

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | FAX: (860) 702-3489

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on April 16, 2020, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, the building was closed to the public as a result of the spread of COVID-19 and the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Charles Casella, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- Laurie Martin, Ex Officio Member
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

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

Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. Attorney Cieslak took attendance.



Chairman's Report

At 9:03 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman recognized the Retirement Services Division for preparing the Commission's materials for the meeting.

Division Director's Report

At 9:04 a.m., Ms. Carlson recognized the work being done by all employees within the Office of the Comptroller.

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

Division Director Report (4/16/2020)

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 September 2020.

- There are a total of 197 Disability Retirement Applications of which:
 - 19 New applications received for April 2020
 - 120 Applications have been scheduled for September 2020
 - 77 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

Pending Disability Retirement Applications:

9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020
369	310	302	272	291	232	226	197

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

172 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 3 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)
 - All 3 cases will be scheduled at the next 24-month review meeting tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2020.
- 169 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.

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Pending 24-Month Reviews:

9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020
257	286	225	252	288	264	155	172

C. Disability Files Processed:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20
52	82	41	57	19	93	103	48
					Backlog	Backlog	Backlog
					Reduction Team	Reduction Team	Reduction Team
					(65)	(66)	(22)

D. Disability Backlog:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20
1953	1941	1923	1927	1922	1868	1777	1729

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20
175	162	151	100	178	166	149	268

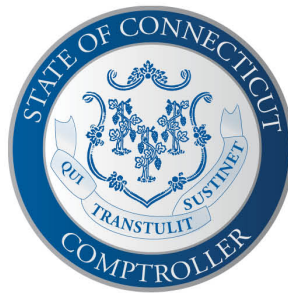
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
2. Request Commission Approval of the March 19, 2020 minutes.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the March 19, 2020 minutes.

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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 March 19, 2020 minutes.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
 - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
4. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of March.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella 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.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Robinson and Cole for CMERS rendered for the month of February.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for CMERS 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 CMERS rendered for the month of March.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of March.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella 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.

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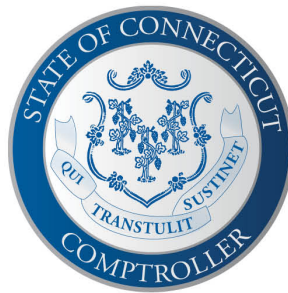
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7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of February 2020.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 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 March 2020.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 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 March 2020.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of March 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 March 2020.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 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 approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Retirements for the Month of March 2020.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
13. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.
14. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Casella 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.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February 14, 2020 through March 12, 2020.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay February 14, 2020 through March 12, 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February 14, 2020 through March 12, 2020.

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Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Virtual meetings – written legal opinion.
2. Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7M – written legal opinion.
3. Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders re: Rehires – written legal opinion.
4. VCP status update – written legal opinion.
5. David Carter/Richard Kay – pending litigation.
6. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending litigation.
7. Sueanne Curley – written legal opinion.
8. Town of Thompson – pending litigation.
9. Carolyn Isakson request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
10. Andrew Munson request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
11. David Gulick appeal – written legal opinion.
12. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
13. Brian Comerford v. SERC – pending litigation.
14. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.
15. Thomas Roberts v. SERC – written legal opinion.

At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Casella 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 Braswell, 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.

At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 1 and enter executive session for Item 2. 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.

At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to exit executive session regarding Item 2 and enter executive session for Item 3. 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.

At 9:36 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 3 and enter executive session for Item 4. 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.

At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 4 and enter executive session for Item 5. 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.

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At 9:43 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 5 and enter executive session for Item 6. 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.

At 9:44 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 6 and enter executive session for Item 7. 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.

At 9:49 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 7 and enter executive session for Item 8. 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.

At 9:52 a.m., Attorney Barth and Attorney Sullivan exited the meeting.

At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 8 and enter executive session for Item 9. 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.

At 9:56 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 9 and enter executive session for Item 10. 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.

At approximately 9:59 a.m., Ms. Andrews exited the meeting.

At 9:59 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 10 and enter executive session for Item 11. 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.

At 10:33 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 11 and enter executive session for Item 12. 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.

At 10:35 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 12 and enter executive session for Item 13. 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.

At 10:36 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 13 and enter executive session for Item 14. 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.

At 10:37 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 14 and enter executive session for Item 15. 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.

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At 10:40 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session regarding Item 15. 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.

Public Session

At 10:40 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin to accept the recommendation of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee to grant the request for reconsideration made by Ms. Curley. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Ms. Curley reconsideration.

At 10:41 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to decline to grant the request for reconsideration by Ms. Isakson. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to decline to grant the request for reconsideration by Ms. Isakson.

At 10:42 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to accept the recommendation of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee to implement Executive Order 7L(3) as directed by the Executive Order, and further, that the Division discern through surveys if any CMERS employees have exceeded the limitations of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-438(b) based on a return to municipal service as contemplated by the Executive Order. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Ms. Curley reconsideration.

At 10:43 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to grant the request for reconsideration made by Mr. Munson. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request for reconsideration made by Mr. Munson.

At 10:43 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to approve the request of Mr. Gulick and permit him to apply to purchase credit for his prior non-CMERS municipal service. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. It was determined that a roll call vote should be taken. The Chairman called for the vote. Mr. Bailey, Mr. Carey, Mr. Casella, Mr. Chisem, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Poulin voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Brown-Brewton and Ms. Nolen opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division