

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
May 30, 2018

**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, 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 April 25, 2018, were signed and approved.

**Voted to approve the minutes.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2.) The Board reviewed and approved the issue of an RFP for Legal Services. This RFP is issued for the solicitation of legal counsel to represent the Berkshire County Retirement Board in matters that pertain to Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

**Voted to approve the RFP for Ch. 32 legal services as presented.**

3.) The Board reviewed and approved the issue of an RFP for Legal Services. This RFP is issued for the solicitation of legal counsel to represent the Berkshire County Retirement Board in matters that pertain to human resource and the review and development of personnel policies.

**Voted to approve the RFP for personnel policy update and review as presented.**

**INVESTMENTS:**

4.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for April 2018. The PRIT Fund returned .23% for the month of April.

The Board received the PRIM News Release and the Boston Globe article announcing that PRIM tops all US Public Pension Funds for Private equity Returns thru June 30, 2017.

**Voted to note the record.**

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

5.) The Board received the bank statements for April 2018 and the budget for May 2018. The Board is notified that we will be opening an ACH/savings account with the Pittsfield Cooperative bank in June. This will be a zero balance account to be used for ACH purposes only. Paul Lisi, Jr made a motion to approve the opening of a municipal savings account with a zero balance to be used for ACH purposes, second Gerald Doyle Jr. Unanimous.

*Note: copies of cash books for April 2018 were emailed to each Board member prior to the meeting.*

**Voted to approve the opening of a municipal savings account.**

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

6.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

04-05-18	\$1294987.58
05-01-18	\$26624.82
05-02-18	\$1754.35
05-03-18	\$191438.02

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05-04-18                    \$1253560.41  
05-05-18                    \$45842.12

**Voted** to approve payments as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

7.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Susan Efferen, SBRSD, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective May 17, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Pauline Wheeler, Hinsdale, Tax Collector. The retirement will be effective May 29, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Beverly Bissell, Lee, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 14, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Nancy Garrett, CBRSD, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 21, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Kathy Cyr, CBRSD, cafeteria mgr. The retirement will be effective June 21, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Donald Holmes, Stockbridge, highway dept. The retirement will be effective June 29, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Bonnie Dewkett, CBRSD, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 30, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Sandra Sakowski, CBRSD, paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective June 30, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from David Laviolette, Windsor, highway supt. The retirement will be effective July 6, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Rose Goddard, CBRSD, Food Service. The retirement will be effective August 1, 2018.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Kevin Shea, Williamstown, mechanic. The retirement will be effective August 7, 2018.

**Voted** to approve the retirements as presented.

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

8.) Sandra Sakowski, a member in CBRSD, is eligible to buy back 5 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Sakowski pays \$896.18 into the annuity savings fund by June 30, 2018, the Board will grant 5 months of creditable service.

Gail Roy, a member in Williamstown, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 10 months of prior creditable service. If Ms. Roy pays \$15330.64 into the annuity savings fund by July 31, 2018, the Board will grant 1 year and 10 months of creditable service. **Buyback of refund**

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John Mason, a member in Easthampton Retirement System, is eligible to buy back 1 year of prior creditable service with the Town of Lenox. If Mr. Mason completes the required payment into the annuity savings fund the Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year of creditable service.

John Mason, a member in Easthampton Retirement, has requested a buyback of prior creditable service with the Town of Lenox. Mr. Mason has not provided the detail necessary to calculate the buyback request, if he can provide the payroll records for the time worked the Board can revisit and calculate creditable service.

Albert Saldarini, a member in Lenox, is eligible to buy back 4 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Saldarini pays \$1242.14 into the annuity savings fund by July 31, 2018, the Board will grant 4 months of creditable service.

Albert Saldarini, a member in Lenox, is eligible to buy back 2 years of prior creditable service. If Mr. Saldarini pays \$5469.50 into the annuity savings fund by July 31, 2018, the Board will grant 2 years of creditable service. Mr. Saldarini was eligible for enrollment in retirement but by error was not enrolled until a later date, so interest for this buyback was calculated at the error/omission rate rather than the actuarial interest  
**Voted** to approve the buyback requests as presented.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

9.) The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Elyse Mercier, a member in BHRSD to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 9 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$1499.75.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Liudmyla Polotai, a member in MGRSD to the Teacher's Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 3 years and 3 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$6557.00.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Christopher Pompei, a member in Lee to the State Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 13 years and 7 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$142399.38.

