STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

MARCH 19, 2020 REGULAR MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONVENED AT 9:00 a.m.

Commission Members Present:

Peter Adomeit Janet Andrews

Michael Bailey Sandra Fae Brown Brewton

Karen Buffkin Michael Carey
Charles Casella Carl Chisem
Robert D. Coffey Paul Fortier
Laurie Martin Karen Nolen

Claude Poulin

Also Present:

Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole Natalie Braswell, Retirement Services Division Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor John Herrington, Retirement Services Division Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division Michael Rose, Rose Kallor

Karen Vibert, LSR #00064

- 1 (Proceeding convened at 9:00 a.m.)
- 2 MR. ADOMEIT: I'm going to call the
- 3 meeting to order, and we need -- before I give my
- 4 report, we need a couple of motions. One is to
- 5 amend the agenda. You'll notice that we truncated
- 6 the back of it, the executive session part of it,
- 7 because we knew this was going to be a trying
- 8 meeting and I wanted to get it over with as soon as
- 9 we could.
- 10 So, does everyone have the new
- 11 amended motion that was sent out? I assume they do.
- 12 I need a motion, please, to amend the agenda to
- 13 conform with the March 19, 2020 agenda.
- 14 MR. POULIN: I make a motion, Mr. Chairman.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Yes.
- MR. POULIN: I move to amend the agenda to
- 17 add two new items after Item 21, to accept the
- 18 June 30, 2019 GASB 67 report. This is Item 22. And
- 19 the June 30, 2019 report on -- the GASB report for
- 20 MERS.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. A second
- 22 on Claude's motions?
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: I second.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Now, we have three
- 25 amendments on the table, and I would call for a vote

- 1 for amending the agenda to conform with the
- 2 March 19th agenda that was sent out. All in favor
- 3 say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- 4 MS. CIESLAK: Real quick, Natalie suggested
- 5 that we should do a roll call vote.
- 6 MR. ADOMEIT: I'm sorry. Say again,
- 7 please.
- 8 MS. BROWN BREWTON: I'm not sure it's
- 9 practical with this many people. I think we just
- 10 have to make sure that if anyone is voting no, that
- 11 we know exactly who is voting no.
- MS. CIESLAK: Yes.
- 13 MR. CAREY: I agree with you. Is it proper
- 14 for the Chair to just to ask for nays? That way if
- 15 he hears them, he will know who they are and can
- 16 count them and then assume that those who do not
- 17 speak are yay votes?
- 18 MR. ADOMEIT: Yes.
- 19 MR. ROSE: I think you can do that. We're
- 20 also going to have a chance to amend the agenda.
- 21 MS. BROWN BREWTON: I think it makes sense
- 22 just to do the roll call, just so you know everybody
- 23 who's present.
- 24 MS. CIESLAK: I definitely need an
- 25 attendance list and then we can do a roll call vote.

- 1 MR. ADOMEIT: Do you have a --
- 2 MS. BROWN BREWTON: I'm not talking about
- 3 a roll call vote. I'm just talking about an agenda.
- 4 MS. CIESLAK: Certainly. I believe the
- 5 motion has passed unanimously. If there were any
- 6 nay votes, please speak now.
- 7 So, Peter, at this point, would you
- 8 like to take attendance?
- 9 MR. ADOMEIT: We have two more amendments.
- 10 I only hit the first one. The second amendment was
- 11 from Claude to amend the agenda to add the report --
- 12 to add GASB 67 report from our actuaries. That was
- 13 Claude's motion. I think we have a second on that.
- 14 MS. BROWN BREWTON: I second it.
- MR. ADOMEIT: All right. All in favor of
- 16 that amendment signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.
- 17 No one in opposition. The ayes have it.
- 18 The third amendment by Claude was
- 19 seconded to add to the agenda the GASB 68 report
- 20 from the actuaries. All in favor of that amendment
- 21 say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- 22 The Chairman's report. I would like
- 23 to acknowledge and thank everyone who participated
- 24 in today's meeting, those that helped organize this
- 25 meeting remotely and for all the work they did to

- 1 make sure we could do this, specifically,
- 2 John Herrington and Cindy Cieslak and Michael Rose.
- 3 If there are others and they did show up beyond the
- 4 scene, I can't recognize them. I want to thank them
- 5 very much.
- I hope everyone stays safe. Some of
- 7 you know that I'm married to a physician who works
- 8 in the hospital, who has been hospitalized. My
- 9 family has sent me up to Maine because we don't want
- 10 her to bring home the virus. I'll be working from
- 11 Maine for some time and having daily telephone
- 12 conversations with my wife.
- Okay. That's my report.
- 14 John Herrington, division director's report, please.
- 15 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning, everyone.
- 16 I would like to echo the sentiments of both Marti
- 17 and Peter. These are certainly trying times and
- 18 there have been a number of individuals that have
- 19 stepped up to really help us work through this in
- 20 terms of completing our mission while at the same
- 21 time doing all we can to keep our people safe. I've
- 22 had a number of telephone conversations with Cindy,
- 23 Mike and Peter and I expect that we'll have more in
- 24 the coming days so that we can really be prepared
- 25 for completing our mission to the extent that we're

