

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 March 19, 2020, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- Charles Casella, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Laurie Martin, Ex Officio Member
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, 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 Herrington, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission Rose Kallor

**Call to Order**

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.



At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Ms. Brown-Brewton to amend the agenda to add two items to the agenda as follows:

1. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 67 Report as of June 30, 2019.
2. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 68 Report as of June 30, 2019.

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 include the two items as items 22 and 23, respectively.

**Chairman’s Report**

At 9:22 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation in the electronic meeting, and he also thanked those individuals who coordinated the electronic meeting. The Chairman called for attendance.

**Division Director’s Report**

At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

**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 July 2020.

- There are a total of 226 Disability Retirement Applications of which:
  - 11 New applications received for February 2020
    - 161 Applications have been scheduled for meetings into July 2020
    - 65 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

**Pending Disability Retirement Applications:**

8/2019	9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020
366	369	310	302	272	291	232	226

**B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews**

- 156 Cases are due for a 24 month review.
  - 3 Cases – Retiree is receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approval Process)

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- All 3 cases will be scheduled at the next 24-month review meeting tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2020.
- 152 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
  - 80 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old. Of the 80, 36 are ready to be scheduled for the next 24-month review meetings.

**Pending 24-Month Reviews:**

8/2019	9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020
270	257	286	225	252	288	264	155

**C. Disability Files Processed:**

8/2019	9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020
73	52	82	41	57	19	93	103
						(65 – Backlog Reduction)	(66 – Backlog Reduction)

**D. Disability Backlog:**

8/2019	9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020
1958	1953	1941	1923	1927	1922	1868	1777

**II. Normal Retirement Audits:**

8/2019	9/2019	10/2019	11/2019	12/2019	1/2020	2/2020	3/2020
193	175	162	151	100	178	166	149

Additionally, Mr. Herrington advised that the Division is working to be able to process retirement paperwork with electronic or scanned signatures in light of current events.

**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of the February 20, 2020 minutes.
  - i. At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the February 20, 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 February 20, 2020 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.

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- i. At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Ms. Brown-Brewton 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 9:32 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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 February.
  - i. At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of February.
  - 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 February.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Robinson and Cole for CMERS rendered for the month of February.
  - i. At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for CMERS rendered for the month of February.
  - 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 February.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of February.
  - i. At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of February.
  - 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 accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of February.
  
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of February 2020.
  - i. At 9:33 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2020.
  
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of February 2020.
  - i. At 9:33 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2020.
  
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of February 2020.
  - i. At 9:33 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2020.
  
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of February 2020.
  - i. At 9:34 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2020.



11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
  - i. At 9:34 a.m., Mr. Casella 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 Denials.
  - i. At 9:34 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements 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 Retirement System Disability Retirements Denials.
  
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - i. At 9:35 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.
  
14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:35 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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 Retirement Services Division Request to Discontinue the Disability Applications Due to the One Year Deadline Associated with the Right to Ask for a Reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board Denial.
  - i. At 9:36 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Retirement Services Division request to discontinue the disability applications due to the one year

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- deadline associated with the right to ask for a reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board denial.
- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Coffey requested that James Senich be tabled.
  - iii. At 9:37 a.m., Mr. Casella accepted the amendment to the motion.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Retirement Services Division request to discontinue the disability applications due to the one year deadline associated with the right to ask for a reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board denial, with the exception that the discontinuation of James Senich was tabled.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
- i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Casella 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.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
- i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Casella 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 to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
18. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period January 17, 2020 through February 13, 2020.
- i. At 9:38 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period January 17, 2020 through February 13, 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 January 17, 2020 through February 13, 2020.
19. Request Commission Approval of the Montville Fire Fighters Association Local 3386, IAFF participation in the Municipal Employees Retirement System.

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- i. At 9:39 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Ms. Brown-Brewton to approve the Montville Fire Fighters Association Local 3386, IAFF participation in the Municipal Employees Retirement System.
    - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Attorney Barth suggested that the Fire Department as a Unit be approved to participate in CMERS, as opposed to the union. At 9:40, Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Ms. Brown-Brewton to amend the motion to approve the Town of Montville Fire Fighters' participation in the Municipal Employees Retirement System. All voted in favor.
    - iii. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion as amended, to approve the Town of Montville Fire Fighters' participation in the Municipal Employees Retirement System.
20. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for period ending December 31, 2019.
  - i. At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to accept the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for period ending December 31, 2019.
  - 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 Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Statement of Operations for period ending December 31, 2019.
- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019.
  - i. At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Fortier to accept the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019.
  - 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 Probate Judges' and Employees Retirement Fund Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019.
21. Request Commission Acceptance of the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations from the Meeting held on March 5, 2020.
  - i. At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Ms. Brown-Brewton to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations from the meeting held on March 5, 2020.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Newman stated that the summary for Item 3 before the Subcommittee should state that "the Subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of Ms. Spak's request" instead of "Ms. Mangs' request."
  - iii. At 9:43 a.m., Mr. Casella moved to accept the correction, seconded by Mr. Fortier. All voted in favor.





- iv. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee Recommendations, as corrected, from the meeting held on March 5, 2020.
22. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 67 Report as of June 30, 2019.
  - i. At 9:43 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 67 Report as of June 30, 2019.
  - 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 GASB 67 Report as of June 30, 2019.
23. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 68 Report as of June 30, 2019.
  - i. At 9:44 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System GASB 68 Report as of June 30, 2019.
  - 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 GASB 68 Report as of June 30, 2019.

### **Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Rizzio petition for declaratory ruling - written legal opinion

At 9:45 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, 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 1.

At 9:52 a.m., Ms. Brown-Brewton 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 9:52 a.m., Mr. Casella moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to accept the recommendation of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee to grant reconsideration to Mr. Rizzio. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Mr. Rizzio reconsideration.

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**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Ms. Brown-Brewton moved, seconded by Mr. Casella to adjourn at 9:53 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division