

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 27, 2020

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:06 A.M. in the Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were, Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Karen Williams, Elected Member, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member and Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member. The meeting was conducted remotely by telephone with roll call votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Retirement Board.

The Retirement offices continue to remain closed to the public and the staff are working alternating schedules so only two staff members are in the office at the same time. The Board determined that this would continue until June 24, 2020. The Board will review this policy at the next board meeting and review the Governor's plan for reopening offices in the State.

The Board asked that the staff order the proper sanitary items masks, hand sanitizer in preparation for opening to appointments. Mark Bashara made a motion to continue office operation until June 24 Board meeting, second by Paul Lisi, Jr., Unanimous.

Roll Call Vote approved motion to close office to the public thru June 24, 2020 and Board will review office protocols for Governor's reopening plan during June meeting.

There will be a designated agenda item for discussing the office protocols on June 24, 2020.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held April 29, 2020, were signed and approved.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board reviewed an application for disability benefits from Jason Hoellerich, Town of Cheshire. After review of the application and determining that the application was complete Mark Bashara made a motion to process the application without a waiver of the in person medical exam, second Paul Lisi, Jr., Unanimous.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved processing the application for disability benefits.

3.) The Board is asked to review information requested for remote access. Cost estimates for a secure VPN network remote access were reviewed and approved at an annual expense of \$600.00 per year and three lap tops will be purchased through the Dell state buy program for a cost of \$1400.00.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved the costs to set up remote access.

INVESTMENTS:

4.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for April 2020. The PRIT Fund returned 4.47% for the month of April.

Roll Call Vote unanimous to note the record.

BANK STATEMENTS:

5.) The Board is in receipt of the bank statements for April 2019. The Board is also in receipt of the budget for May 2019.

Note: copies of cashbooks for April 2019 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting

Roll Call Vote unanimous to note the record.

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MONTHLY WARRANTS:

6.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

05-01-20	\$24,188.02
05-02-20	\$36,863.34
05-03-20	\$203,817.28
05-04-20	\$1,398,886.51

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

7.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from James Walker, Lee, Custodial. The retirement will be effective 05/29/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Carol Smiel, MGRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/16/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Karen Joyner, Lenox, Library Asst. The retirement will be effective 06/17/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Marjorie Middleton, FRRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Debra Caffrey, Lenox, Admin Asst Schools. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Jean Massini, SBRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 07/08/2020.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved retirement application.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

8.) Marsha Vinette, a member with MA Teacher's Retirement Board, is eligible to buy back 3 months and 20 days of prior creditable service. Upon proper makeup of the buyback with MA Teacher's Retirement the Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 3 months and 20 days of creditable service.

Teresa Culpepper-Rysz, a member in Florida, is eligible to buy back 4 years of military Service through Chapter 71 of the Acts of 1996, as amended by Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2002, veteran's buyback. If Ms. Culpepper-Rysz pays \$7212.40 into the annuity savings fund the Board will grant 4 years of creditable service.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved service buybacks.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

9.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Edward Fahey, a member in Lanesboro to the State Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 17 years and 5 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$87,340.23.

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The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Dalton Noel, a member in Hinsdale to the Hampshire County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 5 years and 4 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$19,744.29.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved transfers 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)

Sandy Balayan	Sheffield	\$15,109.78
Thomas Clark	Sheffield	\$2,786.18
Lisa Crozier	FRRSD	\$3,718.89
Joanne Lunt	Lee	\$38,416.97
Robert Pedercini	Lanesboro	\$24,685.59
Marilyn Robillard	Sheffield	\$\$831.82
Margie Smith	Sheffield	\$7,049.15

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved refunds as presented.

INJURY REPORTS:

11.) There were no injuries reported in the month of May.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

12.) The Board is asked to approve for membership in the Berkshire County Retirement System the following members:

5664	DARCIE J LAMPIASI	WILLIAMSTOWN	4/9/2020	CLERK	1
7084	KIMBERLY A LaPLANTE	RICHMOND	2/22/2020	CAFETERIA	1
7088	ROBERT HAMMER	GT Barrington	2/24/2020	Bldg. & GROUNDS	1
7093	FRANCES HERNANDEZ	GT Barrington	3/17/2020	TECH	1
7094	MELISSA P JOYCE	SHEFFIELD	3/29/2020	MANAGER	1
7095	CASIDY N STARBIRD-HEALEY	DALTON	4/21/2020	DISPATCHER	1
7096	BRANDON R MESSINA	W Stockbridge	5/3/2020	POLICE OFFICER	4

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved new members as presented.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

13.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Patricia Larkin, Gt Barrington, as of 01/13/2020. Annual pension amount is \$6,045.00.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Maureen Jennings, MGRSD, as of 01/22/2020. Annual pension amount is \$15,336.84.

Roll Call Vote unanimous to note the record.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

14.) There were no 3(8)3(c) reimbursements for May.

Roll Call Vote to note the record.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

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

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) MIA FY21 Updated Liability Forms
- b.) Copy of the announcement for the 5th member Board seat.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 29, 2020 at 9:00am.

Roll Call Vote to adjourn at 10:09 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

Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member