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- 1 out for an extended period of time. Thankfully, in
- 2 terms of the timing, we are all set.
- 3 On my director's report, you will see
- 4 that there were 149 retirements for the March
- 5 payroll. We are in a position for all of those
- 6 individuals to receive their checks and there will
- 7 be no interruption with their health insurance.
- In terms of timing, one of the things
- 9 that is certainly unfortunate for us is that, as you
- 10 all know, April 1st tends to be the heaviest month
- 11 for retirements. So, in terms of technology, we
- 12 have an evolving but pretty decent plan in terms of
- 13 getting all of those individuals on the payroll and
- 14 ensuring no interruption for retirement benefits,
- 15 but that presupposes that we will receive mail, the
- 16 mail will be scanned and it will be identified in
- 17 the system.
- 18 One issue that we have come up with
- 19 from the agencies is that it's difficult for some of
- 20 the agencies to have individuals complete the
- 21 paperwork in the normal course. In the normal
- 22 course of a retirement, the employee comes into HR,
- 23 signs the retirement paperwork along with the HR
- 24 personnel. Then we can process with original
- 25 signatures. There are many individuals that are

- 1 either, you know, perhaps quarantined or just
- 2 through an abundance of caution are either unwilling
- 3 or unable to come into the office and complete
- 4 paperwork. And there are questions in terms of how
- 5 much of this can be completed by mail. So, what
- 6 we're looking at now would be relaxing our policies
- 7 for requiring the original signature, at least to
- 8 start the commencement of the retirement paperwork,
- 9 and we are working on a policy now. I will confirm
- 10 with Cindy on that, but I think that that might be a
- 11 point for the Commission to weigh in to the extent
- 12 that people have concerns about relying on
- 13 electronic signatures as opposed to original
- 14 signatures.
- I will preface this by saying that I
- 16 have looked quickly and I haven't seen an actual
- 17 requirement in any statute or pension arbitration
- 18 agreement or CBA agreement that requires actual
- 19 original signatures, but that certainly has been our
- 20 historic practice.
- 21 Then the next issue would be in terms
- 22 of our long-term plans. We are fine if this is only
- 23 going to result in two weeks of closures. I think
- 24 we're fine, but what I'm trying to put in place now
- 25 would be, you know, plans so that we can fulfill our

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- 1 mission if we're out of work for six, eight, you
- 2 know, weeks, perhaps as much as 12 or beyond. So,
- 3 what that requires us to do is to focus on our
- 4 priorities. Our priorities are always to process
- 5 the retirements, the new retirements, and ensure
- 6 that individuals make it to the payroll with no
- 7 interruption to health insurance.
- 8 The next priority would be dealing
- 9 with and triaging issues that arise from the
- 10 retirement through our call center, customer service
- 11 center, where we're most interested in people where
- 12 there has been some disruption or interruption of
- 13 their retirement pension checks or direct deposits,
- 14 and also any issues with respect to the health
- 15 insurance. So, we have a plan in place to triage
- 16 those.
- 17 Our next priority would be the
- 18 disability processing. So, we have an MEB meeting
- 19 that's scheduled to go forward tomorrow utilizing
- 20 the same technology and we're very interested in
- 21 seeing how that works because we would like to
- 22 process as many disabilities as possible remotely
- 23 going forward so that there aren't people that
- 24 otherwise could be approved who have perhaps an
- interruption of income or income hasn't commenced,

- 1 or perhaps an interruption of health insurance.
- 2 So, those are immediate priorities,
- 3 and we're working through those, but that's
- 4 basically where we stand as a division now.
- 5 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. John, thank you very
- 6 much.
- 7 Anyone have questions or comments?
- 8 MS. BUFFKIN: My apologies. I need to log
- 9 off for a command call at UConn Health and I will be
- 10 back on the call if it doesn't last very long and the
- 11 meeting is still going.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you.
- MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Karen. I have
- 14 you down for attending.
- 15 MR. ADOMEIT: Is Sal Luciano here?
- MS. CIESLAK: Peter, can I suggest that we
- 17 take attendance really quickly?
- 18 MR. ADOMEIT: Oh, sure. I'm sorry. I
- 19 thought we did.
- 20 MS. CIESLAK: I have a list that I was
- 21 keeping prior to calling the meeting to order, so I
- 22 can go through that list, then if I don't say name
- 23 your name, please speak after I finish the list.
- MR. ADOMEIT: This is --
- 25 MS. CIESLAK: This is in no particular

- 1 order. I have Natalie Braswell, Robert Coffey,
- 2 Karen Nolen, Mike Rose, Janet Andrews,
- 3 Fae Brown Brewton, Paul Fortier, Peter Adomeit,
- 4 John Herrington, Michael Carey, Carl Chisem,
- 5 Bruce Barth, Laurie Martin. Karen Buffkin just
- 6 signed off and she will sign back on. Mike Bailey,
- 7 Charles Casella, Claude Poulin, and I see
- 8 Colin Newman.
- 9 MR. NEWMAN: Just joined.
- 10 MS. CIESLAK: Did I not name anyone?
- 11 (No response.)
- MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.
- 13 MR. ADOMEIT: Sal is not here for his
- 14 usual making of the motions, so I would request we
- 15 have a substitute. Charlie Casella, would you like
- 16 to play that role, please?
- 17 MR. CASELLA: Hesitatingly, I will.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you much.
- 19 MR. CASELLA: You're welcome. So, I would
- 20 move Item No. 1, the approval of the February
- 21 minutes.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Any second?
- MR. CHISEM: Second.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Carl.
- 25 Any discussion? Hearing none, all in

