

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00A.M. in the Berkshire County Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Mark Bashara, Elected Member and Karen Williams, Elected Member. Beth Matson Appointed member was participating remotely. Thomas Gibson, legal counsel and Attorney Kevin Kinne were also remote. Paul Lisi, Jr, Advisory Board member, resigned November 25, 2022, was also remote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) Members of the public had 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 connected remotely.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2.) **LEGAL UPDATE:** Board counsel will update the Board on any outstanding legal issues before the Berkshire County Retirement Board.

5% retroactive COLA for Retirees

Tom Gibson, the Board has been interested in this issue since it was introduced several months ago we now have Chapter 269 of the Act of 2022, which is a standalone bill in which the onetime increase in the COLA from 3% to 5%, it would be effective as of July 1, 2022. It must be approved by the Retirement Board and then by a majority of the municipalities select Boards within the Berkshire County Retirement System. This particular bill the approval process does require a two-thirds vote of the select boards of your municipalities, the other member units have no say in this at all. I Then it will require two thirds and doing the math quickly there are 29 municipalities so we will require 2/3 approval.

Michael Ovitt: Are we going to vote it first and then ask municipalities to ratify it?

Tom Gibson: That the first thing to do is to get exact cost of what this is going to do for the unfunded liability of the Berkshire County Retirement System and then be able to explain to each municipality how it's going to impact their appropriation. You are going to need the actuary, John Boorack, to give you something a little more official on PERAC letterhead. I would suggest that you go well armed into this foray with as much financial information as you have in order to answer questions that the municipality is going to have, how much is it going to cost, and what is going to do to our appropriation? You need that information in order to answer those questions. Ask John Boorack is for some exact numbers as to the impact on the unfunded liability, and each individual member unit. Then you vote whether to accept it or not, if you accept it, then we have to prepare a package for each municipality to consider. Part of the package will be the timelines by which this has to be completed. They have to be aware that that they have to vote on this before June 30, 2023. We cannot force them to put it on the agenda and we cannot force them to take action on it. All we can do is inform them of what the law is and what the requirements are and if they are going to support this, they have to do before June 30, 2023.

Michael Ovitt: So, COLA becomes part of their base.

Sheila LaBarbera: Yes

Michael Ovitt: I thought it was a one-time thing.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

Sheila LaBarbera: The COLA becomes part of your pension that is the real cost of COLAs they are compounding.

Tom Gibson: The 5% is a onetime event you are going to revert back 3% of the base next year.

Michael Ovitt: It is an additional 2%, not an additional 5%.

Mark Bashara: I understand that it goes back to the 3%, what are you saying as far as moving forward?

Sheila LaBarbera: It is a permanent part of your pension going forward it is not a one-time cost it is a compounding cost. Just like the 3%, every year goes to your pension.

Mark Bashara so that extra amount stays.

Sheila LaBarbera: Correct it is not changing the COLA base; it is changing the pension.

Michael Ovitt: If your base pension was \$50,000 each year, it goes up by the amount of COLA.

Sheila LaBarbera: It is an additional \$420 to your pension, yes.

Tom Gibson: It might be illustrated if you think about somebody who is making less than \$14,000 a year in their retirement allowance; they do not get the full amount. Eventually, when you start adding on the COLA, they are going to exceed \$14,000, you are not giving this one-time increase and then taking it back from the retiree the next year. It is going to be rolled into to their overall retirement allowance. There is a cost to it that is why you need those numbers from John Boorack.

BCRS v. PERAC & Pittsfield

Tom Gibson we have a scheduling order from a Division of State Law Appeals. We have until December 9, 2022 to supplement the record. All DALA has right now is the correspondence that was sent to DALA with our letter of appeal That would include our letter to PERAC, PERAC's response and Attorney Sacco's letter on behalf of the Pittsfield Retirement Board. They do not have any of the underlying documents that form the basis of the board's requests. Specifically, the medical panel findings, which heavily determined that Officer Colello's disability, resulted due to combination of factors, but more significantly the two fatal shootings that he was involved with while employed by Pittsfield rather than the incident in Sheffield. This is the basis of our claim this is why this disability should be prorated. We intend on filing additional documents with DALA before December 9, 2022

Michael Ovitt: What was the issue about the lack of a hearing?

Tom Gibson: There is no factual issues in dispute. This is really a question of law whether or not the Proration statutes should apply this particular case. It is just the application of the law to those facts that everybody has agreed on. There is no need for a hearing to test someone's credibility or to get any kind of testimonial evidence into the record. We would get a quicker decision without the need for an evidentiary hearing.

