

**West Virginia PEIA/RHBT Finance Board  
Thursday, October 24, 2024  
DEP Building, Canaan Valley Room 1041  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304**



## **MINUTES**

### **PLACE OF MEETING:**

The meeting of the Finance Board of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) and Retiree Health Benefits Trust Fund (RHBT) was held in the Canaan Valley Conference Room at 601 57<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304, on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., pursuant to the online notice filed with the Office of West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner. The meeting was held in person and virtually, via Google Meet.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sarah Long, Acting Chairman  
Geoff Christian  
Amanda Meadows  
William "Bill" Milam  
Jason Myers  
Mike Smith  
Michael Cook  
Damita Johnson  
Doug Coffman  
Hugh Murray

### **MEETING BEGAN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:05 P.M. WITH A QUORUM PRESENT**

**TOPIC: Approval of Minutes from the October 8, 2024 Finance Board Meeting**

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**MOTION:** A motion was offered by Bill Milam with a second by Jason Myers to approve the October 8, 2024 Finance Board Minutes.

**ACTION:** **The motion to approve the Minutes was passed unanimously.**

**TOPIC: Notes from the Director: Public Hearings Presentation Preview**

**DISCUSSION: Brian Cunningham, Director (PEIA)**

Director Cunningham discussed the upcoming Public Hearings taking place at five in person locations and one virtually. The proposed board decisions regarding plan changes were included and explained.

**TOPIC: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

**DISCUSSION:** Three guests asked to speak during today's meeting.

**Dale Lee:**

Mr. Lee expressed concerns surrounding the proposed plan and the increases State employees, retirees and teachers would see. He stated that something must be done to offset this burden which now seems to be on the employee. After asking some clarifying questions regarding the proposed plan, he ended by thanking the Finance Board and PEIA staff for their hard work and dedication to serving the members of PEIA. He added that he would be attending the upcoming Public Hearings and looks forward to offering feedback at these meetings as well.

**Fred Albert:**

Mr. Albert echoed Dale's statements and concerns, especially surrounding teachers and the difficult position they will face. He mentioned that the raises from the Governor have not been true raises that our educators deserve. Instead, it has been a way to absorb the smaller increases. Mr. Albert ended by stating something must change to avoid the devastation this will cause all state employees.

**Elaine Harris:**

Ms. Harris also reiterated what Mr. Lee and Mr. Albert stated and added that while these are difficult times, the burden must not be put on the employees. She too expressed concerns surrounding the impact this will have on service personnel. Ms. Harris stated that she would be attending Public Hearings and looks forward to speaking there as well.

**TOPIC: Approval of the Proposed Plan to take to the Public Hearings**

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**MOTION:** A motion was offered by Bill Milam with a second by Jason Myers to approve the proposed plan to take to the Public Hearings.

**ACTION:** **The motion to approve was passed unanimously.**

**TOPIC: Old Business**

**DISCUSSION:** None at this time.

**TOPIC: New Business**

**DISCUSSION:** PEIA would like to acknowledge longtime employee, April Taylor. April has served as the PEIA Controller and contributes much of the data for the agency and to the Finance Board. PEIA and the Finance Board would like to thank April for her time served and dedication over the years.

Staff member, Jan Powell, Communications Manager for PEIA, will be retiring after her career of 35+ years. Jan oversaw all aspects of communications from PEIA to ensure active members and retirees were receiving necessary information. Her had extensive knowledge of the plan after her many years of experience. We wish Jan nothing but the best during her retirement. The staff at

PEIA and the Finance Board would like to thank her for her time served and dedication over the years.

**TOPIC:**           **Next Meeting**  
**DISCUSSION:** December 5, 2024

**TOPIC:**           **Adjourn**  
**ACTION:**        There being no further business, the October 24, 2024, meeting of the West Virginia PEIA/RHBT Finance Board adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.  
**MOTION:**        A motion to adjourn the Finance Board was made by Bill Milam with a second by Jason Myers.  
**ACTION:**        **The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

These minutes were transcribed from a recording by Erika Smith, Finance Board Secretary, and are respectfully submitted on the 24th day of October 2024.