- 1 favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- 2 MR. CASELLA: Mr. Chairman, I would move
- 3 approval of Item No. 2, the Chairman's per diem
- 4 expenses.
- 5 MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.
- 6 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 7 favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- 8 MR. CASELLA: Move Item 3, approval
- 9 of State Employee Retirement Commission
- 10 Union Trustee's travel expenses.
- 11 MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 12 MR. POULIN: I abstain.
- MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.
- 14 Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- 15 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Items 4
- 16 through 6, the invoices from Robinson & Cole and Rose
- 17 Kallor.
- 18 MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 19 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 20 favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it,
- 21 unanimous.
- 22 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Items 7
- 23 through 9, the Connecticut State Employees
- 24 Retirement System Service retirements, voluntary
- 25 pending retirements and the systems disability

- 1 retirements for the month of February.
- 2 MR. FORTIER: Second.
- 3 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.
- 4 Excuse me. Any discussion? Sorry about that. Is
- 5 there any discussion? Once again, all in favor say
- 6 aye. Opposed nay. No opposed. The ayes have it.
- 7 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Items
- 8 10 and 11, the MERS regular retirements and
- 9 disability retirements.
- 10 MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 11 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 12 favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.
- MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item 12,
- 14 Municipal Retirement System disability retirement
- 15 denials.
- MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 17 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
- 18 none, all in favor say aye. Opposed nay.
- 19 Unanimous. The ayes have it.
- 20 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item
- 21 No. 13, Commission Requests approval and acceptance
- 22 of recommendation of medical examining board for
- 23 continued entitlements, tabled and denials.
- MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 25 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing

- 1 none, all in favor say aye. Opposed nay.
- 2 Unanimous, the ayes have it.
- 3 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item
- 4 No. 14, Continued Entitlement Improvements --
- 5 Approvals.
- 6 MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 7 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 8 favor say aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous, the ayes
- 9 have it.
- 10 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item 15,
- 11 request to discontinue disability applications due
- 12 to one-year deadline.
- MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 14 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
- 15 none, all in favor say aye.
- 16 MS. CIESLAK: Bob said in the chat that he
- 17 does want to discuss 15, but it appears we can -- I
- 18 wanted to give Bob the opportunity.
- MR. ADOMEIT: It appears what? I'm sorry.
- 20 MS. CIESLAK: Bob wrote in the chat that
- 21 he wanted to discuss No. 15 and he would like to
- 22 table James Senich.
- 23 MR. ADOMEIT: I see it on my screen now.
- MS. CIESLAK: Okay.
- 25 MR. COFFEY: I amend the motion to table

- 1 the one item.
- 2 MR. CHISEM: I'll second it.
- MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor of the motion
- 4 to table that one item signify by saying aye.
- 5 Opposed nay. Unanimous, the ayes have it.
- 6 MR. CASELLA: Have we moved item 15 in
- 7 total, Cindy, or not?
- 8 MS. CIESLAK: Not yet.
- 9 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Charlie.
- 10 All in favor of item 15, as amended,
- 11 signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous, the
- 12 ayes have it.
- MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Items 16,
- 14 the Connecticut judges and family support
- 15 magistrates and probate judges retirements.
- MR. CHISEM: Second.
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.
- 18 MR. ADOMEIT: Carl was in there first.
- 19 You got that, Cindy?
- 20 MS. CIESLAK: I have it.
- 21 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 22 favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it,
- 23 unanimous.
- 24 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item 18,
- 25 probate judges expenses for the pay period January

- 1 through February.
- 2 MR. ADOMEIT: Is it just me or was the
- 3 last one 16 or 17?
- 4 MR. CASELLA: The last one was 16 and 17.
- 5 MR. ADOMEIT: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you.
- 6 It's been moved. Carl, did you
- 7 second it?
- 8 MR. CHISEM: I will second it.
- 9 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Any discussion?
- 10 All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous the
- 11 ayes have it.
- MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item
- 13 No. 19, acceptance of the Montville Firefighters
- 14 into MERS.
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.
- 16 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Any discussion?
- 17 MR. BARTH: The only comment I have is
- 18 wouldn't it be the Town of Montville and the
- 19 Firefighters Association group as a member, as
- 20 opposed to the Firefighters Association itself can't
- 21 join MERS.
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: That would be
- 23 accurate. The letter from CavMac says that it is
- 24 the Town Montville.
- MR. ADOMEIT: All right. So, maybe we

- 1 should amend the motion to say approval of the Town
- 2 Montville Firefighters.
- 3 MS. BROWN BREWTON: Yes.
- 4 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay.
- 5 MR. CASELLA: So moved.
- 6 MR. CHISEM: Second.
- 7 MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.
- 8 MR. ADOMEIT: I'll give that to Fae. It
- 9 was her idea. Actually, it was Bruce's.
- 10 All right. Moved and seconded. Any
- 11 further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say
- 12 aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous, the ayes have it.
- MR. CASELLA: Move Item 20, the Connecticut
- 14 Probate Judges statement of operations and balance
- 15 sheet as of December 31, 2019.
- MR. FORTIER: Second.
- 17 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
- 18 favor say aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous, the ayes
- 19 have it.
- 20 MR. CASELLA: Move approval of Item 21, the
- 21 recommendations from the purchase of service and
- 22 related matters subcommittee for the meeting held on
- 23 March 5, 2020.
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.
- 25 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Any discussion?

