

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting
February 24, 2021

The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Berkshire County Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were; Michael Ovitt, Chairman, Mark Bashara, Elected Member, Beth Matson Appointed member and Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Board Member. Participating by video conference were Karen Williams, Elected Member, Thomas Gibson, and Gerry McDonough Board Counsel and Attorney Kevin Kinne. A roll call vote was taken to open the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session under Purpose 1 of the Open Meeting Law - To discuss a complaint brought against a staff member. Executive session was requested.

Once the meeting was called to order and executive session was requested, there was a motion made by Paul Lisi to convene in executive session and then return to a public meeting for Purpose #1, of discussing a complaint brought against a staff member, the motion was seconded by Karen Williams. **A roll call** vote was taken to enter into executive session. The vote was unanimous.

The Board returned to regular session @11:14am. Note that no votes were taken while in executive session.

Thomas Gibson, Gerry McDonough and Kevin Kinne left the meeting @11:15am.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public had an opportunity to address the Retirement Board as the remote link to the meeting was posted with the agenda. No members of the public attending the meeting or were connecting remotely.

MINUTES:

1.) The Board minutes of the meetings held January 27, 2021 and February 8, 2021, were signed and approved.

A roll call vote to approve the minutes and the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

2.) The Board reviewed and approved the 2020 Annual Financial Statement for the Berkshire County Retirement System. Beth Matson had several questions regarding cash on hand and miscellaneous income. The Chairman indicated that a cash flow statement will be prepared and the Board will review transfers to PRIT and a maintenance balance. The miscellaneous income was identified as a repayment from a retiree who over earned. Ms. Matson also suggested double checking the interest schedule as PTG does not always calculate correctly.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the 2020 Annual Statement, and the vote was unanimous.

3.) The Board reviewed the employer match for retiree dental insurance for retirees of the Berkshire County Retirement Board. The Board reviewed the matches made by the other member units of the Berkshire County Retirement System and determined, based on cost, that fifty percent match was what they would contribute toward dental insurance. Paul Lisi made a motion to set the contribution rate at fifty percent second by Karen Williams.

A roll call vote to set the employer match at fifty percent and the vote was unanimous.

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4.) The Board reviewed applications for the open position in the retirement office and to prepare a plan for interviews. The Board acknowledged there were eight applications for the open position. The Board will select four applicants for interviews and send their preferences to the executive director by Friday, February 26, 2021. The Executive Director will contact the four applicants selected to ensure they are still interested in the open position, then a date will be set for the initial interviews. The initial interviews will be conducted by remote with GoToMeeting, the final interview will be in person.

A roll call vote to accept and process applications for the open position and the vote was Unanimous.

INVESTMENTS:

5.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for January 2021. The PRIT Fund returned -.03% for the month of January.

A roll call vote to note the record and the vote was Unanimous

BANK STATEMENTS:

6.) The Board is in receipt of the bank statements for January 2021. The Board is also in receipt of the budget for February 2021.

Note: copies of cashbooks for December 2020 and January 2021 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.

A roll call vote to note the record and the vote was Unanimous

MONTHLY WARRANTS:

7.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

01-04-21	\$1,475,292.45
02-01-21	\$2,630.50
02-02-21	\$4,723.34
02-03-21	\$35,272.01
02-04-21	\$48,521.87
02-05-21	\$25,652.02
02-06-21	\$1,492,913.47

A roll call vote to approve payments and the vote was Unanimous

REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:

8.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Mary Oggiani, Lenox, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 02/01/2021.

A roll call vote to approve retirements and the vote was Unanimous

MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:

9.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of David Waldron, a member in Washington to the Hampden County Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 4 years and of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$15,343.26.

A roll call vote to approve the transfer and the vote was Unanimous

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REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:

10.) Darrell Fennelly, a member in Becket, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 9 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Fennelly pays \$6,256.96 into the annuity savings fund by March 31, 2021, the Board will grant 1 year and 9 months of creditable service.

