

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
April 29, 2026

**The meeting of the Berkshire County Retirement Board was called to order at 9:00 am, in the Berkshire County Retirement Office, located at 29 Dunham Mall, Pittsfield, MA. Present at the meeting were Ericka Oleson, Vice Chairman and Advisory Board member, Timothy Sorrell, Elected Member, Alicia Dulin, Elected Member, and William S. Pignatelli, 5<sup>th</sup> member appointed.**

**Participating remotely were Thomas Gibson, Gerry McDonough and Uyen Tran, Legal counsel.**

**Absent Michael Ovitt, Chairman.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1.) Members of the public have the opportunity to address the Retirement Board. There were no public comments. No comments from the members of the public.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2.) **Executive Session:** Under Purpose 7 - To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law, that law being G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f) and (g). The Board will review and vote on whether to approve executive session minutes regarding the LaBarbera matter. If after determining that the need for secrecy no longer exists and that the attorney-client privilege does not apply, the Board can release the minutes.

*The Board returned to regular session at 9:07am*

**Ericka Oleson:** We are back in regular session; the Board did not take any votes in executive session.

- 3.) The Board is asked to accept the ADR application from James Hunt, Town of Monterey, and process a request for a medical panel from PERAC.

**Thomas Gibson:** As I indicated previously, and for the purposes of Open Session, there is no need to go into Executive Session. We have previously reviewed the application in depth with the office staff. We have resolved the issue with a job description. We have recommended that the Board vote to accept the application and request PERAC to convene a medical panel to examine Mr. Hunt.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I would like to make a motion to accept counsel's recommendation on the ADR application from Mr. Hunt and request a medical panel from PERAC.

**Alicia Dulin:** Second.

**Ericka Oleson:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to accept Mr. Hunt's ADR application and ordered a medical panel from PERAC, the vote was unanimous.**

- 4.) The Board will accept and approve Chairman Michael Ovitt's resignation as he had stated in the February 25, 2026, Board meeting.

**Ericka Oleson:** We'll move on to number four New Business, the Board will accept and approve Chairman Michael Ovitt's resignation as he had stated in the February 25th, 2026, board meeting and via email Friday, April 24th, 2026.

**Thomas Gibson:** Do we have that formal resignation?

**Ericka Oleson:** It does not look like we have a formal resignation, just an email stating that he wants to coordinate the timing and logistics for his resignation from the Board.

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**Smitty Pignatelli:** Is that sufficient, Tom? Or should we get something in writing?

**Thomas Gibson:** It is forward-looking. He is not really resigned yet. He wants to coordinate that exit. There are matters that need to be managed by the office. I think Sheila has made requests for some information, the Board is better off acknowledging the communication from Mr. Ovitt that he intends to resign and that the office staff will coordinate that transition with him. A full report will be given at the next board meeting in May.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I think Sheila has done that. Brian and I were talking prior to the meeting should we do a follow-up with a deadline to finalize this issue. We need to have the credit card returned, the keys returned, and your official letter by May 20th or something.

**Thomas Gibson:** You can make a deadline, Mr. Pignatelli, but enforcing that deadline would be difficult. It might concentrate his brain a little bit to have a deadline, so it is not a bad idea.

**Alicia Dulin:** Do we need to talk about that he wants his monthly stipend stopped?

**Smitty Pignatelli:** He did request that his monthly stipend end. He has made that official.

**Thomas Gibson:** We can honor that request. That still does not impact on his position as the first member of the Board until he resigns. He can waive his stipend, but he is still on the Board until he resigns.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I would recommend – Sheila's made an overview request to – let us figure out how to do this. I think when she gets back, I think she should follow up again to say, “Are you available next Friday?”

**Ericka Oleson:** Come sign the documents, turn in the stuff.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Otherwise, I think he will continue to ignore it.

**Thomas Gibson:** I do understand that he has been going through some personal problems, personal issues, family issues that may have impacted some of his appearance or non-appearances, but the quicker we get this thing resolved, the better. It is also appropriate that the Board develop a policy for the appointment of the first member. I am not sure whether there is an existing policy or not. Sheila would know that for a fact, but it's a good idea even if there is a policy to update that policy. We have one that we can easily adapt for the Board's review going forward, such as to posting, interviews, things of that nature, qualifications, and I think that would be important to have.

