



**MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on June 16, 2022 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, due to COVID-19, 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent

- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Russell Zimmerlin, counsel for Patrick Butler
- Nicole Tomassetti



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to add two items to the agenda as Items 18 and 19:

- Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 67 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees’ Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021
- Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees’ Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021

All voted in favor.

Chairman’s Report

At 9:11 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman commended the work of Ms. Carlson, Mr. Herrington and the Retirement Services Division.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (6/16/2022)

I. Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into November 2022.

- There are 127 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 4 New applications received for July 2022
 - 11 New Applications for June 2022
 - 86 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through November 2022
 - 41 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127						
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90	89	85	77	79	99	71



B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

- 15 Cases are Overdue
- 40 Cases are Scheduled
 - 17 Scheduled for June 2022
 - (9 Receiving SSD Benefits, Expedited Approval)
 - 15 Scheduled for July 2022
 - 7 Scheduled for August 2022
 - 1 Scheduled for September 2022
- 9 Cases are Tabled
- 110 Cases are Pending Due Date for 24-Month Review

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2022	356	268	337	1,137	277	723							3098
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244	291	213	234	331	159	136	2656
10-Yr. Avg.	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2130

III. Projected 2022 Retirements:

<u>Projected Retirements</u>		
(As of June 16, 2022)		
D.O.R.	Number of Intents to Retire Received	Number of Retirement Applications Received
1/1/2022	365	356
2/1/2022	263	268
3/1/2022	320	337
4/1/2022	1,148	1,137
5/1/2022	202	277
6/1/2022	732	723
7/1/2022	1,324	550
Totals:	4,314	3,648



Projected Retirements

(As of May 19, 2022)

D.O.R.	Number of Intents to Retire Received	Number of Retirement Applications Received
1/1/2022	365	356
2/1/2022	263	268
3/1/2022	320	337
4/1/2022	1,148	1,137
5/1/2022	202	277
6/1/2022	732	300
7/1/2022	1,183	81
Totals:	4,213	2,757

At 9:14 a.m., Ms. Carlson commented on the Retirement Division's efforts and added to Mr. Herrington's report.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the May 19, 2022 minutes.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the May 19, 2022 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 19, 2022 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.

STATE EMPLOYEES
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MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



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- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 2022.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of May 2022.
 - 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 2022.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May 2022.
 - 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 2022.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 2022.

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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 Service Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - 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 2022.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - 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 May 2022.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano approve Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the month of May 2022.
 - 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 Retroactive Retirements for the month of May 2022.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of May 2022.
 - 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 Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of May 2022.



12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 2022.
 - 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 2022.

13. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements Approved by the Medical Examining Board.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements Approved 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 Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements Approved by the Medical Examining Board.

14. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denials.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements 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 approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denials.

15. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Denials.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement 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 denials.

16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 8, 2022 through May 5, 2022.



- i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 8, 2022 through May 5, 2022.
 - 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 8, 2022 through May 5, 2022.
17. Request Received from Patrick Butler that the Commission consider whether the tolling of time limit is appropriate as it relates to his application for a non-service connected disability retirement.
 - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Butler's attorney, Russell Zimberlin, was invited to further present the matter, and the trustees were able to ask questions.
 - ii. At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to table the matter to next month.
 - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to table the matter to next month.
18. Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 67 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the GASB Statement No. 67 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 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 GASB Statement No. 67 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021.
19. Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021.
 - i. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 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 GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement System prepared as of June 30, 2021.

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Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. CT House Bill 5172 – written legal opinion.
2. Groton Housing Authority (CMERS participation) – written legal opinion.
3. Windsor Locks (CMERS participation) – written legal opinion.
4. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
5. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-5. Attorney Barth, Attorney Cieslak, John Garrett, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, and Colin Newman 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 Items 1-5.

At 10:00 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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

No motions were made concerning the items discussed in executive session.

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Carlson announced that Mr. Newman is retiring effective July 1, 2022 after 28 years of service. The trustees congratulated Mr. Newman.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division