A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on September 17, 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
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Bailey, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

The following members of the Commission were absent:
- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Paul Fortier, Trustee

Also present were:
- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Natalie Braswell, General Counsel Office of the State Comptroller
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman’s Report

At 9:05 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. Chairman Adomeit commended everyone’s efforts during this time.

At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Luciano congratulated Mr. Quiros on his appointment as Department of Corrections Commissioner.

At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to amend the agenda to include Items 1 through 19, including all subparts, on the agenda. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (9/17/2020)

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 December 2020.

- There are 97 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 12 New applications received for September 2020
    - 61 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through December 2020
    - 36 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation
B. **Twenty-Four Month Reviews**

171 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 26 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)
- 145 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
  - 58 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.

C. **Disability Files Processed:**

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D. **Disability Backlog:**

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II. **Normal Retirement Audits:**

At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to amend the agenda to include a request for Commission acceptance of the invoices from Rose Kallor for the month of August. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 9:12 a.m., Ms. Carlson commended Mr. Herrington for his work disability retirement and the self-service calculator.
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the August 20, 2020 minutes.
   i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the August 20, 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 August 20, 2020 minutes.

2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
   i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
   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 9:16 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 Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor’s Per Diem Expenses.
   i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor’s Per Diem Expenses.
   ii. Mr. Ryor 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. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor’s Per Diem Expenses.
   i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of July.
   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 July.

   i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of August 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 Service Retirements for the Month of July 2020.

   i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of August 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 August 2020.

   i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of August 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 August 2020.

i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of August 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 August 2020.

   i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
   
   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 Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.

11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.
   i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.
   
   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 Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.

12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
   i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
   
   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 Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.

13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.

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 Recommendations by the Medical Examining board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.

   i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.

   iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.

   i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period July 3, 2020 through August 13, 2020.

   ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.


16. Request Received from Sueanne Curley that the Commission Review and Reconsider its October 19, 2019 Denial of her Request for a refund of additional interest in connection to the retirement contributions that she had refunded in August 2019 from CMERS (tabled from the August 19, 2020 meeting).
   i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano welcomed discussion on this matter. Mr. Newman provided a summary of the request. Mr. Poulin commented. It was suggested that the matter be discussed in executive session in order to discuss the written legal opinion.

   i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the General Assembly Pension Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.


   i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the General Assembly Pension Fund Balance sheet as of June 30, 2020.
   ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

   i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State Attorneys’ Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
   ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

      i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the State Attorneys’ Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 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 accept the State Attorneys’ Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020.

   i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Probate Judges’ and Employees’ Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
   ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.


iv. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Probate Judges’ and Employees’ Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020.

v. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.


20. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of July.

i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of August.

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 August.

At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to add Ms. Curley’s matter (Item 16) to the agenda under Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action with a written legal opinion. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

**Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. VCP Update – written legal opinion
2. Hartford Housing Authority – written legal opinion
3. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation
4. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending litigation
5. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation/pending claim
6. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:44 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 8.

At 9:32 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.

At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 9:37 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.

At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 2.

At 10:17 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.

At 10:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 3.

At 10:20 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.

At 10:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 4.

At 10:21 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.

At 10:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 5.

At 10:22 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.

At 10:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 6.

At 10:24 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.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 7. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 7.

At 10:25 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.

A brief discussion was held, and at 10:27 a.m., Mr. Ryor moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go back into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 8.

At 10:42 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**

At 10:42 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to instruct the Division to waive de minimis amounts, specifically overpayments in the amount of $100 or less, and underpayments in the amount of $75 or less. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

At 10:43 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano that regarding New Matter Item 16: For Ms. Curley and similarly situated individuals, from a date certain, October 1, 2020, the Division Policy regarding refund of contributions should remain in place, with a notice sent to all individuals affected by the change that they will have a certain period of time to request a refund under the prior practice, but following the expiration of that period, the refunds of interest and contributions will be paid consistent with the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-440, including the reversion of contributions to the fund if no request is made within ten years. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Herrington inquired if a fiduciary’s opinion was being sought. Some discussion ensued.

At 10:47 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved to table New Matter Item 16 to the next meting pending a fiduciary’s opinion. Further discussion ensued. At 10:50 a.m., Mr. Poulin withdrew his motion concerning a fiduciary opinion.

At 10:53 a.m., Ms. Brown Brewton moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to go back into executive session for purposes of discussing Executive Session Item 8. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Sullivan 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 8.

At 11:10 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.

At 11:10 a.m., Mr. Poulin withdrew his prior motions concerning New Matter Item 16, and Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to table Item 16 until the next meeting pending receipt of additional information from
the Retirement Services Division. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted in favor of the motion by majority vote. Mr. Luciano opposed the motion.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

______________________________
Peter Adomeit, Chairman

______________________________
Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division