**Timothy Sorrell:** Sounds good.

**Ericka Oleson:** Could you send that to us, please, Tom?

**Thomas Gibson:** We will prepare that and get it ready for the next board meeting.

**Timothy Sorrell:** Quick question. It seems like Mike's issue is getting all the way up here to Pittsfield. Is there a place that we could tell Sheila to make use of or see if they can use a community room and meet down in Barrington or Sheffield? That way, Mike cannot say, “Well, I can't make it to Pittsfield.” Sheila can say, “I'll meet you in Barrington or Sheffield.” I will bring the paperwork. You can sign it there.

**Thomas Gibson:** The Board can have satellite offices throughout the whole Berkshire County in every town hall. Every member unit in my view is a satellite office of the Berkshire County Retirement System.

**Timothy Sorrell:** Well, I would make a motion that we allow Sheila if they can make arrangements for her to leave the office and meet him in a neutral place to get the paperwork done to make it easier for Chairman Ovitt.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I will second that. It is a great idea.

**Ericka Oleson:** I would be happy to go with her if she does not want to go alone.

**Ericka Oleson:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to approve Ms. LaBarbera meet Mr. Ovitt in a neutral place to get the paperwork and his resignation from retirement board completed, the vote was unanimous.**

5.) Legal Update: Presented by Board Counsel Thomas Gibson

**Ericka Oleson:** Legal Update presented by board counsel, Tom Gibson.

**Thomas Gibson:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Disclosure of members' information by a retirement board**

There are a few issues of which the Board should be aware. PERAC has sent a memo #15, regarding changes that they are making to regulation 840 CMR 6.00, which has to do with disclosure of members' information by a retirement board. They are updating the regulation because of the changes to the public records law. Some of the changes have been of concern, especially to board administrators, and I am sure Sheila shares those concerns.

One of the changes would require the members' consent before the Board can exchange information with the employer. Some administrators see that as problematic because the Board staff and employers work hand in hand almost daily exchanging certain information regarding members. It is a necessary part of the Board's operation. Certainly, I can see if there's confidential information or medical information, you may want to have an enhanced disclosure policy.

There is going to be a public hearing on May 21st, which I will be attending. Some of these concerns will be raised by some of the other attendees that are attending. It is a problem because not only in day-to-day operations, but on some occasions, you have a situation where the employer needs to know something right away and they cannot wait. Getting the members' consent either is not feasible or would defeat the purpose of why the Board needs to convey information to the employer.

In an extreme situation, which is an actual case, a police officer applying for disability due to a significant emotional condition that he was suffering revealed to one of the psychiatrists that examined him on the medical panel that he had the ideation of going into the Police Department at rollcall and shooting everyone. When that information was brought back to the Board, there was a notice requiring us to tell the employer right away about that. Getting the members' consent to convey that information and share that information with the employer would defeat the whole purpose of that and be a public safety issue.

There are times when an employee or a member may have a medical condition, a neurological medical condition of which they are not even aware of that impacts their operations, impacts their performance. Many times, the employer and the Board will share information as to how to achieve the best possible result for that individual regarding employment and regarding retirement benefits. The member's consent either could not be obtained or again would defeat the purpose of the interaction between the employer and the Board to effectuate that best result for the member.

We will be looking to add language to that regulation before it gets enacted. As you know, PERAC and I am sure Mr. Pignatelli knows this, PERAC regulations are unique. They promulgate regulations, then they send them to the legislature. The legislature has 45 days from when they receive them to reject them. If they do not do anything in 45 days, they are deemed to be approved, and they have the force of law. PERAC regulations are approved by the legislature. They have the force of law, maybe not as a statute or even as a special act but certainly have some legal binding authority. Any questions about that before I go on?

### **Cancer Presumption**

We are seeing in the fire departments an increase in disability retirements based on cancer. As we know, the cancer presumption in Section 94B creates a legal presumption that a disabling cancer discovered in a firefighter is presumed to have been suffered in the line of duty. There are certain conditions before that presumption can be invoked. One condition is that the member has to have passed a pre-employment physical that failed to reveal any evidence of the cancer, that the applicant has to have been a firefighter for at least five years, and the third condition is that during the course of his employment, the firefighter responded to scenes of fire or the investigation of scenes of fire. Those three conditions are in the statute.

For years, PERAC did not enforce that third condition. It was just assumed that a firefighter would appear at scenes of fires during their career. Now it has been brought to PERAC's attention that that is a statutory requirement. Going forward, when we receive an application that invokes the provisions of 94B, we should ask employer as part of the employer statement to actually provide reports, not injury reports, just reports that the applicant did, in fact, attend the scene of a fire or an investigation of a fire, so we can make that part of the application process.

