

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting

March 27, 2019

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00 A.M. in the Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Karen Williams, Elected Member, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member and Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member. Michael Ovitt, Chairman, was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Retirement Board. Tony Dobrowolski from the Berkshire Eagle was present at the meeting.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held February 27, 2018, were reviewed and approved **Voted to** approve the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board reviewed an application for accidental disability benefits submitted by James Salice, a retiree from the Town of Lee. The application was reviewed and a motion was made by Paul Lisi Jr to refer the disability application to Board Counsel Thomas Gibson for a legal review, second by Mark Bashara. Unanimous.

Voted to refer disability application to Thomas Gibson for legal review.

3.) The Board will review the proposed personnel policy updates for the Berkshire County Retirement System. The Board received the policy updates on Tuesday before the meeting and did not have enough time for a review so a motion to table was made by Mark Bashara and a second by Karen Williams, unanimous.

Voted to table.

4.) The Board reviewed an amendment to the supplementary regulation regarding membership and enrollment in the Berkshire County Retirement System. The Board discussed the issue of Towns using part time/ intermittent employees for more than the 20 hours per week in a consecutive six month period and not enrolling them in the retirement system. There seemed to be some confusion regarding the intent of the supplementary regulation so the board added; 520 hours or more in a consecutive 6 month period would require enrollment in the retirement system, to the existing regulation to help clarify the intent of the regulation.

Voted to approve the amendment.

5.) The Board reviewed the court action regarding the application for retirement benefits for Joseph Buffis. The Court decision affirmed the decision of the retirement board to deny retirement benefits for Joseph Buffis. Mr. Buffis has appealed the decision of the court and the appeal will be handled by board counsel Thomas Gibson. There was no action required by the Board. This item was recorded by Tony Dobrowolski of the Berkshire Eagle. Mr. Dobrowolski requested copies of the court decision and a copy of the appeal. After review with legal counsel all of the court documents were public so no redaction was necessary so all court documents were emailed to Mr. Dobrowolski at the Berkshire Eagle on Wednesday afternoon.

Voted to note the record.

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INVESTMENTS:

6.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for February 2019. The PRIT Fund returned 1.30% for the month of February.

Voted to note the record.

BANK STATEMENTS:

7.) The Board received the bank statements for February 2019 and budget for March 2019.

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

Voted to note the record.

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

8.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

02-05-19	\$20,496.87
03-01-19	\$1,608.37
03-02-19	\$40,356.09
03-03-19	\$25,613.50
03-04-19	\$1,317,930.65
03-05-19	\$20,555.33

Voted to approve payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

9.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Michael Ball, Gt Barrington, DPW Dept. The retirement will be effective 3/1/19.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from JoAnne Fishetti, Stockbridge Housing Authority, Executive Director. The retirement will be effective 3/31/19.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Lisamarie D'Orazio, Otis, Selectman's Secretary. The retirement will be effective 06/19/19.

The Board approve the application for superannuation retirement from Judith Buker, Lee, Cafeteria Staff. The retirement will be effective 06/30/19.

Voted to approve retirements as presented.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

10.) There are no requests for service buybacks in the month of March.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

11.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of David Desnoyers, a member in CBRSD to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 7 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$863.00.

Voted to approve transfers as presented.

INJURY REPORTS:

12.) There were no injuries reported in the month of March.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Mark Hallock	Richmond	\$1646.92
Tyler Race	Egremont	\$33,504.38

Voted to approve refunds as presented.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

6919	KARA L DALY	MGRSD	2/15/2019	PARA	1
6920	DARCIE A HAISS	BHRSD	2/4/2019	ASST COOK	1
6921	WILLIAM J CALDWELL	BECKET	1/28/2019	ADMINISTRATOR	1
6922	STACIE A VIGIARD	MGRSD	3/15/2019	OFFICE MGR	1
6923	ALICIA M WOODBURY	MGRSD	2/25/2019	PARA	1
6924	MARGARET E CHIEFFO	SAVOY	2/11/2019	T/A	1
6925	EMILY E BOSSE	DALTON	3/4/2019	Bldg. & Grounds	1
6926	ELIZABETH I ZIPP	HINSDALE	2/27/2019	POLICE OFFICER	4
6927	JOSHUA A HICKSON	LEE	2/4/2019	WWTP Oper/Cust	1
6928	JESSICA L COTE	LENOX	3/11/2019	LAND USE ASSST	1
6929	HEIDI A McCAUSLAND	MGRSD	3/15/2019	PARA	1
6930	WILLIAM J PLEU III	LEE	3/5/2019	OFFICER	4

Voted to approve new members as presented.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

15.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Randee Goodrich, CBRSD as of January 2, 2019. Annual pension amount is \$9338.16.

Voted to note the record.

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 \$1349.70 a year toward the retirement allowance of Cynthia Brouker.

Voted to note the record.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

17.) The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila Labarbera to conduct an employee seminar in Williamstown on April 2, 2019.

Voted to approve the travel expense.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) Letter from PERAC regarding 2108 Annual Statement of Earned Income
- b.) Letter of engagement for Thomas Gibson. The Board voted to approve the executive director to sign the letter of engagement with Thomas Gibson.
- c.) Signatures for the 2018 Annual Statement, statement will be sent to PERAC
- d.) Health insurance memo regarding premium holiday

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 9:00am.

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Voted to adjourn at 10:00am.

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