

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
September 28, 2016

**The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order a 9:00 A.M. in the Retirement Office, 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting, Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member, Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member and Peter Menard Elected Member. Patricia Carlino, Elected Member was absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

**MINUTES:**

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held August 31, 2016, were signed and approved.  
**Voted to** approve minutes.

**INVESTMENTS:**

2.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for August 2016. The PRIT Fund returned 0.4% for the month of August.  
**Voted to** note the record.

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

3.) The Board received the bank statements for August 2016 and the budget for Sept. 2016.  
**Voted to** note the record.

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

4.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

09-01-16	\$18163.39
09-02-16	\$12974.18
09-03-16	\$32306.53

**Voted to** approve payments as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

5.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Deborah Brunelle, Dalton Fire & Water District, Treasurer, Group 1, age 62 with 22 years and 4 months of creditable service and chose Option C. The retirement will be effective 10/21/16.  
**Voted to** approve retirement as presented.

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

6.) Charles Loring III, a member in New Marlboro, is eligible to buyback 1 year of prior creditable service. If Mr. Loring III pays \$887.50 into the annuity savings fund by October 31, 2016, the Board will grant 1 year of creditable service.

Casey Searing, a member in Alford, is eligible to buyback 2 years and 9 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Searing pays \$6134.59 into the annuity savings fund by October 31, 2016, the Board will grant 2 years and 9 months of creditable service.

**Voted to** approve buybacks as presented.

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William Brinker, a member in Egremont, requested a buyback of prior creditable service. Mr. Brinker was already a member of the Berkshire County Retirement System when he was employed in a second job by the Town of Great Barrington. Full time creditable service was already earned in the Town of Egremont so Mr. Brinker is only responsible to pay the Berkshire County Retirement System \$630.00, for wages earned during 2012 thru 2016 and no additional creditable service will be given for this time. The salary will be recorded and the additional earnings will be credited to Mr. Brinker.

**Voted** to note the record.

Donna Tyer, a member in Lee, has requested to buyback prior creditable service with the Town of Lee. Currently we have salary information for service January 1, 1985 thru January 1986, however we have no hours worked or hourly salary for earnings during this time so we are unable to calculate the buyback at this time Ms. Tyer has also requested a buyback of prior creditable service for time worked in 1983 thru 1984 however no payroll records have been located for this period of time requested.

**Voted** to note the record.

Scott Fountain, a member in Egremont, is eligible to buyback 11 years and 8 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Fountain pays into the annuity savings fund \$32,377.76 by 11/30/16 the Board will grant 11 years and 8 months of creditable service to Mr. Fountain.

The Board reviewed and made a determination that the amount of service to be granted for the period of time requested April 1996 thru July 2016 would be 11 years and 8 months.

The service was determined by using the actual time worked which was 7 months per year from April 1996 thru July 2016.

The cost of the buyback was determined by using Medicare wages from the W-2's for the period 1996 thru 2007, after 2007 actual payroll records were used to determine wages earned. Chairman Ovitt asked that we confirm Medicare wages before calculating buyback. The Board determined that Mr. Fountain should have been enrolled in the retirement system on February 10, 2010, and the error or omission in not enrolling Mr. Fountain in the retirement system was the responsibility of the Town of Egremont. Because the error was the responsibility of the Town not the member the Board waived the interest due on the entire buyback.

Paul Lisi Jr., made a motion to grant 11 years and 8 months of creditable service and the amount to purchase this service would be \$32,377.76, second Gerald Doyle, Jr.

3-1 in favor. Mr. Ovitt voted against.

**Voted** to approve buyback.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

7.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Kayla Reuss, a member in Dalton to the Hampshire County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year and 4 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$4151.32

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Elecia Warden, a member in BHRSD to the Brookline Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 9 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$1030.57.