The disability requirements, statutory and regulatory, require that an application for disability be accompanied by a physician's statement signed by a doctor. During the COVID pandemic, that requirement was relaxed and PERAC was accepting applications that were attested to by a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant because of the difficulty in seeing and being examined by a doctor. Following the end of the pandemic back in 2022, PERAC started reinforcing that requirement of having a physician statement be filed. It is not in writing yet. PERAC will accept a physician statement signed by a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant. It does not have to be an MD who signs it or a DO that signs it. They will not accept certifications from other medical qualifications such as a licensed social worker or a position like that. It must be a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant that attests to the member's disability.

### **State supplemental budget**

**Gerry McDonough:** There has been a lot of work on COLA reform over the past few years pushed primarily by the Mass Retirees, and there was a COLA commission which came up with some recommendations. Now the House budget has included some provisions about the COLA reforms. One would set up a COLA reserve fund based on the excess investment returns in any one year. This is just required for the state and teachers, but it is a local option for other retirement boards.

If the assumed rate of interest is 7% and the returns come in at 8% in any one year, 10% of that 1% difference between 7% and 8% would be put into a COLA reserve fund. When that COLA reserve fund reaches a sufficient amount, an additional \$1,000 would be added to the COLA base for retirees. There is also a provision one issue that has been troubling advocates for pension reform for some time.

The COLAs are not much. The state with a \$13,000 COLA base, it is \$360 a year. The House budget would allow employees who have 20 years of service and have been retired for 10 years, they would get an additional \$100 per year. When they reach 15 years of retirement, they will go up to \$300. Then after five years \$500. There would be those increased amounts to the annual pensions for retirees.

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Again, that would be required for state and teachers, not for local boards. All the local boards follow it because it will be an option, and if it does pass the House, and then get through the Senate and go to the governor and become statutory, the Berkshire County Retirement System would have to consider that along with other boards. We have had a lot of different proposals for reform that come about, and you will see them in one branch's budget and then they go nowhere. We have our fingers crossed on this that something would happen there, but we will keep an eye on it.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Would we have any idea of how many people could be impacted by that in the Berkshire System and how much it would cost if that did pass?

**Timothy Sorrell:** So, we can make a regional option.

**Brian Shepard:** Yes we could go through our retiree data base to see and ask John Boorack to help with an estimate?.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** It is a local option, but if we do run into that advocacy locally, I would just be curious how much it is going to cost us at the end of the day.

**Brian Shepard:** I will have to reach out to John Boorack for that.

**Authorization to use or disclose protected health information**

**Thomas Gibson:** One other issue, I had sent you an updated authorization to use or disclose protected health information, the pre-employment physical exam. We had sent out one copy, and then on further review, we felt that there were some issues that should be addressed in that authorization, such as that the pre-employment physical would be transferred with the member's account should the member be transferred from Berkshire County to another retirement system, we would send that pre-employment physical along with it. We also included that in the event some of this information was lost or misused, the Board would not be responsible for that.

**Brian Shepard:** Yes, the updated form is in there.

**Thomas Gibson:** It was suggested that this form be utilized by retirement boards and employers to allow a member to consent to have that physical examination result sent to the retirement board where it would be safeguarded for future use if necessary. Hopefully, it would never be necessary but if we needed to invoke that presumption either for cardiac issue for police officers or firefighters or for lung or cancer for firefighters, then it would be in the member's file.

**Timothy Sorrell:** Will we also be making sure if it is not being done that if a member comes from another retirement community into ours, should we be getting one from them as well?

**Thomas Gibson:** It would be a good idea if the transfer comes in, not just the cash and not just the creditable service but what else is in that file. Is there a domestic relations order in that file? Is there physical pre-employment in that file? I know Sheila was diligent in getting that information, but I think the pre-employment physical may have just not be on anybody's radar screen as a document that should be sent over. It is a great idea, and certainly, Brian and you and Sheila can talk about that as well.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I had two good ideas today.

**MACRS legal panel**

**Thomas Gibson:** I want everybody to know that we are going to be at the MACRS legal panel on June 2nd in Springfield. If you want to attend one or more days, I will certainly recommend going to the legal panel. Uyen will be on the legal panel she will be making her debut as a panelist and as an attorney. She's been on the panel before as Chairperson of

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CRAB, but Uyen's going to talk about the Dudley case and the impact the Dudley case may have on officer in charge pay and other stipends that are dependent upon shortages, staffing shortages and how they fit into the regular compensation scheme.

