

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



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

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

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on April 15, 2021 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, the building was closed to the public due to 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
- 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
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent:

- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole

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Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to amend the agenda to include as Item 17: Commission Acceptance of GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2020. 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 add Item 17.

Chairman's Report

At 9:10 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He recognized and thanked everyone involved in keeping operations running throughout the past year.

Division Director's Report

At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (4/15/2021)

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 2021 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into July 2021.

- There are 117 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 26 New applications received for April 2021
 - 90 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through July 2021
 - 27 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	114	107	103	117								
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

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2020	n/a	n/a	157	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	682	584	821	740	811	3,795
Total Released to Date:													7,845

At 9:15 a.m., Ms. Carlson remarked upon the extraordinary progress that the Retirement Services Division has made under Mr. Herrington's leadership.

New Matters

- Request Commission Approval of the March 18, 2021 minutes.
 - At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes.
 - Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes.
- Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses
 - Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
- Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - At 9:18 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.
 - Mr. Poulin abstained.
 - Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - 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.
- Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.

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- i. At 9:18 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.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of March.
 - i. At 9:18 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 March.
 - 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 March.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of March.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of March.
 - 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 March.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - 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 March 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2021.

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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - 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 March 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
 - 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 Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2021.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement 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 Retirement Approvals.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and Denials.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and Denials.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and Denials.

13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.

14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February 12, 2021 through March 11, 2021.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February 12, 2021 through March 11, 2021.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February 12, 2021 through March 11, 2021.

15. Request Commission Acceptance of the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations from the Meeting held on March 19, 2021.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations from the meeting held on March 19, 2021.
 - 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 Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations from the meeting held on March 19, 2021.

16. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Operations for Fiscal year Ending December 31, 2020.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Operations for Fiscal year Ending December 31, 2020.

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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Operations for Fiscal year Ending December 31, 2020.
- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020.
- i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of December 31, 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 Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Fund B Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020.
17. Request Commission Acceptance of GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2020.
- i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin to accept the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Prepared 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 GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2020.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Albert Horvath request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
2. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
3. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation.
4. Thomas Giarratona v. CMERS – pending litigation.
5. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:21 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 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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.

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At 9:25 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.

At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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 9:26 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 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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 9:27 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 9:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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 9:28 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 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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.

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

At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, 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 9:30 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 9:30 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to deny Mr. Horvath's request for reconsideration. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Luciano and others wished Mr. Fortier good luck and congratulations on his retirement.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Fortier moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:31 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division