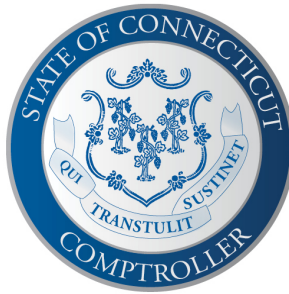


STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
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DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on June 18, 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
- 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
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Robinson & Cole
- Natalie Braswell, Retirement Services Division
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission Rose Kallor
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
- John Herrington, Retirement Services Division
- Ed Koebel, Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC
- 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 9:06 a.m. Attorney Cieslak took attendance. Chairman Adomeit swore in the newest actuarial trustee, Timothy Ryor.

Mr. Luciano asked to be recognized. Mr. Luciano acknowledged the passing of Trustee Charles Casella and stated that Mr. Casella will be missed tremendously. Mr. Luciano asked the Commission to observe a moment of silence.

At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to amend the agenda to include as Item 19: Commission Acceptance of the Probate Judges and Employees Actuarial Report dated December 31, 2019. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to amend the agenda.

Chairman's Report

At 9:11 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman stated his sentiments regarding the passing of Mr. Casella.

Division Director's Report

At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (6/18/2020)

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 October 2020.

- There are a total of 140 Disability Retirement Applications of which:
 - 15 New applications received for May2020
 - 99 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2020
 - 41 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020	6/2020
310	302	272	291	232	226	197	162	140

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

138 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 0 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)
- 138 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 58 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old. We continue to process these cases to be scheduled for 24-month review meetings scheduled to occur in July and October.

Pending 24-Month Reviews:

9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020	4/2020	5/2020
257	286	225	252	288	264	155	172	188

C. Disability Files Processed:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20
52	82	41	57	19	93	103	48	29	53
					Backlog Reduction Team (65)	Backlog Reduction Team (66)	Backlog Reduction Team (22)	Backlog Reduction Team (11)	Backlog Reduction Team (26)

D. Disability Backlog:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20
1953	1941	1923	1927	1922	1868	1777	1729	1765	1739

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

9/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	1/20	2/20	3/20	4/20	5/20	6/20
175	162	151	100	178	166	149	268	149	140

Ms. Carlson recognized the work being done by all employees within the Office of the Comptroller and provided an update.

At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to accept the Division Director's report. All voted in favor.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the May 21, 2020 minutes.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the May 21, 2020 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 21, 2020 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:21 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 9:21 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.
 - 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 May.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.
 5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of May.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.
 6. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2020.

7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2020.

8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of May 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2020.

9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of May 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of May 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 May 2020.

10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 2020.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of May 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 Municipal Retirements for the Month of May 2020.

11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.

- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.

12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Tabled and Denied by the Medical Examining Board.

- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano 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.

13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.

- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 was a brief discussion. Ms. Brown Brewton inquired about Mr. Adkins and his request that the MEB determination be tabled. Mr. Newman provided an explanation.
- iii. Following the discussion, the Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.

14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.

- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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.

15. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.

- i. At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
- i. At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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 Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 10, 2020 through May 7, 2020.
- i. At 9:28 a.m., Mr. Luciano a moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period April 10, 2020 through May 7, 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 April 10, 2020 through May 7, 2020.
18. Request Commission Approval of the following Doctor Marianne Wudarsky to become a member of the Medical Examining Board.
- iv. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano a moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve Dr. Wudarksy as a member of the Medical Examining Board.
 - v. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - vi. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve Dr. Wudarksy as a member of the Medical Examining Board.
19. Request Commission Acceptance of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Actuarial Report dated December 31, 2019.
- vii. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Actuarial Report dated December 31, 2019.
 - viii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - ix. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Actuarial Report dated December 31, 2019.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

- 1. Hartford Housing Authority – written legal opinion.

2. CMERS liability allocation – written legal opinion.
3. VCP correction status update – written legal opinion.
4. David Carter/Richard Kay – pending litigation.
5. Ronald Johnson v. SERC- pending litigation.
6. Dawn Lapan request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
7. Linda Cicarella petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
8. Jacqueline Lawrence appeal – written legal opinion.
9. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – written legal opinion/pending claim/pending litigation.
10. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
11. Brian Comerford v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:30 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Item 1. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Garrett, John Herrington, Ed Koebel, 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 10:04 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Garrett, John Herrington, Ed Koebel, 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 10:09 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:10 a.m. Mr. Garrett and Mr. Koebel exited the meeting.

At 10:10 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. 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 3.

At 10:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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 10:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. 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 4.

At 10:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. 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 5.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:24 a.m., Attorney Barth and Attorney Sullivan exited the meeting.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 10:32 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:32 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 7. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 7.

At 10:35 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin 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 10:35 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 8.

At 10:37 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:38 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 9. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 9.

At 10:43 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:43 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 10. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 10.

At 10:44 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:44 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 11. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose 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 11.

At 10:46 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton 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 10:46 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to remand Linda Cicarella's matter to the Medical Examining Board with direction to apply the workers' compensation language as it relates to CMERS. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:47 a.m., Mr. Coffey asked to be recognized. He echoed the prior thoughts stated about Mr. Casella. Mr. Coffey stated that Mr. Casella was an invaluable member on the Commission as well as the many subcommittees on which he served.

At 10:47 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to grant Ms. Lapan's request for reconsideration and refer the matter to the Purchasing Subcommittee. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:48 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to remand Jacqueline Lawrence's matter to the Medical Examining Board with direction to consider both injuries. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:49 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to authorize Commission Counsel to draft a declaratory ruling in response to Marianna Grzeszczyk's petition for declaratory ruling. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to adjourn at 10:49 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division

