

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on June 17, 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
- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent

- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee

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
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- 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

Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to amend the agenda to add as Item 16: Request Commission approval of the amortization schedule for Hartford Housing Authority as prepared by Cavanaugh MacDonald. 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.

Chairman’s Report

At 9:06 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He recognized John Herrington, Martha Carlson, and the Division’s efforts on processing disability retirement applications.

Division Director's Report

At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (6/17/2021)

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 September 2021.

- There are 90 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 13 New applications received for June 2021
 - 68 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2021
 - 22 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90						
2020	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83	108

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

171 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 29 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 142 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 37 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.

C. Disability Files Processed:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	60	85	156	115	101	145						
2020	19	93	103	48	29	53	43	38	38	44	35	39

D. Disability Backlog:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2021	1,527	1,453	1,341	1,226	1,140	1089						
2020	1,992	1,868	1,777	1,729	1,765	1,739	1,732	1,687	1,687	1,675	1,625	1,596

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244							1,292
2020	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101	92	2,056
10-YR Avg	164	142	124	234	119	192	251	166	167	226	107	91	1982

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	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	661	1,233	1,366	790	1,044	1,009							6,103
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:													9,898

III. Self-Service Benefit Estimator Roll-Out:

Estimated = 13,300 Eligible for 2022 (~74% Currently have self-service estimator)

Following Mr. Herrington’s report, Ms. Carlson remarked upon current operations and anticipated retirements.

At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano requested a point of personal privilege during which he thanked the Office of the State Comptroller regarding a program for wage replacement and out of pocket medical expenses for essential workers.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the May 20, 2021 minutes.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the May 20, 2021 minutes.
 - 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 May 20, 2021 minutes.

2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano 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.

3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin’s Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
 - i. At 9:23 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.

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- 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 Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:24 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 May.
 - i. At 9:24 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 May.
 - 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 May.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May.
 - 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 May.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 2021.

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- i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 2021.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 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 Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 2021.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:24 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.
11. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.

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- i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.
12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
 - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.
13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:25 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 Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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 in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 9, 2021 through May 6, 2021.

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- i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 9, 2021 through May 6, 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 April 9, 2021 through May 6, 2021.
16. Request Commission approval of the amortization schedule for Hartford Housing Authority as prepared by Cavanaugh MacDonald.
- i. At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the amortization schedule for Hartford Housing Authority as prepared by Cavanaugh MacDonald.
 - 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 amortization schedule for Hartford Housing Authority as prepared by Cavanaugh MacDonald.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
2. Riju Das petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
3. Corey Judge petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
4. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation.
5. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
6. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:26 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, Attorney Menon, 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 9:33 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 9:33 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, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, Attorney Rose, and Attorney Sullivan were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The

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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 9:59 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 9:59 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, Attorney Menon, 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 10:02 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 10:02 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, Attorney Menon, 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 10:03 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 10:03 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, Attorney Menon, 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.

At 10:04 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 10:04 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, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman,

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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 10:05 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 10:06 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to allow Ms. Judge's application to go to the Medical Examining Board. 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.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:06 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division