Beth Matson: How long are these taking generally?

Tom Gibson: Well, that is a good question. A lot depends upon which magistrate has been assigned to the case right now it is an injustice to the public worker that appeals whether they win or lose, they have a right to a speedy resolution of those cases and right now, they are not being treated fairly. This is the way is just intolerable up there.

Beth Matson: Well, thank you for that answer.

Home Rule Petitions

Mark Bashara asked a question about legislation that is submitted on behalf of a member by the State senator. Should there be some kind of communication with the Retirement Board that this bill is under consideration.

Tom Gibson: The legislature can do anything they want. The whole pension plan is a creature of a legislature and if they order you to pay that benefit that is the law. The board of course has no role in voting or approving it. Once the legislature enacts it, you are at the mercy. It would have been a matter of courtesy if the Board had been made aware of this.

Thomas Gibson left the meeting @ 9:46am

3.) The Board reviewed and approved a third party recovery for Chad Shimmon, Town of Great Barrington.

Tom Gibson: Mr. Shimmon was retired for accidental disability retirement and Mr. Shimmon fully disclosed that there was also a third-party action that had been pending involving the operator of the vehicle that caused injuries from which he was retired. They have been co-operating and have been providing information to us all along as the, as the negotiations with the municipality progressed with the insurer. I understand that the matter has been settled for the maximum insurance policy limits of \$250,000. The board fortuitously had been working on a third-party settlement policy in anticipation of this case and other cases that may be coming down the road involving third party settlements. We did adopt the policy calling for anywhere between 20% and 30% of the gross net recovery of the member, and then went on to describe and to define what gross with net recovery meant. In these cases, the municipality who pays 111F benefits to an injured police officer or firefighter are statutorily entitled to get recovery from a third party for all of the expenses that they have paid involving injury, and in the board, also has a statutory lien. Under Section 14, A of chapter 32, it's a little vague because it describes receipt of money representing lost wages from third party. The board's policy under Section 4 (a) deals more with the offsetting of lost wages from accidental disability retirement. The negotiations have taken place, and the parties have reached an agreement and that agreement has been provided to the board members. Out of this settlement agreement, the town is being reimbursed a sum of money. As you can see, on page two Mr. Shimmon is getting \$100,000, \$53,000 is going to the town, \$53,000 is going to the insurers, and \$17,500 to the Retirement Board and Attorney Kinne is taking a reduced fee of 10%. Under the usual third-party recovery contingency fee agreements, the attorneys are entitled to one third of the gross recovery amount plus expenses, but in this case, Attorney Kinne has taken a significant cut on his fee. We believe that the settlement here is fair to all parties, fair to the Board and that it comes within the parameters of the Board's policy. We would recommend that the board Accept, approve, and authorize Board Counsel to sign the agreement of settlement and release that has been presented.

Kevin Kinne: I really appreciate you considering this. Thank you for working together with me, I really believe that this is fair to everyone. I feel strongly that, Chad is getting significantly less than he normally would under a typical resolution like this, but it was important to me to maximize whatever recovery I could get for him. As some of you may know, he is just a wonderful person. This terrible circumstance happened to him. He appreciates that the retirement board has been working co-operatively with us throughout this process, and so we would just request that you approve the lien allocations that that we have

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

made. As noted, the town and the insurer's we are insisting on higher amounts and so they got higher amounts of the lien, but I feel that this is fair for everyone.

Tom Gibson: Mr. Chairman, there is one other issue that came up later in the in the process of this. The office became aware of a legislative initiative filed by local Rep Pignatelli and Sen Hines to increase the amount of Mr. Shimmon's disability retirement, to essentially bring him up, to 100% of his pay as a disability retirement rather than 72%. We are seeing more and more of these legislative initiatives where the injuries that have been sustained result in catastrophic injuries to the member and where the member is significantly limited in being able to pursue other vocations. We have seen the legislature look favorably upon legislation that would increase the amount of the disability retirement allowance. It has not been enacted I just want the Board to be aware. It was submitted in this legislative session. It is house bill number 4621. If it were not enacted in legislative session, it would have to be resubmitted next year for the new legislative.

Michael Ovitt: It was my understanding that was submitted before or around the time we granted the disability?

Karen Williams: It was submitted April 4th, and we approve the disability retirement on the 7th of April.

Michael Ovitt: Does this have any impact on the settlement agreement?