- 1 MR. NEWMAN: Just saying, as Charlie
- 2 pointed out, there was a typo on item No. 3 where it
- 3 says, "The subcommittee unanimously recommends
- 4 approval of Ms. Mangs, "it should say, "Ms. Spak."
- 5 On the top line -- the top line of item No. 3.
- 6 MS. BROWN BREWTON: It says, "Christine
- 7 Spak."
- 8 MR. NEWMAN: Right, but if you read it, it
- 9 says, "The subcommittee unanimously recommends the
- 10 approval of Ms. Mangs."
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: Right.
- MR. NEWMAN: It should read, "Ms. Spak."
- MS. BROWN BREWTON: Ms. Spak?
- MR. NEWMAN: Right, Ms. Spak.
- 15 MR. ADOMEIT: Is there a motion to correct
- 16 the typo, please?
- 17 MR. HERRINGTON: Is that the typo or is
- 18 Christine Spak the --
- 19 MR. HERRINGTON: Oh, Christine Spak is
- 20 the item itself. the typo is the name.
- 21 SPEAKER: Gotcha.
- 22 MR. ADOMEIT: Is there a second? Is there
- 23 a motion, first of all?
- MR. CASELLA: I'll move it.
- 25 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you.

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- 1 MR. CASELLA: Move acceptance of the
- 2 correction of the typo.
- 3 MR. ADOMEIT: Is there a second?
- 4 MR. FORTIER: Second.
- 5 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Paul.
- 6 Any further discussion? All in favor
- 7 of the motion as amended signify by saying aye.
- 8 Opposed may. The ayes have it.
- 9 MR. POULIN: Move approval of item 22. I
- 10 move to accept GASB 67 reports for MERS.
- MR. BAILEY: Second.
- 12 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Any discussion?
- 13 All in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay.
- 14 Is there a nay? Hearing none, the ayes have it.
- MR. POULIN: Item 23. I move to accept the
- 16 June report of 2019, the GASB 68 report for MERS.
- 17 MR. BAILEY: Second.
- 18 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Any discussion?
- 19 Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed nay.
- 20 The ayes have it, unanimous.
- 21 MR. CASELLA: Mr. Chairman, if it's
- 22 appropriate, I move that we go into executive session
- 23 to discuss Item 1, the VCP status update.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Charlie.
- 25 Is there a second?

- 1 MR. CAREY: Didn't we change the agenda so
- 2 there is only one item in executive session? The
- 3 Rizzio petition?
- 4 MR. CASELLA: Did we? I'm sorry. I
- 5 missed that. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?
- 6 MR. ADOMEIT: Cindy?
- 7 MS. CIESLAK: Yes. The agenda only lists
- 8 for the declaratory ruling.
- 9 MR. ADOMEIT: So that the Roberts is a
- 10 typo, then.
- Okay. So, that's the motion.
- 12 Rizzio, executive session. Any further discussion?
- MS. CIESLAK: I don't believe there was a
- 14 second, Mr. Chairman.
- MR. BAILEY: Second.
- MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Mike.
- 17 Any further discussion? All in favor
- 18 say aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous, the ayes have it.
- 19 (Whereupon, the Commission went into
- 20 executive session.)
- MR. ADOMEIT: We're now out and we need a
- 22 motion.
- 23 MR. CASELLA: Move that we accept the
- 24 recommendation of the legal personnel subcommittee to
- 25 grant reconsideration to Mr. Rizzio.

Page 20 1 MR. CAREY: Second. 2 MR. ADOMEIT: Any further discussion? 3 Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Opposed nay. 4 Hearing none, the ayes have it. That completes the 5 agenda. 6 MS. BROWN BREWTON: I move we adjourn. 7 MR. CASELLA: Second. 8 MR. ADOMEIT: Moved and seconded to 9 adjourn. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The 10 ayes have it. Thank you, everyone. This was a 11 successful experiment. I appreciate it. 12 (Meeting concluded.) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

| | | Page 21 |
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| 1 | STATE OF CONNECTICUT: | |
| 2 | : ss: Bristol COUNTY OF HARTFORD : | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | I, Karen Vibert, LSR No. 00064, a | |
| 5 | Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, do hereby | |
| 6 | certify that the preceding pages are an accurate | |
| 7 | transcription of the Connecticut State Employees | |
| 8 | Retirement Commission regular meeting held | |
| 9 | electronically via Zoom, convening at 9:00 a.m., on | |
| 10 | March 19, 2020. | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | Dated at Bristol, Connecticut, | |
| 13 | this 24th day of April, 2020. | |
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| 22 | a. NDTCA. | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | Karen Vibert Karen Public | |
| 25 | Karen Vibert, Notary Public My commission expires: 08/31/2024. | |

