

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

**The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 11:30am, in the Berkshire County Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were Timothy Sorrell, Elected Member and Ericka Oleson, Vice Chairman and Advisory Board member, Alicia Dulin, Elected Member, and William S. Pignatelli, 5<sup>th</sup> member appointed. Michael Ovitt, Chairman was absent. Participating remotely were Thomas Gibson, Gerry McDonough and Ann Tran, Legal counsel.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1.) Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Retirement Board. There were no public comments. No comments from the members of the public. **Ericka Oleson:** hearing none, we are going to move on to the consent agenda.

*Legal update was taken first at 11:30pm*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2.) Legal Update: Presented by Board Counsel Thomas Gibson

**Executive Session Minutes**

**Gerry McDonough:** We have the legal update and then we want to have the executive session minutes addressed. Do you know how many executive sessions there were that have not yet been approved? I have seen the minutes that you sent me for four of those. It seems like there are other meetings as well?

**Ericka Oleson:** Yes, there are other meetings. We are missing six meeting minutes for six meetings.

**Gerry McDonough:** Six more meetings?

**Ericka Oleson:** Yes, six more that the minutes are unaccounted for, and nobody seems to know whom, if anyone, was taking minutes. I did reach out to Beth Matson because Mark had said that she was taking minutes at the earlier meetings and she just said that I was misinformed but did not say who had it.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We may actually have a recording indicating that she was the person because they asked us to leave the meeting. Jill specifically asked them who was going to take the minutes, they told Brian and Jill both to leave and that Beth Matson would be responsible for those minutes. So, we will make sure that she knows through a transcript / minutes that she at some point accepted that responsibility. .

**Thomas Gibson:** If she does not have them, she does not have them. That is something we got to deal with. I think we need to get these approved, reach out to the Division of Open Government, and give them these facts. Ask them to tell us what the guidance is on how we can correct this issue. It is not fair that the current board members be faulted for the failure of the past board members or the majority not to comply with the Open Meeting Law by not taking those minutes. If somebody is slapped around here, we have to make sure that we make sure the board is insulated as much as they can for many criticisms or findings of the Division of Open Government.

**Gerry McDonough:** There is one set of minutes that does not have time that started and ended.

**Ericka Oleson:** Yes. I was able to find the start and end time for the other ones. Attorney Sacco had left that out, but they were during our regular board meeting so I just based it

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

around when we entered and exited our board meeting. The other one I was not sure of and I am terrible at that game of guessing how long something took. Five minutes? Five hours?

**Gerry McDonough:** There was no recording made of those executive sessions correct?

**Ericka Oleson:** No. As far as we are aware, there was not.

**Gerry McDonough:** Wow. I do not know whether you can you amend executive session minutes? After they have been made public, they are what they are. I guess you might be able to amend them later.

**Thomas Gibson:** We can amend if there is a material mistake, misrepresentation or a fundamental wrong in the minutes. The board can recognize that and not necessarily change the minutes of that meeting but have additional minutes that reflect that change was made to those minutes.

**Ericka Oleson:** Or if anyone is good at guessing times, it was our June 16 meeting. We have the start time at 10 a.m. just no time that it ended.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Is that the one that Michael Sacco attended?

**Timothy Sorrell:** Were those billable hours on you?

**Sheila LaBarbera:** He attended in person.

**Ericka Oleson:** No, it was a virtual meeting.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** You could probably get it even if it is a virtual one.

**Ericka Oleson:** That is a great idea.

**Brian Shepard:** June what?

**Ericka Oleson:** June 16th was the date. Perfect.

**Gerry McDonough:** The one we do not have the time for is the one on March 26th. Maybe the way to address this is just to take the times out completely, just saying special counsel Michael Sacco entered the executive session to discuss our litigation strategy and then at the end say Attorney Sacco exited the executive session because we do not know the time.

**Ericka Oleson:** I actually was able to find the one for March 26, so I might have sent you an old copy. I did get them for March 26.

