

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on July 16, 2020, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, the building was closed to the public as a result of the spread of COVID-19 and the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Flores, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Paul Fortier, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole
- Natalie Braswell, Retirement Services Division
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission Rose Kallor

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Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman's Report

At 9:07 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. Chairman Adomeit commended everyone's efforts during this time.

Division Director's Report

At 9:08 a.m., Ms. Carlson provided an update on the building, and the efforts made towards reopening.

At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (7/16/2020)

I. Disability Retirements

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: The Division is in the process of adding additional meetings for 2020 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into October 2020.

- There are a total of 117 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 14 New applications received for June 2020
 - 75 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2020
 - 43 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020	7/2020
302	272	291	232	226	197	162	140	117

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

138 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 0 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)

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- 138 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 58 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old. We continue to process these cases to be scheduled for 24-month review meetings scheduled to occur in July and October.

C. Disability Files Processed:

10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20	7/20
82	41	57	19	93	103	48	29	53	43
				Backlog Reduction Team (65)	Backlog Reduction Team (66)	Backlog Reduction Team (22)	Backlog Reduction Team (11)	Backlog Reduction Team (26)	

D. Disability Backlog:

10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20	7/20
1941	1923	1927	1922	1868	1777	1729	1765	1739	1732

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20	7/20
162	151	100	178	166	149	268	149	140	170

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the June 18, 2020 minutes.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.

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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
 - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 4. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of June.
 5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of June.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of June.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of June.
 6. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2020.

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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Retirements for the Month of June 2020.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2020 through June 5, 2020.
 - i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano a moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2020 through June 5, 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period May 8, 2020 through June 5, 2020.
 12. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on June 30, 2020.
 - iv. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano a moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on June 30, 2020.
 - v. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - vi. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Recommendations from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on June 30, 2020.
 13. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayment Subcommittee Meeting held on June 4, 2020.
 - vii. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano a moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to approve the Recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayment Subcommittee on Purchase Meeting held on June 4, 2020.
 - viii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - ix. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayment Subcommittee on Purchase Meeting held on June 4, 2020.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. VCP correction status update – written legal opinion.
2. David Carter/Richard Kay – pending litigation.
3. Ronald Johnson v. SERC- pending litigation.
4. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC –pending claim/pending litigation.

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5. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. Brian Comerford v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Item 1.

At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 1 and to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session regarding Item 1 and enter executive session to discuss Item 2.

At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 2 and to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session regarding Item 2 and enter executive session to discuss Item 3.

At 9:25 a.m., Attorney Barth exited the meeting.

At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 3 and to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session regarding Item 3 and enter executive session to discuss Item 4.

At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 4 and to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session regarding Item 4 and enter executive session to discuss Item 5.

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At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 5 and to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session regarding Item 5 and enter executive session to discuss Item 6.

At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

Public Session

No motions were made regarding the items discussed in executive session.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division