**Uyen Tran:** I just want to say do not come just because I am making my debut, but it would be appreciated. I am happy to be a part of the legal panel this year on my own accord as an attorney and not as CRAB Chair. I will get to meet some of you in person since it was hard for me to meet members of the retirement boards and retirement systems when I was CRAB Chair given the nature of my position. It would be nice to see people in person.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I just have one question, Tom. I apologize for having to go back to the firefighter cancer situation. I just want to make sure I understand it. A doctor, nurse practitioner, or PA would obviously have to sign off on it. You must be a fireman for five years. How do you actually prove that the cancer that they obtained is directly attributed to being a fireman?

**Thomas Gibson:** That is what the presumption is all about. That is an impossible thing to prove. That is why there is a presumption that cancer was suffered in the line of duty. It is a rebuttable presumption, meaning that if there are other factors, if you grew up next to an asbestos factory, if there was some other significant scientific cause of that cancer, and in some cases, cigarette smoking. A history of cigarette smoking had been used to rebut that presumption. Do not forget now, public safety officers after 1996, were not supposed to smoke just because of that.

**Timothy Sorrell:** It was after '88 when I got on the job.

**Thomas Gibson:** There are reasons that the presumption can be rebutted. It is not an absolute presumption. It is a rebuttable presumption.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** The last question I had was, so I spent my career as a firefighter. Five years after I retired, I developed cancer. Is it presumed or assumed that it was from me being a firefighter?

**Thomas Gibson:** Yes. There is a five-year requirement of being a firefighter, and that presumption lasts five years after you leave your service as a firefighter. Cancer must be discovered within five years, which is legally different than being diagnosed with cancer. You may have symptoms of cancer within those five years. That would be considered a discovery of the cancerous condition, even though not formally diagnosed until you go through some PET scans and other scans that may be years later.

We have had situations where a firefighter just refused to go to a doctor. One of the old-fashioned, old-school firefighters, I am not going to see a doctor, there is nothing wrong with me. Finally, when he is spitting up blood and after losing 30 pounds, his wife drags him to the doctor and says, you have stage IV lung cancer, and you have had this for a long time. They discovered that cancer within five years, even though it was not formally diagnosed until after five years.

**Timothy Sorrell:** Does this also include our paid on-call firemen that many of the small towns have that falls under 32B that if something happens, they get the pay of the lowest paid full-time firemen in the neighboring town or something? Does that affect them as well?

**Thomas Gibson:** I have to say because that is a good question and I would be reluctant to spit out anything formal on that question because I do not know. It pertains to permanent members of the Fire Department. So, Uyen, if someone is not a permanent member of the Fire Department, if they are on-call or a per-diem firefighter, then the presumption, I do not believe, would apply to them, but we can confirm that as well.

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I know we just assume that every municipality has a full-time Fire Department, but in Berkshire County, we know that is not the case. That has presented problems. Our applicant today, you may have a fellow who is washing floors in City Hall or Town Hall, and then when the alarm bell goes on, he puts on his hat and uniform and then jumps on the back of a truck and goes and responds to a fire. So, the question is if he gets hurt, what happens? Is he Group 4? Group 1? How do we deal with that? So, it is a problem as you recognized.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Thank you.

**Thomas Gibson:** We'll look forward to seeing you next month, and we will have all the minutes and the policy all set and ready to go.

*Thomas Gibson and members of the Gibson Law Offices left the meeting at 9:30am*

- 6.) The Board will approve and sign the agreement for legal services for the Law Offices of Thomas Gibson.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will make a motion to approve the Law Offices of Tom Gibson as our legal service provider.

**Alicia Dulin:** Second.

**A roll call vote was taken to approve legal services agreement with Thomas Gibson Law Offices as presented; the vote was unanimous.**

- 7.) The Board will approve and sign the agreement for special counsel from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane.

**Ericka Oleson:** The Board will approve and sign the agreement for special counsel from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lehane.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will make a motion to approve and sign the agreement for special counsel for Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lehane.

**Alicia Dulin:** Second.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Quick question. They're great. I am really impressed with them. Do we need three lawyers? Do they charge us per person?