**Gerry McDonough:** Okay, if you put that in. The other thing is that if they are approved, I think it is the present board that can approve these minutes, not someone who is no longer on the board. We do not want to track people down like Beth Matson to get her to sign the minutes. You folks are now the board, so you approve minutes. You do not have to have personal knowledge as to whether the minutes are accurate or not, but it is important to release the minutes to the public that we have and you can all sign off on that.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Gerry? Quick question on that regard. Two of the four members sitting here today are new and were not part of that whole process. I understand what you just said, but could either one of us make a motion to accept those minutes even though we were not partaking in those meetings?

**Gerry McDonough:** Yes.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Okay, good.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** There is a motion that has been prepared for us. Just to understand, the current board members that participated, if they are notated in any way in the minutes, that are going to be approving today and they have either an objection or a recollection that is not what has been presented in those minutes, can they make that notation now before they are approved? I think for the most part, this is the first time you have seen the minutes?

**Gerry McDonough:** You could discuss them. If anybody was there at the meeting and they think that anything is inaccurate and they like to change anything, now would be the appropriate time to make a motion to do so. If they are approved today, and somebody

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

realizes that there is a significant substantial mistake, they can bring it back to the board to amend the executive session minutes to correct that.

**Thomas Gibson:** If the board thinks they believe they need more time to digest and review those minutes, there is no harm in deferring this until the February meeting. That may give us more time to get some guidance from the Division of Open Government on the issue of the minutes that are non-existent and what is the best way to handle that. I think Gerry or Ann that if the board members have not had the opportunity to really digest these minutes it is unfair to ask them to vote on it especially if there are some changes to be made. I think it may suit the board to put this over until the February board meeting.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I am going to be racking my brain to remember what we did at that meeting.

**Ericka Oleson:** Well, and the minutes are vague too. They are not like our minutes that are very in-depth.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I would agree with Tom, but I would defer to you two. If you were comfortable with those minutes, I would say we should vote on it now. If you want more time, we make sure we close. I just want to get this thing behind us and go forward, but if you are not comfortable, because we were not part of that.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I hate to do this, but I would like to put it off – I maybe have some scratch notes from when we were meeting. Maybe I can find something just to clarify what was said.

**Ericka Oleson:** Maybe Mr. Ovitt will respond by then too.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Why not approach it that the February meeting would be the drop-dead date to get this thing resolved? So, he cannot say he has not been given an opportunity.

**Gerry McDonough:** Just to be clear about this, having been through this with the Division of Open Government before, if you want to discuss any of the specifics of the meeting minutes we would have to go into executive session. The minutes have not been approved yet. If you want to have any substantive discussion then we have to go into executive session to discuss that.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** I will include an executive session on the February agenda just in case. Then if something comes up, you can discuss it and then you can approve them when you come out of the executive session.

#### **Computer data review – litigation inquiry**

**Gerry McDonough:** During that litigation, there were many internal board documents that went to a third party, an IT vendor. I have been talking to Michael Sacco about that. I am still waiting, from Michael Sacco, is information on the specifics. Before he destroys anything, we want to get a complete inventory of what was given to the IT vendor and who had access to that. I think it is important to have a record of that in case there is any kind of unfortunate disclosure of personal identifying information. I am dealing with Michael Sacco on that and I am waiting to hear from him on getting that inventory and a list of individuals who had access to it.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Our IT vendor has been very involved in this because of the concerning nature and he is charged with securing all of that data for us. I will put you in touch with our IT director, Jon Charow, because he is going to want to be involved in some way of ensuring that that data is properly destroyed. We will make sure that we get the sign offs from Michael Sacco and his group that took all the information. I think it is better for the board to

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

know that the person that is responsible for securing our data and works for us is in agreement with whatever they do and how they handle or destroy that data.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Should Gerry talk to the IT person so he knows that when Gerry talks to Sacco, he knows exactly what he is looking for?

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Well, I think that Jon Charow left it open to this is what we want to do properly resolve this issue.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Can we give them a deadline to respond to Gerry?