Tom Gibson: It will not have any impact on the third-party settlement. There is a finite amount of settlement of policy limits. The defendant is judgement proof beyond what the settlement policy's limits are. I just wanted to be aware that this bill is in the pipeline and may come out sometime, and you should not be surprised by it if it is enacted.

Mark Bashara: I will make a motion to approve the agreement settlement presented for Chad Shimmon. Karen Williams: I will second.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the settlement agreement as presented. The vote was unanimous. (4-0 in favor)

Tom Gibson: Mr. Chairman, I think is consistent with the Board's policy that I am authorized to sign that execution on behalf of the Board that is a settlement release.

Kevin Kinne will forward the agreement to Thomas Gibson for a signature.

Kevin Kinne left the meeting @ 9:16am.

4.) The Board is asked to review and approve the proposed 2023 annual retirement board budget.

Michael Ovitt I know there was some discussion last month when I was not here. I talked to Sheila a little bit last week. I am not totally prepared to finalize this.

Beth Matson wanted to revisit the PTG Module for \$8,500.

Karen Williams It is a new proposal that would allow the treasurers to enter in any new changes to premiums or payroll.

Michael Ovitt noted we could approve the proposed budget but hold on the actual insurance portal changes. When do we have to accept the budget by?

Sheila LaBarbera budget approval by December 31, 2022. It was noted that the proposal was a request from the Treasurers Advisory Board. The retirement board is no longer able to process insurance premium holidays and the treasurers requested the implementation for their convenience in processing insurance premium remittance.

Michael Ovitt we just need an explanation a little more detail than rather just dumping \$8,500 in the budget.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

Sheila LaBarbera noted we have talked to you about the insurance deductions for the last two years since the process has changed this is not a new issue for the retirement system or the treasurers. The treasurers use a similar system with MTRS and would like us to offer the same option.

Beth Matson all the counties are using this?

Sheila LaBarbera noted this portal was developed for the Counties Plymouth and Norfolk use it now Middlesex and Bristol will be in 2023. I will check with the other counties to see who else will be enrolling as PTG indicated they have several other counties interested in joining and were unsure of the timeline for the upgrade. There was proposal at an advisory board meeting the treasurers asked what could we do? How can we improve the insurance remittance? It might be an expense but it is something that we think would be useful. We discussed it at the advisory board meeting. That is where the request came from. If you want to do it, great, if you do not, that ok too, but if you do not please let the treasurers know that that is the decision that the board made.

Paul Lisi as a member of the public who used to do this on a daily basis, and coming from the Advisory Council where a group of treasurers got together to meet, to talk about a way to improve a process to ensure that as treasurers, are being responsible to our retirees and making sure that we give them monies that are rightfully due to them in an easy and convenient way. We came up with proposing this to the Board. The acquisition for the \$8,500 of this insurance module ensures that all of our retirees and Mark has some experience on this. Mark had to actively go to the town of Lanesborough to get his money back, because it was not known to him that he was owed it. That is not fair to any retiree to have to do that. When the ease and convenience of going into a system and changing an amount from \$50 to zero for 1 month, literally takes less than five minutes on the Treasurer's side. As a former member of the board, all the board members agreed there one time that insurance really should be the responsibility of the treasurers so the treasurers are putting something forward to the board. Any treasurer who does MTRS reporting knows how easy this will be. I just think it is a definite benefit for the retirement system to purchase and ensures that treasurers are fair to the retirees and not collect money a month that they should not.

Karen Williams: So, to go back to what you were saying, we can keep it in the budget. It does not mean we are going to spend it.

Mark Bashara: Here is my suggestion it seems like there are some questions. Why don't we leave it in there and then contingent upon any questions that are left if everyone is satisfied, then the money is there, and we can approve it? If not, then at least the questions have been answered. Do you want me to make a motion?

Michael Ovitt: Are there any other questions? The guidance for what the salary numbers are based on what?

Sheila LaBarbera: The approved COLA policy is what we budgeted. Michael Ovitt: The assumption is that 7% is the COLA.

Mark Bashara Who did the salary survey here? Beth? Looking at this, it shows for director administrative salary, if I understand this correctly, looks at bottom \$103,525.12.

Beth Matson It is for smaller systems. I put that out there for the Administrative Assistants to the board I am sorry, because the prior salary survey that was out there came in much higher. This is lower. It is a smaller amount of membership it does not list the service, it was a comparison to just inform you that different surveys look at different things the other one was not comparable with the number of years of service that the staff had.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

Sheila LaBarbera In fairness, the salary survey that we used, while we didn't have exact number of years of service, they were comparable in size, when you throw in an average for Administrative Assistants and you use part-time salaries for an average, that is not really a fair comparison if you remove the \$20,000 and the \$28,000, you will find a much different salary average.