A roll call vote to approve the buyback and the vote was Unanimous

REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:

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

Molly Bussiere	MGRSD	\$562.31
David Fiorello	SBRSD	\$2,599.08
Justin Forgea	Dalton Fire District	\$3,871.88
Martha Gardino	BHRSD	\$1,162.51
Edward Gwozdz	Cheshire	\$17,785.14
Drew Morse	Lee	\$5,915.63
Molly Rando	MGRSD	\$1,182.00

Deductions in Error:

Paul Lisi, Jr.	Richmond	\$100.06
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A roll call vote to approve refunds and the vote was Unanimous

Note that Paul Lisi, Jr abstained from voting on the refunds

INJURY REPORTS:

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

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

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

7205	Patrick-Ryan Powers	MGRSD	1/11/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7206	Alexander Citron	BHRSD	1/7/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7207	Michael Lamoureaux	CBRS	2/4/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7208	Allison Borowsky	CBRS	2/18/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7209	Annie Fielding	Lenox	2/4/2021	Classroom Supv	1
7210	Andrea Moreau	Lenox	2/4/2021	Classroom Supv	1
7211	Jesse Seid	MGRSD	2/12/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7212	Tori McClure	CBRS	3/4/2021	Paraprofessional	1
7213	James Collingwood Jr	Sheffield	2/16/2021	highway Supt	1
7214	James Slavinski	BHRSD	2/8/2021	Custodian	1

A roll call vote to approve new members and the vote was Unanimous

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:

14.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Paul Duval, Lenox, as of as of 10/1/2020. Annual pension amount is \$58,363.92.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Sandra Consolati, Lee, as of as of 10/05/2020. Annual pension amount is \$4,740.48.

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The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Jacqueline Lemieux, Williamstown, as of as of 10/27/2020. Annual pension amount is \$10,866.96.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to David Lemieux, Williamstown, as of as of 10/27/2020. Annual pension amount is \$45,538.92.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Helen Kuziemko, Gt Barrington, as of as of 11/01/2020. Annual pension amount is \$38,160.36.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Michael Haley, Williamstown, as of as of 11/12/2020. Annual pension amount is \$38,542.32.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Linda Wlodyka, MGRSD, as of as of 11/13/2020. Annual pension amount is \$20,625.48.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Nancianne Dilego-Heath, SBRSD, as of as of 11/20/2020. Annual pension amount is \$7,158.24.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Susan Holmes, Lenox, as of as of 12/10/2020. Annual pension amount is \$7,384.32.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Karen Emerson, CBRSD, as of as of 12/18/2020. Annual pension amount is \$12,734.64.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Karen Williams, Stockbridge, as of as of 12/19/2020. Annual pension amount is \$40,518.60.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Cathy Jo Willig, SBRSD, as of as of 12/22/2020. Annual pension amount is \$13,349.16.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to William Walsh, Jr., Gt Barrington, as of as of 12/24/2020. Annual pension amount is \$67,210.92.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Jeffrey Roosa, Lee, as of as of 01/15/2021. Annual pension amount is \$52,275.60.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Denise Gregoire, BCRB, as of as of 01/22/2021. Annual pension amount is \$58,983.72.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Judith Andersen, CBRSD, as of as of 01/22/2021. Annual pension amount is \$11,456.28.

A roll call vote to note the record and the vote was Unanimous

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PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

15.) The Board received a letter from PERAC ordering the Berkshire County Retirement Board through the provisions of MGL Sec 3(8)(c) to reimburse the Pittsfield Retirement Board \$3,222.03 a year toward the retirement allowance of Norman Haas. **Recalculation**
A roll call vote to note the record and the vote was Unanimous

PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:

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

#08/2021 Required minimum distribution now 72

#09/2021 Actuarial data

#10/2021 Forfeiture of retirement allowance for dereliction of Duty

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

TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:

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

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

a.) Update on signature cards for Pittsfield Cooperative Bank

b.) Renewal of Pitney Bowes postage equipment.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 9:00am.

A roll call vote to adjourn at 12:40pm was Unanimous

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

Beth Matson, 5th Member Appointed