**Brian Shepard:** Tom does not.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Tom does not.

**Brian Shepard:** They charge for only one lawyer who attends the meetings.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** So, for the half-hour that they are with us every month, they could have ten people in there, is it just one flat?

**Alicia Dulin:** Yes, we asked that question at the last meeting, and they said no.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I thought so too. They are very good though.

**Ericka Oleson:** And it is great to have a backup.

**Brian Shepard:** Majority of the time, it is just Tom or Gerry.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Exactly.

**Ericka Oleson:** All right. We have a motion and second. Any further discussion? All those in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to approve special legal services agreement with Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane as presented, the vote was unanimous.**

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8.) The Board will review PERAC memo #11 and approve the release form for pre-employment physicals for eligible group 4 employees.

**Ericka Oleson:** Tom reviewed it under the legal update, PERAC Memo #11 and approved the release form for the pre-employment physicals for eligible Group 4 employees. Does anyone have anything they wanted to add or take away or suggestions for that form?

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Should we mention Tim's second brilliant idea about the people transferring from one to another retirement system should that be included in that?

**Brian Shepard:** Yes, he included it. There was the original version, and that is the second version.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** Great. Do we need to vote on that?

**Brian Shepard:** I believe so to approve it.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I would move to approve that.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will second that.

**Ericka Oleson:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to approve the release form for the pre-employment physicals for eligible Group 4 employees as presented, the vote was unanimous.**

**Board Members:** Aye.

9.) The Board is asked to approve a 3% COLA for retirees who retired before June 30, 2025. COLA will be effective July 1, 2026. *The Berkshire County Retirement Advisory Council will meet on April 23, 2026, to review the 3% COLA increase for eligible retirees who retired before 6/30/2025.*

**Ericka Oleson:** The Board is asked to approve the 3% COLA for retirees who retired before June 30th, 2025. The COLA will be effective July 1st, 2026.

*The Berkshire County Retirement Advisory Council, we met on April 23rd to review the 3% COLA increase, but we need to wait 30 days after our meeting.*

**Brian Shepard:** This is informational because we did not see there was an actual item on the agenda back in October or November when you approved the COLA base increase. So, this is to make sure that it is on the agenda and that the Board will approve it at the May meeting.

**Ericka Oleson:** So, we just need to table this to the May meeting.

**Brian Shepard:** Yes, the advisory board met and was informed of the Retirement Boards intention to approve a COLA increase which is more than the social security COLA increase this year. There is a 30-day period between the Advisory notification and the Retirement Board ability to vote to approve the 3% COLA.

**Ericka Oleson:** So, we are going to table number nine and then back to the Consent Agenda.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will make a motion to table until May 2026 meeting.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I will second that.

**A roll call vote was taken to table item #9; the vote was unanimous.**

**Ericka Oleson:** We will go to the Consent Agenda.

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**Consent Agenda Detail:**

**MINUTES:**

a.) The Board minutes of the regular meeting held March 25, 2026, were signed and approved. Executive Session minutes from the LaBarbera Matter: 3/26/25, 6/16/25, 6/30/25, 10/10/25, 10/29/25 and 2/25/26 were approved, signed and available to the public upon request.

*Minutes provided as an attachment to email*

**INVESTMENTS:**

b.) The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for February 2026. The PRIT Fund returned 1.15% for the month of February.

The Board received from PRIT a statement of performance for March 2026. The PRIT Fund returned -3.56% for the month of March.

**BANK STATEMENTS:**

c.) The Board received the bank statements for Feb 2026 and the budget for March 2026.

The Board received the bank statements for March 2026 and the budget for April 2026.  
*Cash Books for February and March were sent to Board by email.*

**MONTHLY WARRANTS:**

d.) The Board approved payment vouchers:

03-03-26	\$26,018.53 (revised)
04-01-26	\$194,586.25
04-03-26	\$31,734.37
04-04-26	\$25,370.63
04-05-26	\$1,906,260.52
04-06-26	\$17,650.00

**REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

e.) The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Evelyn Deming, Lee, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/18/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Edward Rondeau, Williamstown, Superintendent. The retirement will be effective 04/03/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Michelle Kasala, CBRSD, Administrative Assistant. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from John Malumphy Jr., Gt. Barrington, Laborer. The retirement will be effective 04/10/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Craig DeSantis, Lee, Police Chief. The retirement will be effective 07/17/2026.

