

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

~~January 23, 2019~~

February 27, 2019 (20)

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:35 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 and Karen Williams, Elected Member. Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member and Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member were absent.

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 January 23, 2018, were reviewed and approved
Voted to approve the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board conducted an interview with Thomas Gibson a finalist for the Legal Services RFP (Chapter 32) @ 10:0am. After introductions, the Board engaged in a general discussion regarding the RFP process. Chairman Ovitt had several questions regarding knowledge of municipal procurement, evaluation of contracts and domestic relations orders. Attorney Gibson's response outlined Chapter 30B and detailed the exemption that applies to retirement boards he indicated that they were able to review contracts when needed and that the firm does review DROs on a regular basis. Board member Mark Bashara had several questions regarding the ability of the law firm to attend Board meetings and conduct hearings when required. Attorney Gibson indicated that the firm would be able to handle those situations as required and that the firm does represent several western Massachusetts retirement boards. Attorney Gibson's associates Kimberly Fletcher and Gerald McDonough took the time to detail their professional background and experience with retirement law specifically Chapter 32. The board members had no additional questions. Attorney Gibson requires a letter of engagement and the Board agreed that Sheila LaBarbera would sign the letter of engagement. The three board members briefly discussed Attorney Gibson's law firm and their qualifications all agreed they were very capable with extensive experience with county retirement systems. Mark Bashara made a motion to engage Attorney Gibson for retirement board representation in Chapter 32 retirement law, Karen Williams second. Unanimous.
Voted to engage Thomas Gibson as the attorney to handle Chapter 32 retirement law for Berkshire County Retirement Board.

3.) The Board reviewed and approved the 2019 Annual Financial Statement for the Berkshire County Retirement System.

Voted to approve annual statement and submit to PERAC

4.) The Board is asked to review an amendment to the supplementary regulation regarding membership and enrollment in the Berkshire County Retirement System.

Voted to table.

INVESTMENTS:

5.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for January 2019. The PRIT Fund returned 4.20% for the month of January.

Voted to note the record.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

~~January 23, 2019~~ February 27, 2019 @

BANK STATEMENTS:

6.) The Board received the bank statements for January 2019. The Board is also received the budget for February 2019 and the final budget figures for 2018.

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

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

7.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

01-02-19	\$26,524.28
01-03-19	\$1,339,666.88
01-04-19	\$3,033.16
02-01-19	\$18,388.25
02-02-19	\$77,427.87
02-03-19	\$1,333,830.04
02-04-19	\$355,296.61

Voted to approve payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

8.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Thomas Carmody, Lanesboro, Building Insp. The retirement will be effective 1/1/19.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from David Fish, Washington, Highway Dept. The retirement will be effective 2/5/19.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Deborah Felix, Williamstown, Library. The retirement will be effective 05/20/19.

Voted to approve retirements as presented.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

9.) Karen Bossio, a member in CBRSD, is eligible to buy back 2 years and 1 month of prior creditable service. If Ms. Bossio pays \$5759.02 into the annuity savings fund by March 31, 2019, the Board will grant 2 years and 1 month of creditable service.

Nancy LaCasse, a member in Williamstown, is eligible to buy back 4 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. LaCasse pays \$734.78 into the annuity savings fund by March 31, 2019, the Board will grant 4 months of creditable service.

Jon Oleson, a member in Florida, is eligible to buy back 8 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Oleson pays \$1338.17 into the annuity savings fund by March 31, 2019, the Board will grant 8 months of creditable service.

Marlene Walsh, a member in Lee Housing Auth., is eligible to buy back 6 years and 8 months of prior creditable service. If Mrs. Walsh pays \$25,938.35 into the annuity savings fund by March 31, 2019, the Board will grant 6 years and 8 months of creditable service.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

~~January 23, 2019~~ February 27, 2019 (2)

Nick Felix, a member in North Adams Retirement, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 3 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Felix pays the prescribed amount to the North Adams Retirement Board, the Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year and 3 months of creditable service.

Voted to approve service buybacks as presented.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

10.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Tracy Mangardi, a member in Lanesboro to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 11 years and 11 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$30,744.83.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Amy Pires, a member in Stockbridge Housing Authority to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 4 years and 7 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$8,227.56.

Voted to approve transfers as presented.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Glee Bieri	SBRSD	\$1827.12
Tracy Eastwood	Dalton	\$2394.58
Mary Beth Holmes	Lee	\$8906.76
Thomas Soules	Lee	\$2718.81
Katie Seward	Lee	\$19,921.65

Voted to approve refunds as presented.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

6904	EDMUND ST JOHN IV	CHESHIRE	12/11/2018	TOWN ADMIN	1
6907	MARK T BEDARD	PERU	12/1/2018	DRIVER/LABORER	1
6908	NICKOLAS J GAUDETTE	DALTON	1/14/2019	PATROLMAN	4
6909	ANTHONY J BAROLI	DALTON	1/14/2019	OFFICER	4
6910	GLENN R PRATT	SAVOY	1/9/2019	DRIVER/LABORER	1
6911	DEBORAH M LEVESQUE	DALTON	1/22/2019	Asst Tax Collect	1
6912	Zachary A Cochrane Handerek	RICHMOND	1/10/2019	CUSTODIAN	1
6913	MICHAEL E DUVAL	LEE	1/3/2019	CUSTODIAN	1
6914	SARAH J HOPKINS	LEE	1/10/2019	PARA	1
6915	KASHA M WISSMAN	FLORIDA	1/2/2019	1:1 AIDE	1
6916	COREY J SWISTAK	LANESBORO	2/4/2019	HWY LABORER	1
6917	STEPHEN J PARKINGTON	EGREMONT	1/2/2019	PATROLMAN	4
6918	JEAN JAQUINS	BHRSD	1/28/2019	FOOD SERVICE	1

Voted to approve new members as presented.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

~~January 23, 2019~~ February 27, 2019 (60)

INJURY REPORTS:

13.) There were eight injuries reported by the SBRSD in the month of February.

Voted to note the record.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

14.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Mary-King Austin, Mt. Washington as of October 31, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$4,458.96.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Myron Ford, Lee as of December 18, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$14,695.08.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Sherri Miller, Lee Housing Authority as of December 21, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$28,324.32.

Voted to note the record.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

15.) The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila Labarbera to attend the PRIM Advisory Council meeting on March 7, 2019 in Boston, MA.

Voted to approve the travel expense.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

16.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Teacher's Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Berkshire County Retirement Board \$286.32 a year toward the retirement allowance of Mary-King Austin.

Voted to note the record.

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

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

#07/2019	Buyback and Make up Repayment Worksheet
#08/2019	2019 Interest Rate set at 0.1%
#09/2019	Accounting Changes
#10/2019	Administrative Reminders
#11/2019	Worker Comp Data Match in Prosper

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

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) Copy of letter sent to Attorney Mercier regarding Wigglesworth disability
- b.) Copy of the engagement letter from Cain Hibbard & Myers
- c.) Letter from APEX HCM Ransom ware Cyber Attack – Adirondack Payroll

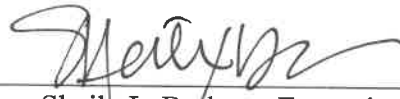
The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 9:00am.

Voted to adjourn at 10:25am.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

~~January 23, 2019~~ February 27, 2019 (S)

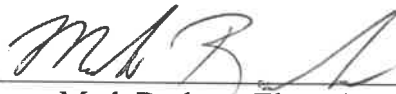
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



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