

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 26, 2021

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00 A.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, Beth Matson Appointed member, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member and Karen Williams, Elected Member.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public had an opportunity to address the Retirement Board as the remote link to the meeting was posted with the agenda. No members of the public attending the meeting or were connecting remotely.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the regular meeting and the executive session held April 28, 2021, were signed and approved.

Vote to approve the minutes and the vote was unanimous.

The Board continued with the regular order of business skipping Item # 2 until 10:00am. Attorney Thomas Gibson joined the meeting at 10:15am. In attendance for the executive session were the % Berkshire County Retirement Board Members Attorney Thomas Gibson, Sheila LaBarbera and William Flynn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

2.) Executive Session under Purpose #1 of the Open Meeting Law – Review and Discussion of Staff Member Complaint and will be heard in executive session in accordance with Purpose #1 of the Open Meeting Law.

At 10:15am executive session was requested, there was a motion made by Paul Lisi, Jr. to convene in executive session for Purpose #1, to Review and Discussion of Staff Member Complaint, the motion was seconded by Mark Bashara.

A roll call vote was taken to enter into executive session. The vote was Unanimous.

The Board returned to regular session @ 11:24am. Note that no votes were taken during the executive session.

Attorney Thomas Gibson remained in the meeting. Mr. Gibson reviewed:

- 1.) the end of the emergency order issued by Governor Baker effective June 15, 2021. Attorney Gibson detailed the effect the repeal of emergency order would have on the open meeting law.
- 2.) Attorney Gibson noted that he would be moderating the legal panel for the MACRS Conference held virtually on Monday June 8, 2021. Michael Ovitt asked if the legal panel would be posted online for viewing at a later date, Attorney Gibson suggested it would but without educational credits.

NEW BUSINESS:

3.) The Board approved a 3% COLA for retirees who retired Before June 30, 2020. COLA will be effective July 1, 2021.

Vote to approve the 3%% COLA and the vote was unanimous.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 26, 2021

4.) The Board approved a policy on Worker's Compensation Offset in Settlements to Redeem Liability by Lump Sum Settlements.

Vote to approve the Policy on Worker's Compensation Offset and the vote was unanimous.

INVESTMENTS:

5.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for April 2021. The PRIT Fund returned 2.69% for the month of April. The Board asked if PRIM would present an annual review of PRIT performance for the Board at the June 28, 2021 meeting, will try and schedule the review for June 2021.

Voted to note the record and the vote was **Unanimous**

BANK STATEMENTS:

6.) The Board received the bank statements for April 2021. The Board is also in receipt of the budget for May 2021.

Note: copies of cashbooks for April 2021 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

Voted to note the record and the vote was **Unanimous**

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

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

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| 05-01-21 | \$19,271.44 |
| 05-02-21 | \$33,560.91 |
| 05-03-21 | \$3,237.48 |
| 05-04-21 | \$120,147.63 |
| 05-05-21 | \$76,711.10 |
| 05-06-21 | \$1,486,101.24 |

Voted to approve payments and the vote was **Unanimous**

Michael Ovitt asked to include invoices with warrants when the credit card is used for payment for products and services. The WIX invoice will be requested from vendor.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

8.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Debra Turnbull, Williamstown, Admin Asst. The retirement will be effective 04/20/2021.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Kathleen Koscher, Lenox, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/18/2021.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Timothy Sorrell, Lanesboro, Police Chief. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2021.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Linda Clifford, Lenox, School Bus Driver. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2021.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Alice Tortoriello, SBRSD, Secretary. The retirement will be effective 08/16/2021.

Vote to approve retirements and the vote was **Unanimous**

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 26, 2021

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

9.) There are no transfers for the month of May.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

10.) Jeffrey Kennedy, a member in Williamstown, 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 Mr. Kennedy pays \$11,456.92 into the annuity savings fund the Board will grant 4 years of creditable service.

Gabrielle Taglieri, a member in Dalton, is eligible to buy back 4 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Taglieri pays \$1,134.10 into the annuity savings fund by April 30, 2021, the Board will grant 4 months of creditable service.

Ronda Bilodeau, a member in CBRSD, is eligible to buy back 2 years and 3 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Bilodeau pays \$6,429.82 into the annuity savings fund by June 30, 2021, the Board will grant 2 years and 3 months of creditable service.

Voted to approve the buybacks as presented and the vote was **Unanimous**

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

11.) The Board is asked to approve the applications for refunds from the following members: (Pending approval from Dept. of Revenue- child support division)

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Laddie Dean | Richmond | \$1,944.26 |
| Allison Newton | Lee | \$41,254.78 |
| Kenneth Turn | MGRSD | \$2,324.27 |
| Jennifer Tabakin | Gt Barrington | \$83,894.26 |
| Amber Will | Savoy | \$3,122.00 |

Voted to approve refunds and the vote was **Unanimous**

INJURY REPORTS:

12.) There was an injury reported in the SBRSD.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

| | | | | | |
|------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 7236 | Haley Sigsbury | Williamstown | 4/19/2021 | Police dispatcher | 1 |
| 7237 | Barbara Columbus | Williamstown | 4/26/2021 | Admin Asst | 1 |
| 7238 | Garrett Crennan | Lanesboro | 5/3/2021 | DPW laborer | 1 |
| 7239 | Brian Aherne | Gt Barrington | 4/26/2021 | DPW laborer | 1 |
| 7240 | Sharon Adams | Tyringham | 2/15/2021 | Post office | 1 |
| 7241 | Thomas Hutcheson | Dalton | 5/3/2021 | Town Manager | 1 |
| 7242 | Michael Worth | Florida | 4/20/2021 | Highway dept. | 1 |

Voted to approve new members and the vote was **Unanimous**

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

14.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Lori Bohin, Lenox, as of 01/15/2021. Annual pension amount is \$4,537.08.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 26, 2021

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Angel Rote, SBRSD, as of as of 01/29/2021. Annual pension amount is \$1,867.69.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Constance Broggi, SBRSD, as of as of 02/05/2021. Annual pension amount is \$10,789.92.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Jill Moncecchi, Florida, as of as of 02/09/2021. Annual pension amount is \$3,829.56.

Voted to approve retirement allowance and the vote was Unanimous

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

15.) There are no 3(8)c reimbursements for the month of April.

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

16.) There are no PERAC memos in the month of May.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

17.) There are no travel requests for the month of May.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) Insurance deduction issues with insurance premiums holidays – PTG software upgrades now make it impossible for the retirement board to process an insurance premium holiday. Notices will be sent out to treasurers in September 2021 notifying them that insurance rate changes will be processed as usual but the retirement board will no longer process insurance premium holidays for retirees.
- b.) MACRS agenda and registration for virtual conference. None of the board members requested registration for the virtual Spring Conference.
- c.) Phone and internet service provider switch was complete May 14, 2021, AccessPlus is now the provider for both services.
- d.) PERAC Pension newsletter April 2021
- e.) MIIA FY22 Updated Renewal Terms and Conditions
- f.) Ma. Governor's Emergency order and the Open Meeting Law. Thomas Gibson opinion
- g.) Copy of the lease agreement with Scarafoni Associates. The Board asked the Executive Director to contact Scarafoni Assoc. regarding the renewal terms for the lease agreement and to discuss the renewal terms including the additional designated onsite parking spot.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 9:00am.

Motion to adjourn at 11:34am was unanimous.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
May 26, 2021

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