

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 8:57 A.M. in the Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were, Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Gerald Doyle Jr., Appointed Member, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Karen Williams, Elected Member and Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member.

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 September 26, 2018, were signed and approved.

Voted to approve the minutes.

2.) The Executive Session minutes of the meeting held September 26, 2018 to be signed and approved.

Voted to approve the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

3.) **9:30am – 11:00am** The Board will conduct telephone interviews with the three respondents to the RFP for Legal Services Ch. 32, Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane, Michael Sacco and Thomas Gibson.

At 9:30am the Board conducted a telephone interview with Tom Gibson. Mr. Gibson introduced himself and reviewed his 35 years of experience and involvement with MGLCh. 32 legal services. Mr. Gibson's law practice specializes in municipal law with a specialty in MGL Ch. 32 pension law. Mr. Gibson went into detail regarding the firm's legal associates and their experience with pension law. The Board had several questions regarding disability applications and discussed his experience with hearing especially with DALA and CRAB. Mr. Gibson indicated he currently represented about 12 retirement boards in Massachusetts and did not believe he would encounter any conflicts in representing the Berkshire Board. The Board had several questions regarding hourly rate especially travel costs. Mr. Gibson's law office is located in Quincy, MA. Mr. Gibson reviewed his legal fees and indicated there were no fees charged for travel but the hourly rate was \$25 dollars an hour more if there was an appearance outside of the office. The interview ended at 9:50am

At 10:00am the Board conducted a telephone interview with Michael Sacco. Mr. Sacco introduced himself and reviewed his 30 years of experience and involvement with MGL Ch. 32 legal services. Mr. Sacco indicated that he represented 52 Boards in Massachusetts and rarely represents individuals. Mr. Sacco's law office is located in Westfield, MA. The Board had several questions regarding disability applications and hearings. Mr. Sacco indicated he had extensive experience handling legal appeals and has even won 6 out of 7 cases involving PERAC. The Board had several questions regarding fees and travel expenses, Mr. Sacco detailed his hourly fee and that includes travel, his fees are the same for every board he represents. Mr. Sacco's proposal does indicate that adjustments for fees are reviewed annually but are not always increased. The interview ended at 10:20am.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

At 10:40am the Board conducted a telephone interview with Katherine Hesse. Ms. Hesse introduced herself and reviewed her 35+ years of experience and involvement with MGL Ch. 32. The firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane has several offices in the state of Massachusetts and Ms. Hesse would be the lead attorney for the Berkshire Board if selected. Ms. Hesse's firm represents several Retirement Boards in Massachusetts and the level of representation varies based on the need of the client. The firm has departments and associates that specialize in particular aspects of MGL Ch 32. The Board asked several questions regarding disabilities Ms. Hesse reviewed the disability process and her perspective. The Board asked about any possible conflicts and Ms. Hesse indicated that the time of the meetings may be a challenge as 2 other clients meet on the same day at the same time but that can always be worked out. The Board had several questions regarding fees and Ms. Hesse reviewed her hourly fees and indicated she did not charge for travel. The interview ended at 11:05am

The Board briefly discussed the candidates and a potential conflict with the Town of Stockbridge that was identified by Katherine Hesse, Karen Williams will report back to the Board next month. The Board determined that they would like to review all of the information gathered at the meeting and discuss the selection at the November meeting.

Voted to table selection of a candidate until the November 2018 meeting.

4.) The Board will review the selection of an RFP candidate to provide legal services (personnel policy) to the Berkshire County Retirement Board. Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane and Elisabeth Goodman are the two candidates considered for selection.

Voted to table selection of a candidate until the November 2018 meeting.

5.) The Board reviewed the proposed 2019 annual budget for the Berkshire County Retirement System. The Board reviewed each of the line items in the budget and requested that the budget be placed on the Retirement Advisory Board agenda for review at their November meeting.

Voted to send the budget to the advisory board for review.

INVESTMENTS:

6.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for September 2018. The PRIT Fund returned 1.02% for the month of September.

BANK STATEMENTS:

7.) The Board is in receipt of the bank statements for September 2018. The Board is also in receipt of the budget for October 2018.

Note: copies of cashbooks for September and October 2018 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

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

09-05-18	\$1,326,905.15
10-01-18	\$23,864.27
10-02-18	\$90,497.64
10-03-18	\$589.85

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

10-04-18	\$5,147.84
10-05-18	\$1,337,262.62

Voted to approve payments as presented.

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

9.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Jeffrey Waite, Becket, Equip Operator. The retirement will be effective 09/14/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Daniel Clifford, Lenox, Fire Chief. The retirement will be effective 10/18/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Joanne Frischetti, Stockbridge Housing Authority, Ex. Dir. The retirement will be effective 12/20/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Janice Andrews, MGRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 10/5/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Kimberly Cavanaugh, BHRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 10/13/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Joan Schultz, Lenox, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 10/16/2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Mary-King Austin, Mt Washington, Select Board Secretary. The retirement will be effective 10/31/2018.

Voted to approve the retirements as presented.

REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

10.) Angela Garrity, a member in Richmond, is eligible to buy back 21 years and 2 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Garrity pays \$90,934.38 into the annuity savings fund by December 31, 2018, the Board will grant 21 years and 2 months of creditable service. **Buyback of a refund.**

Voted to approve the service buybacks as presented.