Beth Matson There are a couple that are not listed, but the lower ones did have the hours listed in it. My point was that the comparison on the other survey did not include experience, which is valued as much as size of the system. I told you, this was not to be used for consideration; it was to be used just to say that you can pull out retirement systems. The survey you had did not have years of service, that was my point. This has got a smaller membership. It is all over the map is my point.

Sheila LaBarbera: this does not have years of service?

Mark Bashara If those people had 5, 10, 15, 20 years, whatever, that's a significant difference than if an employee had 1 or two years the longer you are on the job, the more you're going to make, it's a very important factor for me to consider.

Sheila LaBarbera: So, service is important we have tried to find systems that were the most comparable we have another month; we can try and get more input on service for the coordinator? How about for the Executive Director?

Mark Bashara I would say that service is important.

Sheila LaBarbera I will get you the service.

Mark Bashara: But it has to be comparable. This is where we are having an issue.

Sheila LaBarbera the retirement systems across the state are all doing the same work it is the volume and the difference you have between counties and city system. Some cities systems have tasks that are done through the Treasurer's Office and there are other resources for them that we do not necessarily have.

Mark Bashara Another thing to consider is the cost of living in the area in which you are living.

Sheila LaBarbera: The only thing, that as employee's retirement system I think that the only thing that we ask for is fairness. We can go back and forth with comparables but in the end, it is about fairness.

Michael Ovitt: I guess I would like to see is over the next week or so, if we can get any other questions together regarding the budget and clarify it before the next meeting.

Sheila LaBarbera: So, you will send those questions to me or how are we clarifying?

Michael Ovitt: I would like to know what they are in advance of the next meeting.

Mark Bashara: The way that I am looking at it is, regarding the PTG thing, we need to get everybody's questions together and answered so that we can make a decision on that.

Karen Williams: I would make a motion to approve the proposed 2023 budget, with all of the expense lines, not considering the salaries. Mark Bashara: I will second that motion.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the proposed budget excluding salaries, which will be determined in December. The vote was unanimous.

5.) The Board will discuss the process of performance evaluations and staff compensation.

Michael Ovitt Do we do that under Executive Session?

Sheila LaBarbera legal counsel said that they are not done in Executive Session. I am certainly pleased with the performance of both of the employees. They have exceeded all of my expectations. The last year has been a pleasure working with both of them. I expect that

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

performance will continue into the future. They have ongoing training and I believe that both of them have performed above and beyond what the expectations.

Michael Ovitt: The agenda item says that we will discuss the process is this something that you want to do this month? I would like to clarify a few things as far as the job duties and the goals and objectives. if we could bring it back next month, I would appreciate it.

Karen Williams: I will make a motion to table the discussion of performance evaluations until next month's meeting. Mark Bashara, second.

A roll call vote was taken to table performance evaluation review. The vote was unanimous.

6.) PTG software update

Sheila LaBarbera we are continuing to get most of our systems live on the site

Michael Ovitt did I see that we have 14? We have 14 and we have an additional 10 pending? It's twenty four out of forty-six? if you can just bring this up to date on the difference of the 46. That would be great. That's good numbers, but there's still a lot of them out there. Are we looking for one hundred percent participation?

Sheila LaBarbera: We wanted everybody by December 31st.

Michael Ovitt: So, you're only looking at 52% by December 31st? Are you having problems with them or is it just timing?

Sheila LaBarbera: It's just timing. I'll make that list for December. As we get to year end, there might be a couple that just isn't their fault.

Karen Williams I'm submitting the deduction files every week. We have a weekly payroll, so we are discussing me remitting those withholdings every week. Rather than monthly, which I have been doing.

Sheila LaBarbera we are finding that as people get into the system and they are live, treasurers are finding that this is the better way to do it. More than half are remitting the money when they are remitting the records to us. once they are there, they are happy about it, and they like it and are embracing it. I don't want to force anybody. I want to make sure that everybody is doing it on their own.

Karen Williams: And as you mentioned, it's not just the treasurer, you have to really get everybody on board.

Michael Ovitt: So maybe you can just give us the pros and cons and anything you may want to modify.

Sheila LaBarbera: Yeah, because things have definitely changed from what we thought it was going to be like, to what it actually is. And how it works for certain treasurers, based on their payroll. It really is different. Not necessarily in a bad way, but its just different.