**Gerry McDonough:** At this point, I would rather not get into that, we will report in February. I hope that we will have some indication by February of a date certain that we will be able to get that information. I think I would rather talk to the IT vendor before we actually have another conversation or exchange text messages or emails with Michael Sacco just to make sure that I am asking for the right things. I think that does make a lot of sense because I am no IT person.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** I will have Jon Charow reach out to you, Gerry.

**Gerry McDonough:** Okay, great.

### **Election issues**

**Thomas Gibson:** Well, it has not been quiet up at Berkshire County over the last several months. We did attend the PERAC meeting on January 8th in which they spoke of the Berkshire County election issue; it was on the agenda, and for the Commission to receive a report from Bill Keefe and Ken Hill. The report was issued. There was some discussion among the board members.

Bill Keefe and Ken did a fair summary of what the issues were. There was a lot of work done beforehand, as the board is aware, Gerry had conducted an investigation, spoke with all the necessary parties, and submitted a report and a recommendation to the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council then confirmed and certified the election of Ms. Dulin. As far as we are concerned, we reported that back to PERAC and that is the end of the situation.

PERAC was a little concerned about the fact that they had no statutory role in the process as they do perhaps with municipal retirement systems and county retirement systems, but there is no role in the regional retirement system statute for PERAC. There was some discussion about seeking a legislative fix to the statute so that in the event of a dispute regarding the election, that PERAC would have some role to play as an arbiter or as an appeal board.

We complied with the statute. We did everything we could. The Advisory Council acted appropriately, and they certified the election. Mr. Bashara was advised of that. He never told us up front what he was looking for in this. After the fact, he said, well, maybe if they did this, it would have been better, but he had indicated to Gerry, you had a conversation with him that he is not going to pursue it. It is a done deal as far as he is concerned.

**Gerry McDonough:** That is my understanding after talking to Mr. Bashara. There is one little issue out here, which is the Advisory Council, should really have some kind of policy on election procedures and delegating it to the staff of the board if that is the Advisory Council's desire. It is the way it has been done up to this point in time and we could draft some kind of a policy for the Advisory Council.

**Thomas Gibson:** We did draft the policy, Gerry, and I sent it to Ericka. The council has appointed a subcommittee on the council to review that policy. I am sure there can be improvements made on the policy that may be unique to Berkshire County and they are working on that. We will get a policy up and our goal is to put all this behind us and to focus on what our job is; to oversee the operations of the Berkshire County Retirement System, to

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

ensure that our members are receiving the benefits to which they are entitled, and that the member units are paying the appropriation to support those payments as well. That is what we want to focus on going forward. I think it's off of PERAC's plate as I told you, Ericka, and I think it's in the past now.

**PERAC memos**

There were a number of PERAC memos issued in January. Most of the board members go right to the Cost of Living, which this year was #5, that sets the Social Security COLA at 2.8%. What PERAC's memo does, it triggers the board's process for presenting that to elect to grant the COLA to the retirees. Because it is less than 3%, a 30-day notice to the Advisory Council is required. I think it has been a practice anyway to give notice to the council irrespective of whether the board had to give notice or not. For this case, the council has to be notified 30 days in advance of when the board intends to have this on the agenda to elect to grant the COLA. It would be too early for the February meeting, so the earliest they can do this would be in the March meeting.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We will set up an Advisory Board meeting for the end of March, and I will include on there the subcommittee's results of the election policies.

**Thomas Gibson:** I am sensitive to the fact that we have some new board members on here. If I am speaking too fast or if I am going over things, assuming that you folks are aware of this please stop me I can explain this in more detail.

PERAC memo #1 has to do with the interest rate that is going to be credited to the member's annuity savings fund. Over the past decade plus, interest rates for passbook savings accounts have plummeted to almost nothing, 0.1%. That is what the members are getting, and when you notify the members, they are a little put out because you are making 12% with PRIM last year on your investments, why are we only getting 0.1% on our annuity savings fund. They do not understand the concept of the defined benefit plan vs. the defined contribution plan. In the email that accompanied this memo there was a reference to a short video that John Boorack had produced to explain the annuity savings fund interest and why, in fact, it makes almost no difference whatsoever in the retirement benefit that a member will be receiving at the end of their career. I would just recommend that. I think if you can refer the members to that video, it would save a lot of time for you or even if you could put it on a website this explains the interest rate.

