



**MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MICHIGAN  
BOARD MINUTES  
Grand Traverse  
Resort  
October 2, 2019**

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**MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MICHIGAN  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Grand Traverse**

**Resort**

**October 2, 2019**

Michael Brown, Chair  
Jason Sarata, Vice Chair  
Tina Butler  
Michael Gilmore  
Amy Deford  
Dale Feldpausch  
John Ogden  
James Wiersma  
Randy Girard

Chris DeRose, Chief Executive Officer  
Valerie Lawver, Board Secretary  
Leon Hank, Chief Financial Officer  
Denise Boucké, Chief Operating Officer  
Carrie Lombardo, Chief Strategic and External Affairs  
Officer  
Jeb Burns, Chief Investment Officer  
Kristin Bellar, General Counsel  
Betsy Waldofsky, Finance Director  
Carri Simon, Internal Auditor  
Brad Biladeau, Government Affairs Director  
Mike Charette, Director of Public Markets  
Scott Thompson, IT Director  
Erin Boertman, Customer Relations  
Director  
Steve Hazime, Director of Human  
Resources  
Nick Weller, IT Systems Engineer  
Mike Overlay, Regional Manager  
David Kausch, Gabriel Roeder Smith

**Call to Order**

Chairperson, Michael Brown, called the meeting of the MERS Retirement Board to order at 1:32 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

**Public Audience**

Robert Laitinen of Chippewa County Road Commission, Taresa Lucas of Barry Eaton Health Department, Cindy King of Michigan Multiple Risk Management Authority, Bobbie Livermore of Chippewa County Road Commission, and Frances McMullan City of Ypsilanti were in attendance.

Mr. Laitinen spoke regarding questions he has pertaining to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter investment performance.

**Old Business**

No old business was brought before the board.

**General Consent Agenda**

Mr. Gilmore moved to approve the October 2, 2019 General Consent Agenda; supported by Mr. Wiersma. Motion carried.

**New Business**

**CEO Comments**

Mr. DeRose introduced Ms. Boucké, who then introduced Steve Hazime, the new Director of Human Resources. Then Mr. DeRose provide some comments on significant issues since the last CEO Report.

### **2018 Annual Actuarial Valuation Summary and Experience Study – Demographic Assumptions**

Mr. Kausch, Consulting Actuary, Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company, presented an overview of the 2018 Annual Actuarial Valuation and Demographic Assumptions.

### **MERS Business Continuity / Disaster Recovery Process**

Ms. Boucké, Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Thompson, IT Director, presented the MERS Business Continuity / Disaster Recovery Process.

### **Review and Approve Changes to MERS Governance Policy**

Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, discussed the September 19, 2019 Memorandum to the Retirement Board, recommending changes to the MERS Governance Policy.

After review and discussion, Ms. Butler moved to approve the changes to the MERS Governance Policy; supported by Mr. Girard. Motion carried.

### **Review MERS Procurement Policy**

Ms. Waldofsky, Finance Director, discussed the September 20, 2019 Memorandum to Mr. DeRose, CEO, recommending changes to the Procurement Policy.

After review and discussion, Mr. Ogden moved to approve the changes to the MERS Procurement Policy; supported by Ms. Deford. Motion carried.

### **Signatory Authority Resolution Update**

Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, discussed the September 20, 2019 Memorandum to Mr. DeRose, CEO, recommending revisions to the Signatory Authority Resolution.

After review and discussion, Mr. Wiersma moved to approve the changes to the Signatory Authority Resolution; supported by Mr. Gimore. Motion carried.

### **Investments Report**

Mr. Burns, Chief Investment Officer, provided the MERS portfolio performance update for the period ending June 30, 2019.

### **Employer Reporting Update**

Ms. Boucké, Chief Operating Officer, and Ms. Lombardo, Chief Strategic and External Affairs Officer, presented the Employer Reporting Project Update.

### **Tisha Flickinger v MERS**

In the matter of Tisha Flickinger v MERS, Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, reviewed with the Board the background of this matter.

After review and discussion, Mr. Feldpausch made a motion that the Board accept and adopt as its own the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated by the Administrative Law Judge in the

Proposal for Decision, and deny petitioner's appeal; supported by Ms. Butler. Motion carried.

**Burl Morningstar v MERS**

In the matter of Burl Morningstar v MERS, Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, reviewed with the Board the background of this matter.

After review and discussion, Mr. Girard made a motion that the Board accept and adopt as its own the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated by the Administrative Law Judge in the Proposal for Decision, and deny petitioner's appeal; supported by Mr. Gilmore. Motion carried.

**Larry Latunski v MERS**

In the matter of Larry Latunski v MERS, Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, reviewed with the Board the background of this matter.

After review and discussion, Mr. Sarata made a motion that the Board accept and adopt as its own the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated by the Administrative Law Judge in the Proposal for Decision, and deny petitioner's appeal; supported by Ms. Deford. Motion carried.

**Jon Francis v MERS**

In the matter of Jon Francis v MERS, Ms. Bellar, General Counsel, reviewed with the Board the background of this matter.

After review and discussion, Ms. Butler made a motion that the Board accept and adopt as its own the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated by the Administrative Law Judge in the Proposal for Decision, and deny petitioner's appeal; supported by Mr. Ogden. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Michael Brown, Chairperson

  
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Chris DeRose, Chief Executive Officer