

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FUND (OPEB)
BOARD MINUTES

January 28, 2021

4:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Lamont McClure called the meeting to order at 4:44 PM.
2. **Call of the Roll:** The following appointees to the Retirement Board were present: Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive; Ms. Lori Vargo Heffner, Council President; Mr. William McGee, Council Vice President; Mr. Gerald Seyfried, Retiree Member; and Mr. Stephen Barron, Director of Fiscal Affairs. **Absent:** Mr. Ronald Heckman, Council Member; Mr. Thomas Guth, active employee Member of Northampton County Retirement system.

Others Present – Mr. John Spagnola PFM; Mr. Bryce Meyers, Fiscal Affairs; Ms. Danielle Mutarelli, Human Resources; Ms. Kathleen Wedge, Board Secretary; Ms. Stephanie Hann, Human Resources.

3. **Courtesy of the Floor** – None.
4. **Approval of the October 22, 2020 OPEB Fund Board minutes.** Ms. Vargo Heffner made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 board meeting. Mr. McGee seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.
5. **Performance Updates – PFM, John Spagnola.** Mr. Spagnola gave the presentation of the fund’s performance in the 4th quarter of 2020.

OPEB Fund market value as of December 31, 2020 = \$50,999,112

As of December 31, 2020:

Q4 gain:	10.06 percent
Gain since inception:	10.50 percent (inception date is 9/1/2017)
YTD gain:	14.64 percent
1-year gain:	14.64 percent
3-year gain:	9.44 percent
5-year gain:	11.10 percent

The OPEB fund has the same underlying managers as the Pension fund, with slightly different allocations. It had a strong quarter with two great years back to back.

6. **Open Discussion – Retiree Coverage Areas**

Mr. Seyfried inquired about a letter from a retiree who resides in Carbon County. The retiree wants to receive services from a facility in Northampton County using medical benefits under the Blue Journey plan, but is unable to join the plan. Mr. Seyfried asked why the retiree could not join the Blue Journey plan if he comes to Northampton County for medical services.

Ms. Mutarelli replied that she spoke with the retiree and explained that it is a Blue Journey requirement that he must have a permanent residence in one of 21 covered counties in Pennsylvania. This stipulation is contracted between Blue Journey and Medicare, not decided by Northampton County. Carbon County is not included. The Retiree PPO plan offers nationwide coverage, and the retiree is currently on that plan.

Mr. McGee asked whether retirees received guidance on the plan expectations before they retired. Ms. Mutarelli replied that she is only aware of our current procedures: we provide the information when anyone retires, and retirees receive a letter annually outlining their benefits if they wish to change plans during open enrollment. Ms. Mutarelli listed the covered counties for the board.

Mr. McClure asked whether we have had a conversation with Blue Journey about adding counties. Ms. Mutarelli replied that she has not, but can certainly do so. Mr. McClure confirmed that he would like to have a conversation about the cost of adding Carbon and Monroe counties the next time our contracts are renewed, and requested information for the board.

Ms. Vargo Heffner asked whether someone who relocates to live with relatives because they are no longer able to live on their own is eligible to change plans. Ms. Mutarelli replied that leaving the coverage area is a qualifying life event for Blue Journey.

7. **Adjournment** – Ms. Vargo Heffner made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.