Some of the other memos that PERAC sends out have to do with the annual limitations on pensionable compensation, the annual limitations on regular compensation, and the annual limitations on what a maximum retirement benefit can be for members entering the system after 1/1/11. In the past few salaries reached these high numbers except if you were working in the UMass System or UMass Medical. The State and State teachers have dealt with this issue before about what do we do with folks who are making more than the federal limitations but now we see some municipal salaries nearing, if not exceeding, some of these numbers. I am talking about town managers, electric light company managers, police chiefs, fire chiefs, and some of the municipalities. I just wanted you to be aware that it is always good to keep an eye on the salary because once their salary reaches, in 2026, a certain amount, you cannot take contributions out of that extra money.

The legislature back in 2010, in the second wave of pension reform enacted the Municipal Relief Act, Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010. They put a cap on the benefit that a retiree can receive. For 2026, it is \$230,000. There are some significant limitations on what someone can earn as a retiree. Some of the media coverage had a story about the top 10 pensioners in

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

Massachusetts and how much they were making and where they came from. They forgot entirely to mention the fact that there are caps on pensions, just wanted to bring us to your attention.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We can run the salaries. We did that for the salary survey. The highest person that we have is from a light company.

**Dudley vs. Leominster case.**

**Thomas Gibson:** The other issue I want to talk about is dealing with the employees who take on temporary additional duties due to staffing shortages and have some discretion about whether they can do it or not and it's intermittent and sporadic. What is the status of that extra pay that the member is receiving? Is it regular comp or not regular comp? It is something that is continuing to evolve, but we are getting to a point where there is going to be some finality to this. DALA and CRAB and now the Superior Court have issued a decision on this last December, and I am going to let Ann talk about this because she actually was part of the decision at the CRAB level. So, Ann, if you do not mind talking about the Dudley versus Leominster case.

**Uyen Tran:** Certainly. Lieutenant Dudley was part of the Leominster Police Department, and he sought to include temporary pay that he received during his time there as part of his retirement calculations. DALA and CRAB both agreed that these temporary pays should not be included in regular compensation. The two types of pay that he was looking to have included in his calculation was one, the officer-in-charge payment, and the other one was the lieutenant stipend.

The City of Leominster and the union that represented Lieutenant Dudley, who was the most senior lieutenant there, entered a collective bargaining agreement during the period of time that accounted for his appeal. In that CBA, each year, the lieutenants in the police department were allowed to choose from one of six positions to hold and to get paid for those positions. Lieutenant Dudley, held the highest seniority level there, got to choose first, and for the years that he was looking for to include in his retirement calculation, he chose to be the officer-in-charge of the Detective Bureau. He would be paid for each shift that he worked in performing that duty. In each of those years, he did not necessarily work every week in that position. That is part of the reason why that payment was not allowed to be included as regular compensation.

In addition to that, around 2012, the acting captain became the acting chief of the department. Instead of hiring a new captain, the Police Department gave existing lieutenants new assignments and gave them a stipend to perform these new assignments. These stipends would be paid in equal quarterly installments, and the CBA noted that these stipends, which they call the lieutenant stipend, they would not take retirement deductions from those stipends. In addition to that, there is another caveat that if the city appoints a new captain or deputy chief, the stipends would then cease. In this instance, the CBA ended the lieutenant stipend in June 2016 when that position was filled on a full-time basis.

What the Superior Court ended up saying was that the officer-in-charge payment and the lieutenant stipend did not constitute the ordinary nature that is required to be regular compensation. The officer-in-charge pay, they said, was not guaranteed or a recurrent payment, and similarly, the annual \$5,000 stipend for the lieutenants was contingent upon the Leominster Police Department not having a captain or a deputy chief and that these stipends occurred for a limited and for a conditional term. Because of those conditions, the Superior

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

Court agreed with CRAB and DALA that these temporary pays would not be regular compensation to include it in his calculation.

