

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
June 24, 2020

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, Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Karen Williams, Elected Member, Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member and Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member. The meeting was conducted remotely by telephone with roll call votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public have an opportunity to address the Retirement Board.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the meeting held May 27, 2020, were signed and approved.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board is asked to reappoint Gerald Doyle, Jr. to a five-year term on the Berkshire County Retirement Board. The term will begin July 1, 2020 and end June 30, 2025. The position was advertised on the PERAC website and the Berkshire Eagle, the only applicant was Gerald S. Doyle, Jr. Paul Lisi, Jr, made a motion to reappoint Gerald Doyle Jr. to a 5 year term beginning on July 1, 2020, second by Karen Williams. Unanimous vote. Gerald Doyle Jr abstained from debate and discussion and abstained from voting on the appointment.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved reappointment for Gerald Doyle Jr.

3.) The Board will review the Gov. Baker's plan for reopening the office during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board will review phase 2 reopening plan. The Board was given a copy of Gov. Bakers step of phase 2 that began on June 22, 2020, that recommended offices increase to 50% capacity but working remotely was still encouraged. The Board also received information detailing how other MA retirement systems were handling office closings, re-openings and office capacity. In anticipation of reopening the Berkshire office masks, hand sanitizer and signage were purchased for the office. Paul Lisi, Jr. made a motion to continue to keep the staff at alternating shifts and open the office to appointments only on July 20, 2020 as recommended by Gov. Baker in phase 2, second by Gerald Doyle. Two in favor Paul Lisi Jr and Gerald Doyle, Jr. Three opposed Mike Ovitt Karen Williams and Mark Bashara, motion failed.

Paul Lisi Jr. then made a motion to open the retirement office to the public on July 29, 2020 with no appointments necessary, second by Gerald Doyle Jr. Two in favor Paul Lisi, Jr. and Gerald Doyle, Jr. Three opposed Mike Ovitt Karen Williams and Mark Bashara, motion failed.

Mark Bashara stated he wanted the staff to return to full capacity with regular hours as of July 6, 2020 and the office would be open to the public by appointment only. Executive Director noted that if all three staff were in the office at the same time masks will be worn by staff during the day since there were no private work spaces as the office is an open floor plan. Karen Williams seconded motion. Four in favor Mike Ovitt, Karen Williams, Mark Bashara and Gerald Doyle, Jr. One opposed Paul Lisi, Jr. motion approved.

Roll Call Vote approved to re-pen office July 6, 2020.

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INVESTMENTS:

4.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for May 2020. The PRIT Fund returned 2.23% for the month of May.

Roll Call Vote unanimous to note the record.

BANK STATEMENTS:

5.) The Board is in receipt of the bank statements for May 2020 and the budget for June 2020.

Note: copies of cashbooks for May 2020 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

Roll Call Vote unanimous to note the record.

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

6.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

06-01-20	\$7,161.30
06-02-20	\$20,168.08
06-03-20	\$62,440.61
06-04-20	\$6,129.36

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

7.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from David Soules, Gt Barrington, Water Dept. The retirement will be effective 7/10/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Debra Choquette, Clarksburg, Admin Asst. The retirement will be effective 05/21/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Gordon Roosa, Lenox, Custodian. The retirement will be effective 06/3/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Brett Ferrusi, SBRSD, Secretary. The retirement will be effective 06/28/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Ann Leonesio-Scerbo, MGRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Sharon Huban, SBRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 07/06/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Geraldine Walter, Becket, Assessor. The retirement will be effective 06/26/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Jill Barnoski, Lenox, Secretary. The retirement will be effective 07/31/2020.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Laura Maffuccio, Dalton, Assessor. The retirement will be effective 08/20/2020.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved retirement applications.

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REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

8.) Letisha Daley, a member in Lee, 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 Ms. Daley pays \$2,969.48 into the annuity savings fund the Board will grant 4 years of creditable service.

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved service buyback.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

9.) There are no requests for service transfers in the month of June.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Michelle Dufur	Clarksburg	\$12,237.24
Aimee Erskine	MGRSD	\$30,739.39
Barbara Moynihan	CBRS	\$13,698.17

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved refunds as presented.

INJURY REPORTS:

11.) There were no injuries reported in the month of June.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

7097	RALPH A JULIEANO	STOCKBRIDGE	5/11/2020	Transfer Station	1
7098	ANNAMARIA L SEBASTINO	CLARKSBURG	6/8/2020	ASSESSOR ADMIN	1

Roll Call Vote unanimous approved new members as presented.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

13.) There are no retirement allowance approvals in the month of June.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

14.) There are no 3(8)(c) reimbursements for June.

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

15.) The Board received no correspondence from PERAC in June.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

16.) There were no travel requests for the month of June.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) PERAC GASB 67/68 exhibits for December 31, 2019.
- b.) PERAC actuarial data for December 31, 2019
- c.) Notice that James Salice has withdrawn his appeal to Superior Court
- d.) Letter from Tom Gibson regarding supplemental regulation ruling there are no conflicts with the regular compensation.

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The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 9:00am.

Roll Call Vote to adjourn at 10:08 am.

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