The Board approved the notice of transfer of the account of Jayne Smith, a member in Gt Barrington to the State Retirement Board. The Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept liability for 1 year and 10 months of creditable service. The amount of the transfer is \$10124.28.

**Voted** to approve transfers as presented.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

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

6798	MELISSA DANIELS	CBRSD	4/1/2018	CAFÉ SUPER	1
6799	NICO A AMUSO	LANESBORO	4/2/2018	DPW LABORER	1

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6800	KURTIS L ECKMAN	BECKET	3/25/2018	POLICE OFFICER	4
6801	COURTNEY A RANDON	BHRSD	4/2/2018	PARA	1
6802	SCOTT M FORGEY	HINSDALE	4/30/2018	DPW LABORER	1
6803	GREG P HOARD	MGRSD	4/23/2018	CUSTODIAN	1
6804	SHANE R HOPE	DALTON FIRE	4/9/2018	FIREFIGHTER	4

**Voted** to approve new members as presented.

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

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

Lee Appelbaum	West Stockbridge	\$9254.91
Christopher Chaffee	New Marlboro	\$1417.80
Heather DeMarsico	Williamstown	\$6964.01
Thomas Gregory	Mt Washington	\$11742.69
Patricia Herrick	Dalton	\$2626.31
Kathleen Breen	Washington	\$8890.95

**Voted** to approve refunds as presented.

**INJURY REPORTS:**

12.) There are no injuries reported in the month of May.

**Voted** to note the record.

**RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE APPROVALS:**

13.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Albert Lamarre Sr., MGRSD as of March 30, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$12978.96.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Patricia Wooliver, Lanesboro as of March 2, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$10185.36.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Timothy Drumm, Gt Barrington as of February 28, 2018. Annual pension amount is \$55817.64.

**Voted** to note the record.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

14.) 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 Teacher's Retirement Board \$766.74 a year toward the retirement allowance of Kenneth Johnson.

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 Teacher's Retirement Board \$6076.80 a year toward the retirement allowance of Janene Testa.

**Voted** to note the record.

**TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:**

15.) The Board approved the travel expense for Sheila LaBarbera to travel to the Town of Otis for a retirement seminar on June 20, 2018.

**Voted** to approve the travel requests as presented.

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**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

16.) The Board received from PERAC the medical panel opinion for Owen Buck, Town of Savoy. The Board is also received a copy of the statement of facts for the accidental disability hearing. The accidental disability hearing will be scheduled for June 27, 2018.

**Voted** to note the record.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a.) Copy of a pre hearing memorandum for R. Prevey.
- b.) The Board is in receipt of PERAC Pension News for May 2018.
- c.) The Board is in receipt of an email notifying the member units of the Berkshire County Retirement System declaring the Konica Bizhub 250 copier and the HP Printer 4140 as surplus property. Paul Lisi Jr. made a motion declaring the equipment as surplus and giving member units until June 27, 2018 to express interest in acquiring the surplus property. Second Gerald Doyle, Jr. Unanimous. The Board will require a letter of interest from any town or district interested in the equipment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

17.) Review a proposal from PTG to add Pension Pro Employer Reporting Module. The Board will review the advantages and costs of implementing this system. A Demo of the deduction posting module will be available for the Board and staff at the MACRS conference on Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

18.) Salary – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

A motion was made by Paul Lisi, Jr to enter into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. Second by Gerald Doyle Jr.

A roll call vote was taken to enter into executive session:

<b>Record of Vote:</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abs</b>
<b>Michael Ovitt</b>	[ ]	[ ]	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Mark Bashara</b>	[ ]	[x]	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Paul A. Lisi, Jr.</b>	[x]	[ ]	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Karen Williams</b>	[ ]	[ ]	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Gerald Doyle, Jr.</b>	[ ]	[ ]	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]

Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 10:10am.

The Board closed the executive session and voted to return to the regular order of business at 10:48am.

No votes were taken in executive session.

**Voted** to adjourn at 10:49am.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 9:00am.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Sheila LaBarbera, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:



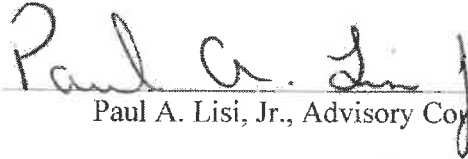
Michael Ovitt, Chairman



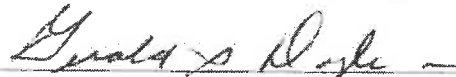
Mark Bashara, Elected Member



Karen Williams, Elected Member



Paul A. Lisi, Jr., Advisory Council Member



Gerald Doyle, Jr., Appointed Member