**Thomas Gibson:** Sheila, I think you're well-aware of this, a person filling an acting position who actually gets promoted into a bona fide change in job title and duties, and even though it's only going to be for a temporary period of time until that job is filled, that pay would be regular compensation. But when a person stays in their job and just picks up extra jobs here and there, and especially as Ann said when they have the discretion to say yes or no doing that extra work, it's not going to be regular compensation.

We see it on a lower level with instructional aides and teachers' aides who come to school in the morning to learn that the teacher that they work with has called in sick for the day or for the week, and now they are going to perform teaching duties. The contract says extra \$50 a day for doing these teaching duties. We have struggled with whether that is regular compensation or not because it is services that are being rendered by this individual, but under the guidance we are receiving now, that temporary extra pay that is based on a staffing shortage would not be considered regular compensation.

We have asked PERAC to weigh in on this and somewhat formally make some determination because their auditors are in the field and their auditors are making findings against retirement systems and retirement system administrators who are taking contributions from temporary pay. At the same time, PERAC has refrained from issuing any kind of formal guidance on the issue, so I brought that to Bill Keefe's attention, and hopefully, they're going to work with that and get some more guidance out for retirement boards.

**Thomas Gibson:** Well, I just want to thank you. I just want to let Alicia know that not all the board meetings are this exciting, but I want to welcome her as a member of the board. I know that she is going to enjoy it, and I know that she is going to be a helpful board member going forward and will do a great job on the board. So, congratulations on your election, Alicia.

**Alicia Dulin:** Thank you.

**Thomas Gibson:** Make sure you get that stipend, that big generous stipend. That will be regular compensation for her by the way.

**Alicia Dulin:** I was told that, yes.

**Thomas Gibson:** Make sure you get those retirement contributions out of that money. I will follow up on the issue we discussed informally about the composition of the board, duties to the board members, and filling the board vacancies if there are any. I will confer with PERAC and get some guidance on that issue as well.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Excellent. Thank you.

**Thomas Gibson:** Okay. Well, thank you all. I told Sheila that once the good weather comes, we are going to take a field trip out to the Berkshire County Retirement Board and we will make it an overnight stay. We will have the Advisory Council meeting that day and it will be a great day.

*Thomas Gibson, Gerry McDonough and Uyen Tran left the meeting.*

3.) The Board will review and approve executive session minutes regarding the LaBarbera Matter.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** I think Item # 3; you might want to make an official motion to table for February.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will make the motion to table the executive session minutes until our next meeting.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I will second that.

**Ericka Oleson:** Any discussion? All in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to table item #3 until February 25, 2026, board meeting, the vote was unanimous.**

**Ericka Oleson:** All right. Item #3 has been tabled to the February meeting.

**Consent Agenda Detail:**

**MINUTES:**

a.) The Board minutes of the regular meeting held December 29, 2025 were signed and approved.

*Minutes provided as an attachment to email*

**INVESTMENTS:**

b.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for December 2025. The PRIT Fund returned 0.46% for the month of December.

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

c.) The Board received the bank statements for Dec 2025 and the budget for January 2026. *Cash Books for December were sent to Board by email.*

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

d.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

12-09-25	\$84,722.28
12-10-25	\$1,447.04
01-03-26	\$26,146.05
01-04-26	\$124,891.81
01-05-26	\$1,880,941.78

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

e.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Anita Calderwood, MGRSD, Kitchen Assistant. The retirement will be effective 01/15/2026.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

f.) There were no transfers for the month of January.

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

g.) There were no buybacks for the month of January.

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

h.) There were no refunds for the month of January.

