

BERKS COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD MINUTES
September 21, 2017

The Berks County Retirement Fund Board met in a regular session on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 9:30 A.M. in the Boardroom on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Chairman Christian Leinbach called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Attending were Sandra Graffius, Secretary, Dennis Adams, Treasurer and member Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt. Commissioner Mark C. Scott was absent.

The following County staff attended: Christine Sadler, Solicitor; Ronald Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer; Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer; and Grazyna Nykiel, Senior Government Accountant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 17, 2017 Meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Controller Graffius, and all voted unanimously to authorize the following resolution:

30R.2017 Resolution authorizing employee buybacks as follows:

- a. Dawn Maria King buying back 8 days LOA and 9 years, 4 months, 27 days of service in the amount of \$39,869.14.
- b. David L. Jacobs buying back LOA from April 23, 2013 through May 19, 2013 in the amount of \$116.26.

AUTHORIZE DISBURSEMENTS

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Controller Graffius, and all voted unanimously to authorize the following resolution:

31R.2017 Resolution ratifying, confirming and approving annuities and refunds for August 2017 as set forth below:

Annuities	\$1,519,828.07
Refund	\$ 197,483.99
Total	\$1,717,312.06

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Commissioner Leinbach read the letter from Shirley Koch, retired RN, regarding the cost of living increase for retirees.

Responding to Ms. Koch’s letter, Commissioner Leinbach commented the County’s Pension Plan is simply a defined benefit pension plan, and employees are getting great benefit checks for the rest of their life. Commissioner Leinbach stated he will never vote for an increase in pension benefits, but we owe Ms. Koch a response.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented we are making contributions out of taxpayers’ pockets, who may not even have a pension plan, and the cost of any increase is prohibitive.

Controller Graffius commented that if there would be a cost of living increase, it raises the monthly payments the County contributes.

Treasurer Adams commented if you look at the private sector, you will not find a defined benefit retirement plan.

Commissioner Leinbach reported the Berks County Employees Retirement Fund balance as of September 20, 2017 is \$453,986,693.52.

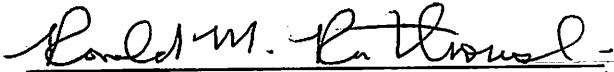
The Board asked Secretary Graffius to prepare a response to Ms. Koch, and to run it by the entire Board before it is released.

Commissioner Leinbach brought up a concern he has regarding the 1987 mortality table on which our Pension Plan is based, and over the last month and a half, has had several conversations with SEI. Commissioner Leinbach remarked we are one of very, very few counties still using the 1987 mortality table, most are using the tables from the 1990s, 2004 and 2014. SEI is also concerned, and Commissioner Leinbach has asked SEI if they would come to the October 23, 2017 meeting to present their concerns. SEI agreed to attend the meeting, and feels strongly Korn Ferry should also attend to explain why they want us to continue using the 1987 mortality table.

Secretary Graffius will contact Korn Ferry to schedule their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald M. Rutkowski", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald Rutkowski, Deputy Controller
On behalf of Sandra M. Graffius, Secretary