

**West Virginia PEIA/RHBT Finance Board
Thursday, December 5, 2024
DEP Building, Canaan Valley Room 1041
601 57th 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 Dolly Sods Conference Room at 601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304, on Thursday, December 5, 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:

John McHugh, Acting Chairman
Geoff Christian
Amanda Meadows
William "Bill" Milam
Jason Myers
Damita Johnson
Hugh Murray
Mike Smith - virtual
Michael Cook - virtual
Jared Robertson - virtual
Doug Coffman - virtual

MEETING BEGAN AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M. WITH A QUORUM PRESENT

TOPIC: Approval of Minutes from the October 24, 2024 Finance Board Meeting

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: A motion was offered by Jason Myers with a second by Geoff Christian to approve the October 24, 2024 meeting minutes.

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

TOPIC: Discussion - FY26 Plan and Public Hearings

DISCUSSION: Brian Cunningham, Director (PEIA)

Director Cunningham reviewed the presentation which was taken out to Public Hearings with the proposed FY26 plan. Finance Board members discussed their appreciation to the public for submitting their comments and concerns surrounding specific areas of the proposal.

TOPIC: Changes to Proposed Plan

DISCUSSION: PEIA/RHBT Finance Board Members

Jason Myers, PEIA/RHBT Finance Board member, proposed an amendment to the salary tiers. His proposal is to keep salary tiers at 10 rather than condensing them to 5 tiers.

MOTION: A motion was offered by Jason Myers and a second was offered by Bill Milam to keep the salary tiers at 10.

ACTION: **The motion to keep 10 salary tiers was passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION: Bill Milam, PEIA/RHBT Finance Board member, expressed concerns surrounding the proposed benefit assistance program changes. Mr. Milam would like the benefits assistance program to remain as is.

MOTION: A motion was offered by Bill Milam and a second was offered by Geoff Christian to leave the benefit assistance program as is and make no changes.

ACTION: **The motion to make no changes to the benefit assistance program was passed unanimously.**

MOTION: A motion was offered by Jason Myers and a second was offered by Bill Milam to approve the amended FY26 plan.

ACTION: **The motion to pass the FY26 plan as amended was passed unanimously.**

TOPIC: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Dale Lee

Mr. Lee began by expressing his relief when finding out he originally misunderstood the copay changes. He does encourage continued exploration of other options. Mr. Lee also suggested it may be a good idea to inform agencies of the administration fee changes and encourage them to consider increases for next year. His gratitude to the Finance Board, Director Cunningham, and the PEIA staff was noted for their hard work during Public Hearings and on day to day tasks to help constituents, create the financial plans, etc. Lastly, Mr. Lee firmly stated PEIA should not be privatized but instead, should be funded by the Legislature.

Elaine Harris

Ms. Harris began by stating she is grateful for the opportunity to speak and express concerns surrounding the upcoming changes. She noted retiree assistance was implemented during her time as a board member and it is an underutilized resource. She would like to see it promoted and utilized more. Ms. Harris also stated she would like to see the prescription drug costs discussed by the Legislature and Governor to establish a solution. Lastly, she thanked the board and staff for their efforts.

Christie Skidmore

Ms. Skidmore thanked the board and staff for their work on the Public Hearings and for considering the public's comments and concerns. She echoed what Mr. Lee and Ms. Harris stated, agreeing with their points and suggestions.

TOPIC: Old Business

DISCUSSION: None.

TOPIC: New Business

DISCUSSION: Proposed 2025 Finance Board Meeting Dates

March 27, 2025

June 5, 2025

September 4, 2025

October 23, 2025

December 4, 2025

MOTION: A motion was offered by Geoff Christian with a second by Amanda Meadows to approve the proposed 2025 Finance Board meeting dates.

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

TOPIC: Next Meeting

DISCUSSION: March 27, 2025

TOPIC: Adjourn

ACTION: There being no further business, the December 5, 2024, meeting of the West Virginia RHBT Fund and PEIA Finance Board adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn the Finance Board was made by Acting Chairman John McHugh.

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 5th day of December 2024.