**Voted** to approve transfers as presented.

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**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

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

Shannon Crine	BHRSD	\$1651.88
Irwin Pesso	BHRSD	\$338.06
Tammy Pease	Clarksburg	\$138.56
Nickales Ball	Egremont (spiking)	\$46.09
Nicole Ferry	Hinsdale	\$20696.72
Sean Gallagher	FRRSD	\$5725.51

**Voted** to approve refunds as presented.

**INJURY REPORTS:**

9.) The Board is notified of the following injuries:

Glenn Davis – Dalton- Highway – 09/13/2016 – lost time

**Voted** to note the record.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

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

6650	CHRISTOPHER S PERRY	HINSDALE	8/9/2016	DPW LABORER	1
6651	THOMAS M CLARK	SHEFFIELD	8/15/2016	Highway dept.	1
6654	ANGEL S Lindsey-Negrich	BHRSD	9/1/2016	FOOD SERVICE	1
6655	EMILY I WILLIAMS	RICHMOND	9/22/2016	CAFETERIA	1
6656	SARAH M TIERNEY	MGRSD	10/1/2016	SECRETARY	1
6657	JUDITH A FOX	BHRSD	9/1/2016	PARA	1
6658	MARTHA J GARDINO	BHRSD	8/25/2016	KITCHEN	1
6660	TIMOTHY J KELLY	LEE	8/11/2016	POLICE OFFICER	4
6661	DEBORAH A PIRES	LEE	8/8/2016	EMT	1
6662	CAMERON R SIBLEY	LEE	8/22/2016	EMT	1
6663	SHANON L ALBEE`	LEE	8/22/2016	DPW SECY	1
6664	MAURA W SUMNER	WILLIAMSTOWN	9/12/2016	PARA	1
6665	REBECCA M LILLEY	GT Barrington	9/6/2016	ASST CLERK	1

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

**RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:**

11.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Richard Robarge, as of July 7, 2016. Alford

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$7140.00	
Pension	\$9616.08	
Yearly	\$16756.08	
Monthly	1396.34	

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The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Pamela Fillio, as of July 3, 2016. CBRSD

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$2520.96	
Pension	\$10815.84	
Yearly	\$13336.80	
Monthly	\$1111.40	

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Suzanne Scarpa, as of June 30, 2016. Lee

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$6919.20	\$4612.80
Pension	\$21668.04	\$14445.36
Yearly	\$28587.24	\$19058.16
Monthly	\$2382.27	

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Raylene Spencer, as of June 30, 2016. CBRSD

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$2134.44	\$1422.96
Pension	\$6538.68	\$4359.12
Yearly	\$8673.12	\$5782.08
Monthly	\$722.76	

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Antonette Furcinite, as of June 30, 2016. Lenox

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$5204.64	
Pension	\$17627.64	
Yearly	\$22832.28	
Monthly	\$1902.69	

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Donna Estes, as of July 22, 2016. Williamstown

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Beneficiary</b>
Annuity	\$7005.36	
Pension	\$16806.00	
Yearly	\$23811.36	
Monthly	\$1984.28	

**Voted to** note the record.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

12.) There are no 3(8)c reimbursements for the month of September.

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**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

- #22/2016 Pension Forfeiture
- #23/2016 Tobacco Company List

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

14.) The Board is notified that Roger Prevey a retiree from the Town of Williamstown has violated MGL Ch. 32 sec 91 b & c earnings limitation for working after retirement. We will be working on a repayment plan. Mr. Prevey will be mailed a certified letter requesting he and his wife attend the October 26, 2016 meeting and present his repayment plan to the Board.

**Voted to** note the record.

15.) The Board reviewed proposals from four financial institutions interested in providing financial services to the Berkshire County Retirement System. The Board will then select a financial institution to provide those services. The Board reviewed proposals from Berkshire Bank, Uni Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank and Pittsfield Co-Operative Bank. The Board reviewed all aspects of the four proposals specifically interest rates, fees and customer service. After much consideration the Board selected the Pittsfield Co-operative Bank because of the solid interest rates, no fees, customer service and a branch network in Berkshire County. Gerald Doyle Jr., made a motion to select the Pittsfield Co-operative bank second by Paul Lisi Jr., Unanimous.

**Voted to** select Pittsfield Co-operative bank as the provider of banking services.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a.) Letter from MelansonHeath stating Patricia Squillante is considered a public employee for the purposes of the conflict of interest law.
- b.) Letter from Hoosac Water Quality District inquiring about how to join the county retirement system.
- c.) MIIA property & casualty group membership agreement

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 8:00am.

**Voted to** Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

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Michael Ovitt, Chairman

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Patricia Carlino, Elected Member

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Peter Menard, Elected Member

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Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member

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Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member