| | appears 13:17,19 | Brewton 1:11 2:23 | Charles 1:12 10:7 | continued 12:23 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| A | applications 13:11 | 3:8,21 4:2,14 10:3 | Charlie 10:15 14:9 | 13:4 |
| a.m 1:6 2:1 21:9 | appreciate 20:11 | 11:5 14:17 15:15 | 17:1 18:24 | convened 1:6 2:1 |
| abstain 11:12 | appropriate 18:22 | 15:22 16:3,7,24 | chat 13:16,20 | convening 21:9 |
| abundance 7:2 | appropriate 18.22 approval 10:20 | 17:6,11,13 20:6 | checks 6:6 8:13 | conversations 5:12 |
| accept 2:17 18:10 | | | Chisem 1:12 10:4 | 5:22 |
| 18:15 19:23 | 11:3,8,15,22 12:7 | bring 5:10 | | |
| acceptance 12:21 | 12:13,20,21 13:3 | Bristol 21:1,12 Brown 1:11 2:23 | 10:23 11:11,18 | correct 17:15 19:5 correction 18:2 |
| 15:13 18:1 | 13:10 14:13,24 | | 12:10,16,24 13:6 | |
| accurate 15:23 | 15:12 16:1,20 | 3:8,21 4:2,14 10:3 | 13:13 14:2,16 | count 3:16 |
| 21:6 | 17:4,10 18:9 | 11:5 14:17 15:15 | 15:8 16:6 | COUNTY 21:2 |
| acknowledge 4:23 | Approvals 13:5 | 15:22 16:3,7,24 | Christine 17:6,18 | couple 2:4 |
| actual 7:16,18 | approved 8:24 | 17:6,11,13 20:6 | 17:19 | course 6:21,22 |
| actuaries 4:12,20 | April 6:10 21:13 | Bruce 1:16 10:5 | Cieslak 1:17 3:4,12 | customer 8:10 |
| add 2:17 4:11,12 | arbitration 7:17 | Bruce's 16:9 | 3:24 4:4 5:2 9:13 | D |
| 4:19 | Association 15:19 | Buffkin 1:12 9:8 | 9:16,20,25 10:10 | $\overline{\mathbf{D}}$ 1:13 |
| adjourn 20:6,9 | 15:20 | 10:5 | 10:12 13:16,20,24 | |
| Adomeit 1:11 2:2 | assume 2:11 3:16 | | 14:8,20 19:7,13 | daily 5:11 Dated 21:12 |
| 2:15,21,24 3:6,18 | attendance 3:25 | | Cindy 1:17 5:2,22 | |
| 4:1,9,15 9:5,12,15 | 4:8 9:17 | call 2:2,25 3:5,22 | 7:10 14:7,19 19:6 | day 21:13 |
| 9:18,24 10:3,13 | attending 9:14 | 3:25 4:3 8:10 9:9 | Claude 1:14 4:11 | days 5:24 |
| 10:18,22,24 11:6 | aye 3:3 4:16,21 | 9:10 | 4:18 10:7 | deadline 13:12 |
| 11:13,19 12:3,11 | 11:1,7,13,20 12:3 | calling 9:21 | Claude's 2:22 4:13 | dealing 8:8 |
| 12:17,25 13:7,14 | 12:6,12,18 13:1,8 | Carey 1:12 3:13 | closures 7:23 | December 16:15 |
| 13:19,23 14:3,9 | 13:15 14:4,11,22 | 10:4 19:1 20:1 | Coffey 1:13 10:1 | decent 6:12 |
| 14:18,21 15:2,5,9 | 15:10 16:12,18 | Carl 1:12 10:4,24 | 13:25 | declaratory 19:8 |
| 15:16,25 16:4,8 | 18:7,13,19 19:18 | 14:18 15:6 | Cole 1:16 11:16 | definitely 3:24 |
| 16:17,25 17:15,22 | 20:3,9 | Casella 1:12 10:7 | Colin 1:18 10:8 | denials 12:15,23 |
| 17:25 18:3,5,12 | ayes 3:3 4:17,21 | 10:15,17,19 11:2 | come 6:18 7:3 | deposits 8:13 |
| 18:18,24 19:6,9 | 11:1,7,14,20 12:6 | 11:8,15,22 12:7 | comes 6:22 | diem 11:3 |
| 19:16,21 20:2,8 | 12:12,19 13:2,8 | 12:13,20 13:3,10 | coming 5:24 | difficult 6:19 |
| agencies 6:19,20 | 14:5,12,22 15:11 | 14:6,13,24 15:4 | command 9:9 | direct 8:13 |
| agenda 2:5,12,13 | 16:12,18 18:8,14 | 15:12 16:5,13,20 | commenced 8:25 | director's 5:14 6:3 |
| 2:16 3:1,2,20 4:3 | 18:20 19:18 20:4 | 17:24 18:1,21 | commencement 7:8 | disabilities 8:22 |
| 4:11,19 19:1,7 | 20:10 | 19:4,23 20:7 | comment 15:17 | disability 8:18 |
| 20:5 | | caution 7:2 | comments 9:7 | 11:25 12:9,14 |
| agree 3:13 | B | CavMac 15:23 | commission 1:1,10 | 13:11 |
| agreement 7:18,18 | back 2:6 9:10 10:6 | CBA 7:18 | 7:11 11:9 12:21 | discontinue 13:11 |
| amend 2:5,12,16 | Bailey 1:11 10:6 | center 8:10,11 | 19:19 21:8,25 | discuss 13:17,21 |
| 3:20 4:11 13:25 | 18:11,17 19:15 | certainly 4:4 5:17 | complete 6:20 7:3 | 18:23 |
| 16:1 | balance 16:14 | 6:9 7:19 | completed 7:5 | discussion 10:25 |
| amended 2:11 | Barth 1:16 10:5 | certify 21:6 | completes 20:4 | 11:6,19 12:4,5,11 |
| 14:10 18:7 | 15:17 | Chair 3:14 | completing 5:20,25 | 12:17,25 13:7,14 |
| amending 3:1 | basically 9:4 | Chairman 2:14 | concerns 7:12 | 14:21 15:9,16 |
| amending 5.1 amendment 4:10 | believe 4:4 19:13 | 11:2 18:21 19:5 | concluded 20:12 | 16:11,17,25 18:6 |
| 4:16,18,20 | benefits 6:14 | 19:14 | confirm 7:9 | 18:12,18 19:12,17 |
| amendments 2:25 | beyond 5:3 8:2 | Chairman's 4:22 | conform 2:13 3:1 | 20:2 |
| 4:9 | board 12:22 | 11:3 | Connecticut 1:1 | disruption 8:12 |
| 4.9 Andrews 1:11 10:2 | Bob 13:16,18,20 | chance 3:20 | 11:23 14:14 16:13 | division 1:17,18,18 |
| apologies 9:8 | Braswell 1:17 10:1 | change 19:1 | 21:1,5,7,12 | 5:14 9:4 |
| apologies 7.0 | | _ | ,~,·,- - | |
| | 1 | ı | l | I |

