STATE OF CONNECTICUT --
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

JULY 16, 2020 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:00 a.m.

Commission Members 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
Absent:
Paul Fortier, Trustee
Also Present:
Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole
Natalie Braswell, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel, Rose Kallor
John Herrington, Retirement Services Division
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Michael Rose, General Counsel, Rose Kallor

Karen Vibert, LSR #00064

NIZIAKIEWICZ & MILLER REPORTING SERVICES
(860) 291-9191
(Proceeding commenced at 9:00 a.m.)

MR. ADOMEIT: We'll call the meeting to order. This is the monthly meeting of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission trustees being held remotely on the 16th of July.

Persons in attendance, Ms. Cieslak?

MS. CIESLAK: Certainly. In no particular order, I have Trustee Claude Poulin, Trustee Robert Coffey, Trustee Michael Bailey, Trustee Carl Chism, Trustee Timothy Ryor. Chairman Peter Adomeit. I also have Trustee Karen Nolen, Trustee Angel Quiros, Trustee Sal Luciano, Trustee Karen Buffkin, Trustee Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee Michael Carey, Trustee Janet Andrews. I have myself, Cindy Cieslak. I have Colin Newman from the Retirement Services Division, I have Natalie Braswell, counsel to the comptrollers' office. I have municipal liaison Mark Sciota. I have Michael Rose. I have John Flores. I have John Herrington from the Retirement Service Division. I have Martha Carlson from the comptroller's office, and Bruce Barth.

MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you.

MS. CARLSON: Peter, could -- I'm sorry.

Mr. Chairman, could I just ask a point-of-order
question --

MR. ADOMEIT: Go ahead.

MS. CARLSON: -- of Cindy?

If this meeting is being recorded, do we not have to, each of us, state our presence rather than you read the list? If there's any question as to whether anybody was actually not here and you read their name anyway? Do you understand what I'm saying?

MS. CIESLAK: I do understand what you're saying. I know that we need -- definitely when you speak, you're supposed to state your name and title. I would have to go look at the executive order real quick about those who are --

MS. CARLSON: That's fine. It's just a question for those that don't speak, the only proof, so to speak, that they are in the meeting is you stating that they are. That's all. That was just my question.

MR. ROSE: Does this record the video as well or is it just audio?

MS. CIESLAK: It records the video.

Everyone I think can see everyone's names at the bottom. The video does not have the name at the bottom of the picture. I do recall I was in one
meeting with a different agency and someone did do a roll call similar to what I just did, but that doesn't mean that they did it accurately.

Chairman, if you would like to have everyone announce themselves, you can certainly do that.

MR. LUCIANO: This is Sal Luciano.

MR. ADOMEIT: Yes, Sal.

MR. LUCIANO: I was just going to say, you're not supposed to use the Chat either, because I don't think it records the Chat. So that's just a warning.

MS. CIESLAK: It does record the Chat if the meeting is being recorded.

MR. LUCIANO: That's good to know. Thank you. I was told to avoid Chat on zoom calls.

MR. ADOMEIT: Who's No. 6200?

MS. CIESLAK: That is Mark Sciota.

MR. ADOMEIT: Hi, Mark.

Who is 45 -- no. 5917?

MS. CIESLAK: That is Angel Quiros.

MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Great. Thank you.

The Chairman's report. I'll be brief. It's been another month of the Division doing their job in very trying circumstances, and
you're to be thanked and congratulated for keeping the wheels of this operation moving smoothly. I am in awe of what you guys have achieved, and gals. I wanted to make special of note of that in the very beginning.

That concludes my report.

Marty, do you have anything you want to say at this point in time?

MS. CARLSON: I usually go after John, but I just have one update. We have received guidance from our property manager staff at DAS about our repopulation of our building. You may be reading emails about the reopening of agencies. I would -- I debate that because we've never been closed at the comptroller's office so we're referring to it as repopulating.

A couple of highlights is that the wish of the lead staff at DPH is for any State employee who can be productive by working remotely at home should plan on doing so through the fall. Until further notice, that is where we are. We do have a handful, maybe 20, 22 people out of the 275, that go in sporadically and some on a regular basis that simply can't complete their work at home.

But they've also changed the six-foot
indoor social distancing recommendation to 15 feet, which poses a really significant problem on the third floor of 165 Capitol Avenue because we are wide open with cubicles that are six by seven feet. So if you could do the math, that would mean we can only have one employee sitting in every quad. So we have -- the 50 percent fill maximum is still in place. All of the notifications of positive COVID cases are in place. The building is being cleaned diligently, but I just thought I would give you the highlights that we will continue as status quo for the foreseeable future.