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

11.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Kirstin Burgess, a member in CBRSD to the Hampden County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 3 year and 8 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$7198.12.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Christopher Conry, a member in SBRSD to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year and 5 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$3534.78.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Kimberly Gage, a member in Lanesboro to the North Adams Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 2 years of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$9994.50.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Jonathan LaCasse, a member in Lee to the Pittsfield Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year and 9 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$4293.93.

Voted to approve transfers as presented.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

6845	JENNA M DICKINSON	MGRSD	9/14/2018	READING INT	1
6848	CLAUDIA W ELLET	CLARKSBURG	8/28/2018	PARA	1
6849	EMILY K HAKKINEN	CLARKSBURG	8/29/2018	TEACHING ASST	1
6850	MEGAN L PETERS	CLARKSBURG	8/28/2018	PARA	1
6851	JANET L ZAPPULA	FLORIDA	9/2/2018	AIDE	1
6852	ANDREW T FRESIA	LEE	9/6/2018	PARA	1
6853	RAFAEL I RIVERA	LEE	9/6/2018	PARA	1
6854	DENISE PEGORARI	BHRSD	8/27/2018	PARA	1
6855	EILEEN M ZAJAC	MGRSD	9/4/2018	PARA	1
6856	HUNTER R CORMIER	BHRSD	8/27/2018	PARA	1
6857	SARAH C WALTERMIRE	CLARKSBURG	9/10/2018	AIDE	1
6858	WILLIAM C HUNT	LENOX	10/1/2018	AIDE	1
6859	CAMILA G TABOR	SBRSD	9/13/2018	SECY	1
6860	JESSICA A SCHAEFER	SBRSD	9/27/2018	PARA	1
6861	KRISTY A CAVANAUGH	SBRSD	8/27/2019	1:1 PARA	1
6862	MINDI R KUSHI	SBRSD	9/27/2018	FOOD SERVICE	1
6863	SHAUNDRA E RACE	BHRSD	9/13/2018	PARA	1
6864	BRITTNEY L TOOLEY	MGRSD	10/12/2018	PARA	1
6866	MARK D HALLOCK	RICHMOND	9/4/2018	HEAD CUSTODIAN	1
6869	MONIQUE E BELAIR	SHEFFIELD	9/13/2018	Asst Treas/ Coll	1
6870	CHRISTOPHER A COLELLO	SHEFFIELD	9/13/2018	PATROLMAN	4
6871	RENEE R LeCLAIR	SHEFFIELD	9/27/2018	CLERICAL	1
6872	HEATHER L RALPH	BHRSD	10/1/2018	SECY	1
6873	EILEEN M COTE	BHRSD	9/24/2018	PARA	1

Voted to approve new members as presented.

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Michael Broskey	\$283.56
Kristen Derosiers	\$860.23
Sally Herrick	\$6485.66
John Jangrow	\$593.38
Michelle Luchi	\$1761.24
Christa Marsh	\$5757.24
Lynn Reineke-Kelsey	\$8264.01

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

Corey Sparks	\$24600.86
Katheryn Grover	\$11756.50

Voted to approve refunds as presented.

INJURY REPORTS:

14.) There was one injury report from the Town of Stockbridge and five injury reports from the SBRSD for the month of August.

Voted to note the record.

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

15.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to John Goerlach, Lanesboro as of June 29, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$10707.48.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Kevin Shea, Williamstown as of August 7, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$16033.92.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Ronald Getchell, BHRSD as of August 8, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$54372.48.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Pamela Walsh, CBRSD as of August 13, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$33102.84.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Kathy Button-Mosher, Williamstown as of October 2, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$6098.64.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Gail Roy, Williamstown as of August 26, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$3212.64.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Donna Garlin, Clarksburg as of September 9, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$6162.48.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Richard Keefner, Gt Barrington as of July 19, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$50477.04.

Voted to note the record.

3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:

16.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the State Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Berkshire County Retirement Board \$2698.02 a year toward the retirement allowance of Pamela Walsh.

Voted to note the record.

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

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

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- #29/2018 Tobacco Company List
- #30/2018 Appropriation Data due October 31, 2018.
- #31/2018 Disclosure of Compensation

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

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

- a.) Copy of letter to be sent to Treasurer's regarding the determination pensionable wages as it applies to regular compensation.
- b.) Treasurer's Association Meeting November 20, 2018 @ Hilton Garden
- c.) Letter from Pittsfield Co-operative Bank with account changes and increased interest rates
- d.) Copy of the court filing for Joseph Buffis v. Berkshire County Retirement

OLD BUSINESS:

19.) Review a proposal from PTG to add Pension Pro Employer Reporting Module. The Board will review the advantages and costs of implementing this system.

Voted to file the item will be included in the 2019 budget.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 9:00am.

Voted to adjourn at 11:15am.

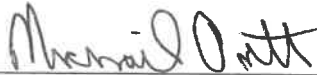
Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
October 31, 2018

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

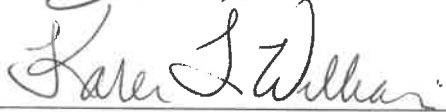
APPROVED BY:



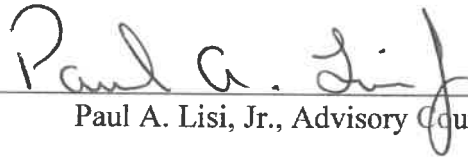
Michael Ovitt, Chairman



Mark Bashara, Elected Member



Karen Williams, Elected Member



Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member

Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member