| doing 5:21 | Fortier 1:13 10:3 | income 8:25,25 | line 17:5,5 | 10:14 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| due 13:11 | 12:2 16:16 18:4 | individuals 5:18 | list 3:25 9:20,22,23 | move 2:16 10:20 |
| | forward 8:19,23 | 6:6,13,20,25 8:6 | lists 19:7 | 11:2,8,15,22 12:7 |
| E | fulfill 7:25 | insurance 6:7 8:7 | log 9:8 | 12:13,20 13:3,10 |
| echo 5:16 | further 16:11 18:6 | 8:15 9:1 | long 9:10 | 14:13,24 15:12 |
| eight 8:1 | 19:12,17 20:2 | interested 8:11,20 | long-term 7:22 | 16:13,20 17:24 |
| either 7:1,2 | | interruption 6:7,14 | looked 7:16 | 18:1,9,10,15,22 |
| electronic 7:13 | G | 8:7,12,25 9:1 | looking 7:6 | 19:23 20:6 |
| electronically 21:9 | GASB 2:18,19 4:12 | invoices 11:16 | LSR 1:25 21:4 | moved 14:6 15:6 |
| employee 6:22 11:9 | 4:19 18:10,16 | issue 6:18 7:21 | Luciano 9:15 | 16:5,10 20:8 |
| Employees 1:1 | getting 6:13 | issues 8:9,14 | | Municipal 12:14 |
| 11:23 21:7 | give 2:3 13:18 16:8 | item 2:17,18 10:20 | M | |
| ensure 8:5 | go 8:19 9:22 18:22 | 11:3,8 12:13,20 | magistrates 14:15 | N |
| ensuring 6:14 | going 2:2,7 3:20 | 13:3,10 14:1,4,6 | mail 6:15,16 7:5 | name 9:22,23 10:10 |
| Entitlement 13:4 | 7:23 8:23 9:11 | 14:10,24 15:12 | Maine 5:9,11 | 17:20 |
| entitlements 12:23 | Good 5:15 | 16:13,20 17:2,5 | making 10:14 | Natalie 1:17 3:4 |
| everybody 3:22 | Gotcha 17:21 | 17:20 18:9,15,23 | Mangs 17:4,10 | 10:1 |
| evolving 6:12 | grant 19:25 | 19:2 | March 1:5 2:13 3:2 | nay 3:3 4:6,16,21 |
| exactly 3:11 | group 15:19 | items 2:17 11:15,22 | 6:4 16:23 21:10 | 11:1,7,14,20 12:6 |
| examining 12:22 | H | 12:7 14:13 | married 5:7 | 12:12,18 13:1,8 |
| Excuse 12:4 | - | | Marti 5:16 | 14:5,11,22 15:10 |
| executive 2:6 18:22 | HARTFORD 21:2 | J | Martin 1:13 10:5 | 16:12,18 18:13,14 |
| 19:2,12,20 | health 6:7 8:7,14 | James 13:22 | matters 16:22 | 18:19 19:18 20:3 |
| expect 5:23 | 9:1,9 | Janet 1:11 10:2 | MEB 8:18 | 20:9 |
| expenses 11:4,10 | Hearing 10:25 | January 14:25 | medical 12:22 | nays 3:14 |
| 14:25 | 12:17,25 13:14 | John 1:18 5:2,14 | meeting 1:5 2:3,8 | need 2:3,4,12 3:24 |
| experiment 20:11 | 16:11 18:14,19 | 9:5 10:4 | 4:24,25 8:18 9:11 | 9:8 19:21 |
| expires 21:25 | 20:3,4 | join 15:21 | 9:21 16:22 20:12 | new 2:10,17 8:5 |
| extended 6:1 | hears 3:15 | joined 10:9 | 21:8 | Newman 1:18 10:8 |
| extent 5:25 7:11 | heaviest 6:10 | judges 14:14,15,25 | member 15:19 | 10:9 17:1,8,12,14 |
| F | held 1:6 16:22 21:8 | 16:14 | Members 1:10 | Nolen 1:13 10:2 |
| | help 5:19 | June 2:18,19 18:16 | MERS 2:20 12:8 | normal 6:21,21 |
| Fae 1:11 10:3 16:8 | helped 4:24 | K | 15:14,21 18:10,16 | Notary 21:5,24 |
| family 5:9 14:14 | Herrington 1:18 | | Michael 1:11,12,19 | notice 2:5 |
| favor 3:2 4:15,20 | 5:2,14,15 10:4 17:17,19 | Kallor 1:17,19 11:17 | 5:2 10:4 | number 5:18,22 |
| 11:1,7,13,20 12:3 12:5,12,18 13:1,8 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | Mike 5:23 10:2,6 | 0 |
| 13:15 14:3,10,22 | Hesitatingly 10:17 historic 7:20 | Karen 1:12,13,25 9:13 10:2,5 21:4 | 19:16 | office 7:3 |
| 15:10 16:11,18 | hit 4:10 | 21:24 | minutes 10:21 | Oh 9:18 15:5 17:19 |
| 18:6,13,19 19:17 | home 5:10 | keep 5:21 | missed 19:5 | Okay 2:21 5:13 9:5 |
| 20:3,9 | hope 5:6 | keeping 9:21 | mission 5:20,25 8:1 | 10:18 13:24 16:4 |
| February 10:20 | hospital 5:8 | knew 2:7 | month 6:10 12:1 | 17:25 19:11 |
| 12:1 15:1 | hospitalized 5:8 | know 3:11,15,22 | Montville 15:13,18 | Once 12:5 |
| fine 7:22,24 | HR 6:22,23 | 5:7 6:10 7:1,25 | 15:24 16:2 | one-year 13:12 |
| finish 9:23 | | 8:2 | morning 5:15 | operations 16:14 |
| Firefighters 15:13 | I | | motion 2:11,12,14 | opportunity 13:18 |
| 15:19,20 16:2 | idea 16:9 | L | 4:5,13 13:25 14:3 | opposed 3:3 4:16 |
| first 4:10 14:18 | identified 6:16 | Laurie 1:13 10:5 | 16:1 17:15,23 | 4:21 7:13 11:1,7 |
| 17:23 | immediate 9:2 | legal 19:24 | 18:7 19:11,22 | 11:14,20 12:6,6 |
| focus 8:3 | Improvements 13:4 | letter 15:23 | motions 2:4,22 | 12:12,18 13:1,8 |
| IVUS 0.3 | r | | | 12.12,10 13.1,0 |

| | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 14:5,11,22 15:10 | practice 7:20 | reports 18:10 | 14:17 15:7,8,15 | subcommittee |
| 15:20 16:12,18 | preceding 21:6 | request 10:14 | 16:6,7,16,24 | 16:22 17:3,9 |
| 18:8,13,19 19:18 | preface 7:15 | 13:11 | 17:22 18:3,4,11 | 19:24 |
| 20:3,9 | prepared 5:24 | Requests 12:21 | 18:17,25 19:14,15 | substitute 10:15 |
| opposition 4:17 | present 1:10,15 | requirement 7:17 | 20:1,7 | successful 20:11 |
| order 2:3 9:21 10:1 | 3:23 | requires 7:18 8:3 | seconded 4:19 | suggest 9:16 |
| organize 4:24 | presupposes 6:15 | requiring 7:7 | 16:10 20:8 | suggested 3:4 |
| original 6:24 7:7,13 | pretty 6:12 | respect 8:14 | see 6:3 10:7 13:23 | support 14:14 |
| 7:19 | prior 9:21 | response 10:11 | seeing 8:21 | sure 3:8,10 5:1 9:18 |
| | priorities 8:4,4 9:2 | result 7:23 | seen 7:16 | system 6:17 11:24 |
| P | priority 8:8,17 | retirement 1:1,17 | Senich 13:22 | 12:14 |
| pages 21:6 | probate 14:15,25 | 1:18,18 6:14,22 | sense 3:21 | systems 11:25 |
| paperwork 6:21,23 | 16:14 | 6:23 7:8 8:10,13 | sent 2:11 3:2 5:9 | |
| 7:4,8 | Proceeding 2:1 | 11:9,24 12:14,14 | sentiments 5:16 | T |
| part 2:6 | process 6:24 8:4,22 | 21:8 | service 8:10 11:24 | table 2:25 13:22,25 |
| participated 4:23 | processing 8:18 | retirements 6:4,11 | 16:21 | 14:4 |
| particular 9:25 | proper 3:13 | 8:5,5 11:24,25 | Services 1:17,18,18 | tabled 12:23 |
| passed 4:5 | Public 21:5,24 | 12:1,8,9 14:15 | session 2:6 18:22 | take 4:8 9:17 |
| Paul 1:13 10:3 18:5 | purchase 16:21 | right 4:15 15:25 | 19:2,12,20 | talking 4:2,3 |
| pay 14:25 | put 7:24 | 16:10 17:8,11,14 | set 6:2 | technology 6:11 |
| payroll 6:5,13 8:6 | | Rizzio 19:3,12,25 | sheet 16:15 | 8:20 |
| pending 11:25 | Q | Robert 1:13 10:1 | show 5:3 | telephone 5:11,22 |
| pension 7:17 8:13 | quarantined 7:1 | Roberts 19:9 | sign 10:6 | tends 6:10 |
| people 3:9 5:21 | questions 7:4 9:7 | Robinson 1:16 | signature 7:7 | terms 5:20 6:2,8,11 |
| 7:12 8:11,23 | quick 3:4 | 11:16 | signatures 6:25 | 6:12 7:4,21 |
| period 6:1 14:25 | quickly 7:16 9:17 | role 10:16 | 7:13,14,19 | thank 2:21 4:23 5:4 |
| personnel 6:24 | | roll 3:5,22,25 4:3 | signed 10:6 | 9:5,12,13 10:12 |
| 19:24 | <u>R</u> | Rose 1:17,19,19 | signify 4:16 14:4,11 | 10:18,24 14:9 |
| Peter 1:11 4:7 5:17 | read 17:8,12 | 3:19 5:2 10:2 | 18:7,13 | 15:5,9,16 16:25 |
| 5:23 9:16 10:3 | Real 3:4 | 11:16 | signs 6:23 | 17:25 18:5,12,18 |
| petition 19:3 | really 5:19,24 9:17 | ruling 19:8 | six 8:1 | 18:24 19:16 20:10 |
| physician 5:7 | receive 6:6,15 | | soon 2:8 | Thankfully 6:1 |
| place 7:24 8:15 | recognize 5:4 | S | sorry 3:6 9:18 12:4 | things 6:8 |
| plan 6:12 8:15 | recommendation | safe 5:6,21 | 13:19 15:5 19:4 | think 3:9,19,21 |
| plans 7:22,25 | 12:22 19:24 | Sal 9:15 10:13 | Spak 17:4,7,12,13 | 4:13 7:10,23 |
| play 10:16 | recommendations | Sandra 1:11 | 17:14,18,19 | third 4:18 |
| please 2:12 3:7 4:6 | 16:21 | saying 4:16 7:15 | speak 3:17 4:6 9:23 | thought 9:19 |
| 5:14 9:23 10:16 | recommends 17:3,9 | 14:4,11 17:1 18:7 | SPEAKER 17:21 | three 2:24 |
| 17:16 | reconsideration | 18:13 | specifically 5:1 | time 5:11,21 6:1 |
| point 4:7 7:11 | 19:25 | says 15:23 17:3,6,9 | ss 21:1 | times 5:17 |
| pointed 17:2 | regular 1:5 12:8 | scanned 6:16 | stand 9:4 | timing 6:2,8 |
| policies 7:6 | 21:8 | scene 5:4 | start 7:8 | today's 4:24 |
| policy 7:9 | related 16:22 | scheduled 8:19 | State 1:1,1 11:9,23 | tomorrow 8:19 |
| position 6:5 | relaxing 7:6 | screen 13:23 | 21:1,5,7 | top 17:5,5 |
| possible 8:22 | relying 7:12 | second 2:21,23 | statement 16:14 | total 14:7 |
| Poulin 1:14 2:14,16 | remotely 4:25 8:22 | 4:10,13,14 10:22 | status 18:23 | Town 15:18,24 |
| 10:7 11:12 18:9 | report 2:4,18,19,19 | 10:23 11:5,11,18 | statute 7:17 | 16:1 |
| 18:15 | 4:11,12,19,22 | 12:2,10,16,24 | stays 5:6 | transcription 21:7 |
| practical 3:9 | 5:13,14 6:3 18:16 | 13:6,13 14:2,16 | stepped 5:19 | travel 11:10 |
| | 18:16 | | | |