7.) Discussion of posting retirement budget on the website

Sheila LaBarbera Mark had requested that. Just a little bit of background on that. We did check with 105 retirement systems just to see who posted the budget. Only six posted and only four were current. I don't have a problem posting it, if that's what you like, legal counsel did caution posting because there are some cyber security issues that come with that. We can put the budget up there but it does create some areas of worry.

Michael Ovitt: Can you just give us an example of what we would potentially post?

Sheila LaBarbera: Sure, I will have one for next month.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

8.) Late Addition: resignation of Advisory Council member Paul Lisi, Jr. effective November 25, 2022.

Michael Ovitt we can jump up to item number eight, regarding the Resignation of Advisory Council member, Paul Lisi, effective November 25. Does anyone have any questions regarding that? Paul, thank you for your service and all your efforts over the years. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

Paul Lisi: Thank you. I would like to say it has been a pleasure working with the Berkshire County Retirement Board. Tom, I have learned a lot from you and Gerry, as well. Thank him for everything and answering any questions I may have had. Sometimes it has been interesting and challenging. I would say that I truthfully believe that the Berkshire County Retirement System is run by a great group of both employees, the Executive Director and Board Members. I look forward to seeing the future of that system grow and become better. Just because I am leaving to do something else, does not mean I will not return to be a member of the public in the meetings. It is something I have always been passionate about, since I have started to work there. I am not necessarily positive, that I will ever want to come back to work in the public sector, but it is quite an interesting place to work. I had some great experiences, and some great mentors, and Sheila, Tom, and Gerry; I would consider you one of those mentors for the fact that you were always willing to teach and thank you very much.

Sheila LaBarbera: Thank you, Paul.

Mark Bashara: So, I will make a motion to accept the Paul Lisi's resignation from the Berkshire County Retirement Board effective November 25. Karen Williams: I will second.

A roll call vote was taken to accept the resignations of Paul Lisi, Jr. from the retirement board. The vote was unanimous.

Tom Gibson Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Council must be notified that there is now a vacancy for the appointment of the advisory council I think it is important that we have the Advisory Council position filled quickly. You do not want to leave a void on the board.

Michael Ovitt: We already had the advisory council meeting, right.

Sheila LaBarbera: We will have to have another one. They meet annually in October. We will meet again in December.

Thomas Gibson left the meeting @ 9:46am.

Michael Ovitt had several comments regarding enrollment dates and the date deductions started. The enrollment date will be the membership date not the date deductions started. Treasurers should not be delaying retirement deductions for incomplete applications. The retirement staff will continue to reach out and educate the newer treasurers on the enrollment process.

Karen Williams noted that some of the forms on the retirement website were not fillable forms, the retirement staff indicated that the treasurers could not use internet explorer as there was no more support for that browser; they must use chrome or Microsoft edge.

The board members also requested clarification on the rules regarding public participation in Board meetings. The director will submit questions to the AG's office to determine the Allowable method of participation by the public in an open meeting the rules regarding the Identification of those who participate remotely. Answers will be distributed to the Board.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

9.) Consent Agenda Detail:

MINUTES:

a.) The Board minutes of the regular session meeting held October 26, 2022, were signed and approved.

Minutes provided as an attachment to email

INVESTMENTS:

b.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for October 2022. The PRIT Fund returned 2.05% for the month of October.

BANK STATEMENTS:

c.) The Board received the bank statements for Oct 2022 and the budget for Nov 2022. *Cash Books for September were sent to Board by email.*

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

d.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

11-01-22	\$147,825.31
11-02-22	\$315,210.12
11-03-22	\$22,574.34
11-04-22	\$26,085.95
11-05-22	\$1,646,663.04

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

e.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Curtis Wells, CBRSD, Custodian. The retirement will be effective 11/01/22.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Martha Barnum, SBRSD, Custodian. The retirement will be effective 12/30/22.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Gareth Backhaus, Monterey, Chief of Police. The retirement will be effective 12/31/22.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Barbara Heaphy, Lenox Housing Authority, Executive Director. The retirement will be effective 1/31/23.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Diane Drosehn, CBRSD, Guidance Administrative Assistant. The retirement will be effective 12/06/22.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Edward Clark, CBRSD, COTA. The retirement will be effective 1/30/23.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

