAG Advisory Council Meeting in Somerville on 05/10/2018.

The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila LaBarbera to attend the Great Barrington Annual Health and Benefits Seminar in Great Barrington on 05/23/2018.

The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila LaBarbera to attend the Richmond Annual Health and Benefits Seminar in Richmond on 05/22/2018.

**Voted** to approve the travel requests as presented.

15.) The Board approved the travel expense for 4 Board members and 2 staff to attend the spring MACRS Conference in Hyannis June 3, 2018 thru June 6, 2018.

**Voted** to approve the travel request as presented.

**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

16.) The Board received from PERAC the following memorandums:

#16/2018 Mandatory Retirement Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

#17/2018 Implementation of the Vernava decision

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

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17.) PERAC letter to Jocelyn McGrath of Cain Hibbard Myers PC regarding age restrictions for constables.

**Voted** to note the record.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a.) PRIT Fund letter of Incumbency update information
- b.) MIIA FY 2019 Renewal Proposal
- c.) Berkshire County Insurance Group dissolving/ governmental agreement

**OLD BUSINESS:**

18.) Review a proposal from PTG to add Pension Pro Employer Reporting Module. The Board will review the advantages and costs of implementing this system. The Board discussed attending a demonstration of the PTG Pension Pro Employer Reporting Module. A demo will be set up for the MACRS conference in June.

**Voted** to note the record.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

18.) Salary – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

A roll call vote was taken to enter into executive session:

<b>Record of Vote:</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abs</b>
<b>Michael Ovitt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mark Bashara</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Paul A. Lisi, Jr.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Karen Williams</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gerald Doyle, Jr.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 10:00am.

The Board closed the executive session and voted to return to the regular order of business at 10:43am.

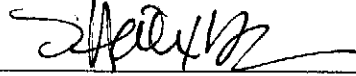
There was one vote taken during the executive session.

**Voted** to adjourn at 10:45am.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 9:00am.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

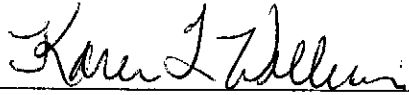
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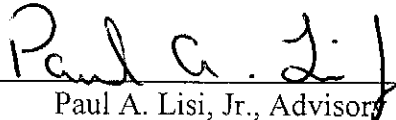
Michael Ovitt, Chairman



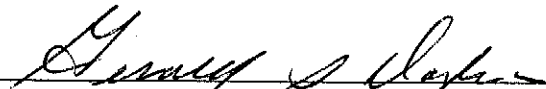
Mark Bashara, Elected Member



Karen Williams, Elected Member



Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member



Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member