And to your point, Peter, it is a colossal achievement on the part of the entire agency which settles all of the State's debts, manages all 250,000 lives and healthcare and closes the State's books. We are able to do it all remotely. So kudos to the -- kudos to our fellow State employees, and actually kudos to CoreCT because if it weren't for the stability and size and capacity of CoreCT, the Enterprise systems that we use, we would not be able to work at home.

That's it. Thank you.

MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Marty. And you are correct. I did flip the order of who spoke
first.

MS. CARLSON: That's okay.

MR. ADOMEIT: It's a COVID effect.

Division director's report, please.

MR. HERRINGTON: This is John Herrington.

I forwarded along the division director's report with the numbers for the past month. I mean, I think consistent with both the comments of the Chairman and Marty Carlson, the Division has certainly adapted to this new normal and we are able to not just complete our regular work, but we continue to keep pace with our State objectives for the year, which was, by and large across the board, to reduce and hopefully eliminate all of our backlogs in terms of our enrollment case backlogs, audits, and disabilities and such. Certainly we continue to make a great deal of progress with respect to our disability retirements, where we are, you know, now at the point where we are seeing anyone who's completed their retirement paperwork within six months of their application date and we're actually going to continue to improve that number.

To the extent that we've had any kind of hiccups, we have the annual GASB audit for MERS
and one of the steps there is that our outside auditor selects a group of entities to conduct an additional audit. That hasn't necessarily gone as smoothly this year as it has in past years because it is a random sampling of entities and some of those entities are, you know, more capable of doing their share of the work, others it's been a bit of a struggle. So that's one thing that we're working on through this week. We hope to resolve that and hopefully we will be a position to have the MERS GASB report before the Commission next month as it's scheduled, but at this point we're not a hundred percent certain whether that will occur.

MR. ADOMEIT: All right. Thank you, John. We can move on to the new matters. Sal?

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to move item No. 1, approval of the minutes. Last month's minutes.

MR. BAILEY: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to move item 2, approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission chairman's per diem expenses.

MR. BAILEY: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to move item 3, approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission union trustee per diem, with Claude abstaining.

MR. BAILEY: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it, with one abstention.

MR. LUCIANO: Requesting Commission acceptance of items 4 and 5.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Request approval of Connecticut State Employees Retirement System service retirements for the month of June.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Item 8, motion for Commission approval of Connecticut State Employees System disability retirements for June.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Point of order. Did we do
7? We have not yet done 7.

MR. LUCIANO: If we can conclude, then I'll go back to 7.

MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Sal. We're on 8. Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.


MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Item 9, approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System, municipal employees retirement for the month of June 2020.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve item 10, the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in
favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve item 11, probate judges end retirement fund personnel expenses for the pay period May 8, 2020.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Request motion to approve recommendations from the subcommittee on Purchase & Service and Related Matters meeting held June 30, 2020.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Is there any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve item 13, approval of recommendations from the Regulations & Overpayment Subcommittee meeting held on June 4, 2020.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

MR. LUCIANO: I would like to make a motion that we end the public portion of the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of VCP
correction status update, written legal opinion.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. Unanimous. The ayes have it.

MS. BROWN BREWTON: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think we need to identify who is going to remain in the executive session.

MR. ADOMEIT: Excellent. Thank you. Let's see. Attorney Cieslak?

MS. CIESLAK: Yes. If it's acceptable to the trustees, I would recommend to invite legal counsel, Bruce Barth, Michael Rose and Cindy Cieslak as well as John Herrington, Colin Newman and Natalie Braswell. I think that's it.

MR. ADOMEIT: You have the list. I don't. Any discussion? All in favor say aye of the motion as amended? The ayes have it.

(The Commission was in executive session from 9:17 a.m. until 9:29 a.m.)

MR. LUCIANO: I don't believe there's any other business. I believe adjournment is in order.

MR. BAILEY: Second.

MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.

Opposed nay. The ayes have it. Thank you so much.
(Concluded at 9:30 a.m.)
STATE OF CONNECTICUT:

: ss: Bristol

COUNTY OF HARTFORD:

I, Karen Vibert, LSR No. 00064, a Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, do hereby certify that the preceding pages are an accurate transcription of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission regular meeting held electronically via Zoom, convening at 9:00 a.m., on July 16, 2020.

Dated at Bristol, Connecticut,
this 3rd day of August, 2020.

Karen Vibert, Notary Public
My commission expires: 08/31/2024.