| triage 8:15 | work 4:25 5:19 8:1 | 30 2:18,19 |] | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| triage 8.13 | working 5:10 7:9 | 31 16:15 | | |
| 0 0 | C | 31 10.13 | | |
| truncated 2:5 | 9:3 | 4 | | |
| Trustee's 11:10 | works 5:7 8:21 | 4 11:15 | | |
| trying 2:7 5:17 | wouldn't 15:18 | 411:13 | | |
| 7:24 | wrote 13:20 | 5 | | |
| two 2:17 4:9 7:23 | | 5 16:23 | | |
| typo 17:2,16,17,20 | X | 3 10.23 | | |
| 18:2 19:10 | Y | 6 | | |
| U | yay 3:17 | 6 11:16 | | |
| UConn 9:9 | | 67 2:18 4:12 18:10 | | |
| unable 7:3 | Z | 68 4:19 18:16 | | |
| unanimous 11:21 | Zoom 1:6 21:9 | | | |
| 12:19 13:2,8 14:5 | | 7 | | |
| 14:11,23 15:10 | 0 | 7 11:22 | | |
| 16:12,18 18:20 | 00064 1:25 21:4 | 8 | | |
| 19:18 | 08/31/2024 21:25 | <u> </u> | | |
| unanimously 4:5 | 1 | 9 | | |
| 17:3,9 | 1 10:20 18:23 | 9 11:23 | | |
| unfortunate 6:9 | | 9:00 1:6 2:1 21:9 | | |
| Union 11:10 | 10 12:8 | 7.00 1.0 2.1 21.7 | | |
| unwilling 7:2 | 11 12:8 | | | |
| update 18:23 | 12 8:2 12:13 | | | |
| usual 10:14 | 13 12:21 | | | |
| utilizing 8:19 | 14 13:4 | | | |
| | 149 6:4 | | | |
| V | 15 13:10,17,21 14:6 14:10 | | | |
| VCP 18:23 | 16 14:13 15:3,4 | | | |
| Vibert 1:25 21:4,24 | 17 15:3,4 | | | |
| virus 5:10 | , | | | |
| voluntary 11:24 | 18 14:24 | | | |
| vote 2:25 3:5,25 4:3 | 19 1:5 2:13 15:13 | | | |
| votes 3:17 4:6 | 21:10 | | | |
| voting 3:10,11 | 19th 3:2 | | | |
| | 1st 6:10 | | | |
| <u>W</u> | 2 | | | |
| want 5:4,9 13:17 | 2 11:3 | | | |
| wanted 2:8 13:18 | 20 16:13 | | | |
| 13:21 | 2019 2:18,19 16:15 | | | |
| way 3:14 | 18:16 | | | |
| we'll 5:23 | 2020 1:5 2:13 16:23 | | | |
| we're 3:19 5:25 7:6 | 21:10,13 | | | |
| 7:24 8:1,11,20 9:3 | 21 2:17 16:20 | | | |
| 19:21 | 22 2:18 18:9 | | | |
| weeks 7:23 8:2 | 23 18:15 | | | |
| weigh 7:11 | 24th 21:13 | | | |
| welcome 10:19 | | | | |
| went 19:19 | 3 | | | |
| wife 5:12 | 3 11:8 17:2,5 | | | |
| | | l | I | l |