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The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Laurie Briggs, SBRSD, ESP. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Peggy Pegorari, BHRSD, Paraprofessional. The retirement will be effective 06/17/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Lorna Gayle, Lanesborough, COA Director. The retirement will be effective 06/30/2026.

The Board approved the application for superannuation retirement from Teresa Iemolini, Stockbridge, Town Clerk. The retirement will be effective 07/06/2026.

**MEMBER TRANSFERS OUT OF SYSTEM:**

f.) There were no transfers for the Month of April.

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE BUYBACK:**

g.) Frank Briggs, a member of BHRSD, is eligible to buy back 1 year and 8 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Briggs pays \$2,741.03 into the annuity savings fund by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 1 year and 8 months of creditable service.

Joseph Stergis, a member of CBRSD, is eligible to buy back 5 months of prior creditable service. If Mr. Stergis pays \$2,990.66 into the annuity savings fund by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the Berkshire County Retirement Board will accept 5 months of creditable service.

Candice Danylieko, a member in Williamstown, is eligible to buy back 2 months and 26 days of prior creditable service. If Ms. Danylieko pays \$845.97 into the annuity savings fund by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the North Adams Retirement Board will accept 2 months and 26 days of creditable service.

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS:**

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

J. Genzabella	Hinsdale	\$17,650.00 (Partial)
J. Genzabella	Hinsdale	\$14,734.35
M. Flower	FRRSD	\$1,156.97
N. LaValley	Dalton Fire	\$115,170.78
M. Nazor	Gt. Barrington	\$17,474.26
M. Serrao	Hinsdale	\$15,647.26
A. White	BCRHA	\$15,964.06
M. Zerbato	FRRSD	\$14,438.57

**INJURY REPORTS:**

i.) There were two injuries reported in CBRSD in April.

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**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:**

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

8301	Tyler J. Hamilton	Lee	3/30/2026	Paraprofessional	1
8302	Stephanie C. Caporale	BCRHA	3/23/2026	Service Coordinator	1
8303	Nastacia Thomas	BCRHA	3/16/2026	Service Coordinator	1
8304	Alicia R. Newsome	Lee	3/23/2026	Paraprofessional	1
8305	Victoria M. Boyles	SBRSD	3/30/2026	Director of Grants	1
8306	Diane M. Hall	Great Barrington	3/30/2026	Compensation & Benefits Coordinator	1
8307	Grant T. Chase	New Marlboro	3/17/2026	Laborer/Equip. Operator	1

**PERAC APPROVALS**

k.) The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to James Shea, Williamstown, as of 2/06/2026. Annual pension amount is \$51,290.28.

The Board received approval from PERAC to grant a retirement allowance to Michael Sullivan, Lenox Housing, as of 1/01/2026. Annual pension amount is \$27,796.68.

**3(8)c REIMBURSEMENTS:**

l.) There are no 3(8)c reimbursements for the month of April.

**PERAC CORRESPONDENCE:**

m.) The Board received from PERAC the following:

#14/2026 Mandatory Retirement Board Training – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2026

#15/2026 Proposed Amendment to the Standard Rules for Disclosure of Information Regulations 840 CMR 6.00

COLA Reform Language in the House Ways and Means FY27 Budget

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

**TRAVEL & EDUCATION APPROVALS:**

n.) The Board is asked to approve the travel expenses board members and staff to attend the Spring MACRS Conference in Springfield May 31,2026 - June 3,2026.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

o.) Michael Sacco- Response to OIG March 11, 2026, Report

OIG Response to March 24, 2026, Letter

Weymouth Firefighters Local 1616 regarding Michael Sacco

Law Office of Thomas Gibson- Executive Session Minutes for Berkshire County Retirement Board Meetings

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at 9:00am.

**Timothy Sorrell:** I will make a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Smitty Pignatelli:** I will second that.

**Ericka Oleson:** Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor?

**A roll call vote was taken to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the vote was unanimous.**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 9am.

Berkshire County Retirement Board Meeting  
April 29, 2026

Timothy Sorrell made a motion to adjourn, Wm. "Smitty" Pignatelli: I will second that.

**A roll call vote was taken to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 am, the vote was unanimous.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

APPROVED BY:

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Brian Shepard, Assistant Director

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Michael Ovitt, Chairman

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Alicia Dulin, Elected Member

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Timothy Sorrell, Elected Member

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Ericka Oleson, Advisory Council Member

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Wm "Smitty" Pignatelli, 5<sup>th</sup> Member Appointed