**INJURY REPORTS:**

i.) There was an injury reported in the Town of Stockbridge.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

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

8261	Anita D. Supan Posnick	Lenox	1/5/2026	Paraprofessional	1
8262	Armani M. Ingegna	Lee	12/23/2025	Paraprofessional	1
8263	Brian S. Dumas	Florida	11/20/2025	Road Crew	1
8264	Andrew M. Haskins	Florida	11/24/2025	Road Crew	1
8265	Nathaniel L. Mrowka	Great Barrington	12/8/2025	Laborer	1
8266	Madison J. Loubier	FRRSD	12/15/2025	Assistant to Business Mgr	1
8267	Courtney Linkugel	West Stockbridge	12/8/2025	Police Officer	4

**PERAC APPROVALS**

k.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Nancy Cummings, Lee, as of 11/30/2025. Annual pension amount is \$26,495.52.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Sharon Harrison, BHRSD, as of 11/30/2025. Annual pension amount is \$79,470.72.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

l.) There were no MGL Sec 3(8)(c) reimbursements for January.

**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

m.) The Board received from PERAC the following:

- #36/2025 Mandatory Retirement Board Member Training – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2026
- #37/2025 Tobacco Company List
- #1/2026 2026 Interest Rate set at 0.1%
- #2/2026 Anti-Spiking Calculation Pursuant to Section 106 for Union Members
- #3/2026 2026 Limits under Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2002
- #4/2026 2026 Limits under Section 23 of Chapter 11 of the Acts of 2010
- #5/2026 COLA Notice
- #6/2026 840 CMR 10:10(3) & 10:15(1)(c)-Annual Review of Medical Testing Fee
- #7/2026 Required Minimum Distribution: Still Age 73 for This Year's Notification
- #8/2026 Fraud Alert

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

**TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:**

n.) There were no travel expense requests for the month of January.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

o.) No correspondence for January.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We would like to invite the treasurers and the town managers to a breakfast meeting to go over what is it to be fully funded and how is that going to affect your assessments going forward. This is an informational meeting. Brian and I have taken calls from town managers and Treasurers about the decrease in the assessments. I will make sure that the school districts are invited. We are going to try to do this mid-February. I think we can get 60 people there between town managers and treasurers. We can talk a little about OPEB too.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

**Smitty Pignatelli:** How many of the towns or the members have actually had this conversation to know what their OPEB gap is?

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Most do not that is why I think we are fielding the phone calls now from the town managers and the treasurers.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** So, this meeting next month, would the individual members know what that number is? What that delta number is?

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We have some names from our last MACRS conference of some actuaries that put together a presentation for that I will give them the names and where they can go to get that information. They need to find a vendor because retirement does not have anything to do with OPEB, but I would like to invite Francesco Daniele from PRIT. The only connection that I am making to that is that the assessments are going to continue to decline so maybe OPEB is an option for the savings. Just to put out some information to let people know that the decrease is real as long as the markets maintain. We have new treasurers, we have new town managers so it is an opportunity to meet everybody and just ask questions.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** But it is something that is important from a town financial standpoint. Are there some selectmen that are not aware of this conversation? Town managers are one thing, but sometimes town managers do whatever the Select Board tells them to do.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** Well, we could extend the invitation.

**Alicia Dulin:** Usually, it is brought up in their annual audit too. The Select Board is aware through the annual audit if they are paying attention.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** That is an assumption that most towns have an annual audit, many do not.

**Ericka Oleson:** Especially the small towns, they do three-year audits because they are not required because they do not have the borrowings.

**Sheila LaBarbera:** We will find somewhere central with plenty of parking if anyone has any ideas, input, or anything to add please feel free to do that. The Advisory Board Meeting we will deal with separately in March. The subcommittee will meet and then bring the policy forward and we can get the COLA taken care of in one meeting.

Timothy Sorrell asked to confirm the scheduled date of the February Board meeting as Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 9:00am. The Board members requested that the Executive Director inform the Chairman of the next regularly scheduled meeting so he has time to plan his attendance.

Timothy Sorrell made a motion to adjourn, Wm. "Smitty" Pignatelli: I will second that.

Ericka Oleson: Motion made at 12:06 to adjourn. All in favor.

**A roll call vote was taken to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 pm, the vote was unanimous.**

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
January 28, 2026

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

---

Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

---

Michael Ovitt, Chairman

---

Alicia Dulin, Elected Member

---

Timothy Sorrell, Elected Member

---

Ericka Oleson, Advisory Council Member

---

Wm "Smitty" Pignatelli, 5<sup>th</sup> Member Appointed