A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on February 20, 2020, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT. 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member (via phone)
- Charles Casella, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Laurie Martin, Ex Officio Member
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- 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 Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
- John Herrington, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Mark Sciota, Town of Southington Town Manager
- Alisha Sullivan, Robinson & Cole

Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.
Chairman’s Report

At 9:10 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Sciota to the meeting.

Division Director’s Report

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

Division Director Report (2/20/2020)

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 July 2020.

- There are a total of 232 Disability Retirement Applications of which:
  - 156 Applications have been scheduled for meetings into July 2020
  - 76 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

Pending Disability Retirement Applications:

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B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

- 264 Cases are due for a 24 month review.
  - 88 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)
    - 29 have retirement dates that are beyond 24 months old. All 88 cases will be scheduled at the next 24-month review meeting on February 21, 2020.
  - 176 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
    - 96 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old. Of the 96, 36 are ready to be scheduled for the next 24-month review meetings. 25 are scheduled for February 21, 2020 and 11 are tentatively scheduled in April 2020.

Pending 24-Month Reviews:

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C. Disability Files Processed:

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(65 – Backlog)

D. Disability Backlog:

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<tr>
<td>Files</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>1868</td>
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II. Normal Retirement Audits:

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<td>178</td>
<td>166</td>
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Additionally, Mr. Newman commented on disability applications awaiting medical documentations. Mr. Casella inquired about the status of disability retirees’ applications for Social Security disability benefits. Mr. Herrington provided an update.

Motion to Amend Agenda

At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton, to amend the agenda to add two items to the agenda as follows:


The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to amend the agenda to include the two items.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the January 16, 2020 minutes.
   i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
   i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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.

   i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of January.
   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 January.

5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of January.
   i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of January.
   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 January.
   i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of January 2020.
   ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Carey stated that Sandra Young is the surviving spouse of the state employee, and therefore, there should be a correction to the list of service retirements to indicate she will receive a pre-retirement death benefit. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Carey offered this correction as an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Casella and passed unanimously by the trustees.
   iii. At 9:21 a.m., the Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of January 2020, with the noted correction that Sandra Young is the surviving spouse receiving a pre-retirement death benefit.

   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of January 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 January 2020.

   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of January 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 January 2020.

   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of January 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 Retroactive Retirements for the Month of January 2020.
   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of January 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 January 2020.

   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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.

12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.
   i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements 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 approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.

13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
   i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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.

i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners 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 Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.


i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.


i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period December 6, 2019 through January 16, 2020.

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


18. Request Commission Approval of the following doctors to become members of the Medical Examining Board:

i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve list of doctors to become members of 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 list of doctors to become members of the Medical Examining Board.


i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to accept the Comptroller’s proposed legislative amendments for CMERS statutes, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 7-436 & 7-440.

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


i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to accept the Actuarial Valuation Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2019.

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


i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to accept the Actuarial Valuation Report for the Police and Fire Survivors Benefit Fund Prepared as of June 30, 2019.

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


**Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**
1. Municipal Liaison - personnel
2. SPD Status Update - written legal opinion
3. Response to Legislature re: 415 question - written legal opinion
4. VCP Status - written legal opinion
5. Secure Act - written legal opinion
6. Lena Carter - request for reconsideration – written legal opinion
7. David Carter v. SERC - pending litigation
8. Ronald Johnson v. SERC - pending claim/litigation
9. James Rizzio - petition for declaratory ruling - written legal opinion
10. Town of Thompson - pending litigation
11. Catherine Crandle v. SERC - pending litigation
12. Brian Comerford v. SERC - pending litigation

At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 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 9:26 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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.

Municipal Liaison

At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to approve Mark Sciota as the municipal liaison for the State Employees Retirement Commission. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Mr. Sciota as the municipal liaison.

At 9:28 a.m., Chairman Adomeit administered the oath to Mr. Sciota and appointed him as municipal liaison. Mr. Sciota was invited to continue to participate in the meeting as municipal liaison.

Executive Session

At 9:30 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:31 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:31 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:32 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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. Quiros 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 9:57 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 9:58 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:02 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:02 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:05 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:05 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:07 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:07 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to go 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 10:10 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:10 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 9. 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 9.

At 10:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 10. 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 10.
At 10:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 11. 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 11.

At 10:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 12. 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 12.

At 10:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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. Quiros to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 13. 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 13.

At 10:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros 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 10:18 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to authorize the issuance of the decision and declaratory ruling on reconsideration regarding Lena Carter, as drafted. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Brown Brewton corrected a typographical error in the draft document. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of authorizing the issuance of the decisions and declaratory ruling on reconsideration regarding Lena Carter.
At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to decline to issue a declaratory ruling in response to Mr. Rizzio’s petition for declaratory ruling. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to decline to issue a declaratory ruling in response to Mr. Rizzio’s petition for declaratory ruling.

At 10:21 a.m., the trustees further discussed Item 19 regarding the Comptroller’s Proposed legislative amendments for CMERS statutes, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 7-436 & 7-440. Mr. Herrington explained the reason for the proposed amendments. Ms. Carlson discussed the process for a statutory amendment. The trustees asked the Chairman to seek guidance from Tax Counsel regarding certain language within the CMERS statutes to ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Code.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Quiros to adjourn at 10:31 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

__________________________________
Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division