f.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Jeremy Wells, a member in SBRSD to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 7 years of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$58,501.61.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Sean VanDeusen, a member in MT Washington to the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 11 years of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$80,877.79.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of John Roughley, a member in Dalton to the Barnstable County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 10 years and 1 month of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$68,102.06.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Timothy Goodchild, a member in Lee to the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 8 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$22,307.90.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Bradley Lupiani, a member in Great Barrington to the Middlesex County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 3 years and 6 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$24,151.80.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Martin Coryell, a member in Lanesborough to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 14 years and 1 month of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$61,268.96.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

g.) Jessica Horan, a member in New Marlborough, is eligible to buy back 2 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Horan pays \$721.69 into the annuity savings fund by December 31, 2022, the board will grant 2 months of creditable service.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Michael T Smith	Lenox	\$1,690.58 (Refund of overpaid buyback)
Michele Blake	Dalton	\$24,392.69
Kristen Decker	Lee	\$13,503.15
Meghan Dwyer	BHRSD	\$26,775.53
Paul Lisi Jr	Richmond	\$473.62 (Refund of overpaid deductions)
Paul Lisi Jr	Richmond	\$80,989.74

INJURY REPORTS:

i.) There were no injuries reported in November

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

7593	Benny Gaylord	Lanesboro FW	8/24/2022	Asst. Superintendent	1
7594	Jesie MacDonald	SBRSD	9/5/2022	Food Cashier	1
7595	Suzanne Abbott	SBRSD	10/18/2022	Cafeteria Worker	1
7596	Ryan Dubie	Williamstown	10/17/2022	Dispatcher	1
7597	Jonathan Duerr	SBRSD	10/20/2022	Food Service Director	1
7598	Shea Gibbs	Great Barrington	10/17/2022	WWTP Operator	1
7599	Stephen Browning	Great Barrington	10/17/2022	Health Inspector	1
7600	Jennifer Harwood	MGRSD	9/7/2022	Para	1
7601	Carrie Snyder	MGRSD	8/29/2022	Para	1
7602	Kyle Muzzy	MGRSD	8/29/2022	Para	1
7603	Elissa Ciaburri	SBRSD	9/1/2022	Speech Assistant	1
7604	Nathan Charette	Sheffield	11/1/2022	Police Officer	4
7605	Steven Pinette	Sheffield	11/16/2022	Police Officer	4
7606	Kayla Pierce	Savoy	8/29/2022	Admin Assistant	1
7607	Hunter Wick	Williamstown	10/24/2022	DPW Water/Sewer	1
7608	Shawn LaVigne	Williamstown	10/31/2022	DPW Heavy Equip Operator	1
7609	Melissa Mazzeo	MGRSD	10/31/2022	Para	1
7610	Martha Escobar	BHRSD	10/28/2022	Para	1
7611	Braiden Schuler	BHRSD	11/7/2022	Para	1
7612	Elizabeth Rodda	Florida	8/31/2022	Para	1
7613	Keifer Gammell	MGRSD	10/3/2022	Admin Assistant	1
7614	Michelle Castellano	New Marlborough	11/16/2022	Admin Secretary	1
7615	Kyle Suriner	CBRSD	11/17/2022	Para	1
7616	Annemarie Garland	CBRSD	11/21/2022	Para	1

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

k.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Cindy Bigelow, Lee, as of 08/01/2022. Annual pension amount is \$13,486.32.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Jeffrey Gray, FRRSD, as of 08/17/2022. Annual pension amount is \$25,064.28.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Leslee Brennan, CBRSD, as of 08/01/2022. Annual pension amount is \$10,887.84.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Lauren Long, survivor of Christopher Long, Lenox, as of 04/04/2022. Annual pension amount is \$18,369.36.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

l.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the State Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Berkshire County Retirement Board \$5,644.49 a year toward the retirement allowance of Jeffrey Gray.

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

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

#28/ 2022 840 CMR 28.00 Electronic Signatures

#29/ 2022 5% Local COLA Option

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

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
November 30, 2022

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

n.) The Board is asked to approve the travel expense for staff to provide retirement seminars and PTG training to Dalton Fire Dist, Dalton, Universal payroll and Adirondack payroll.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

o.) -Massachusetts Retirement Systems FY 2023 COLA Bases

-Notice of Phishing and Scamming Attempts

Note: copies given to each Board member

Mark Bashara made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Karen Williams, second.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the consent agenda presented. The vote was unanimous.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 9:00am.

A motion was made by Mark Bashara to adjourn the meeting at 11:28am, Beth Matson, second.

A vote was taken to adjourn, the vote was unanimous.

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