

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Frank Gerratana
Dr. Poleak So
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:04 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The November 18th, 2022
6 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
7 session. I am Dr. Lynn Rudich. Present with us is Dr.
8 Frank Gerratana and Dr. Poleak So. Present from the
9 Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement Services
10 Division are Robert Helfand and William Cassada and
11 Helena Bartolomeo. Also with us is General Counsel for
12 the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

13 I make a motion to go into executive session.
14 Is there a second to that motion?

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
17 favor, say aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 DR. SO: Aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
21 Motion passes. We are also requesting that members of
22 the Retirement Services Division and Cindy Cieslak, our
23 counsel, be allowed to remain during this session.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. This is
25 Cindy Cieslak. Those of you who are here that were not

1 invited into executive session will be placed in the
2 waiting room. And then, if you are on reconsideration,
3 the doctors will invite you in to make your statement
4 at the appropriate time. It's a very long agenda
5 today, so it's going to be some time, so just bear with
6 us. Thank you.

7 (The Board was in executive session from 9:04
8 a.m. until 12:12 p.m.)

9 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed
10 when you're ready.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The Board will be
12 making determinations and voting on these
13 determinations, but would like to remind the members
14 that only the final vote will be given today and not
15 the reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may
16 not have been enough medical information to make a
17 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
18 disability is more likely than a service-connected
19 disability.

20 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
21 denial. You will receive the Board's written
22 determination within two to four weeks.

23 I make a motion to deny service-connected
24 disability retirement of Kevin Ahlquist.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Any
2 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,
3 say aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
10 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
11 disability retirement for Kersey Charles, but the Board
12 would look favorably on non-service-connected
13 disability.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Any
16 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,
17 say aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
22 motion passes.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
24 a motion to approve the service-connected disability
25 retirement of Kyle Cleary.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
3 being none, all in favor, say aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
10 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
11 disability retirement of Lois Craig.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

13 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Any
14 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,
15 say aye.

16 DR. SO: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
20 motion passes.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
22 a motion to deny the service-connected disability
23 retirement of Paula Edwards.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

3 DR. SO: Aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
6 motion passes.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
8 a motion to deny the application for non-service-
9 connected disability retirement of Christopher Gardner.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

14 DR. SO: Aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
19 a motion to approve the application for non-service-
20 connected disability retirement of Christopher
21 Gearhart.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
24 being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

1 DR. SO: Aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
4 motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
6 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
7 disability retirement of Irma Goyco-Burnhan on
8 reconsideration, but the Board would look favorably on
9 non-service-connected disability retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. SO: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
19 a motion to approve the application for non-service-
20 connected disability retirement of Sandra Griffin.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
23 being none, all in favor, say aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
4 a motion to deny the application for non-service-
5 connected disability retirement on reconsideration of
6 William Kenney.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
9 being none, all in favor, say aye.

10 DR. SO: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
14 motion passes.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich. I make a motion
16 to approve the application for non-service-connected
17 disability retirement of Ean Lim.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
20 being none, all in favor, say aye.

21 DR. SO: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
25 motion passes.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
2 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
3 disability retirement of John Moore, but the Board
4 would look favorably on non-service-connected
5 disability.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
8 being none, all in favor, say aye.

9 DR. SO: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
13 motion passes.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
15 a motion to approve the application for non-service-
16 connected disability retirement of Clara Ogbaa.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
19 being none, all in favor, say aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Rudich. I make a motion

1 to deny the application for service-connected
2 disability retirement of Rocco Pagliarulo.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
5 being none, all in favor, say aye.

6 DR. SO: Aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
12 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
13 disability retirement of Rosalind Payne.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
16 being none, all in favor, say aye.

17 DR. SO: Aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
21 motion passes.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
23 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
24 disability retirement of Wilfredo Rivera.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
2 being none, all in favor, say aye.

3 DR. SO: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
7 motion passes.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
9 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
10 disability retirement of Julio Ruiz.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
13 being none, all in favor, say aye.

14 DR. SO: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
18 motion passes.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
20 a motion to approve the application for non-service-
21 connected disability retirement of Claudette Sands.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
24 being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. SO: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
4 motion passes.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
6 a motion to approve the application for non-service-
7 connected disability retirement of Leslie Schleipman.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
10 being none, all in favor, say aye.

11 DR. SO: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
15 motion passes.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
17 a motion to deny the application for non-service-
18 connected disability retirement of Patricia Stein.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
21 being none, all in favor, say aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

23 DR. SO: Aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
3 a motion to deny the application for service-connected
4 disability retirement of Marcie Tremaglio.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8 DR. SO: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
14 a motion to deny the application for non-service-
15 connected disability retirement of Magdalena Valentine-
16 Campos.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
19 being none, all in favor, say aye.

20 DR. SO: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make

1 a motion to deny the application on reconsideration of
2 service-connected disability retirement of Michael
3 Vogt, but the Board would look favorably on non-service
4 application to the extent that Mr. Vogt is eligible.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8 DR. SO: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make
14 a motion to approve the non-service-connected
15 disability retirements of the following: Marisol Padin-
16 Sanchez, Mayra Holbrook, and Latefa Harvey.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
19 being none, all in favor, say aye.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
23 motion passes.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I would make a motion to
25 adjourn the meeting (inaudible).

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor, say aye.

3 DR. SO: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

6 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. We are
7 adjourned. Thank you very much.

8 (Adjourned at 12:23 p.m.)

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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:04 a.m. on
November 18, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

12/12/2022

Date