

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
165 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on May 20, 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
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- 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
- Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator
- Lisa Hansen, Probate Court
- Tina Williams-Knight

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- Russell Zimmerlin, Attorney for Ms. Williams-Knight

Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Attorney Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman's Report

At 9:07 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. He recognized John Herrington and thanked everyone involved in keeping operations running throughout the past year. Mr. Adomeit also welcomed Ms. Menon.

Division Director's Report

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

Division Director Report (5/20/2021)

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 125 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 18 New applications received for May 2021
 - 107 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2021
 - 18 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

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

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

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153 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 7 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 153 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							
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							
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								1048
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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III. Self-Service Benefit Estimator Roll-Out:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
2021	661	1,233	1,366	790	1,044								5,094
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:													8,889

At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Adomeit introduced and welcomed Trustee Michael O’Brien.

At 9:14 a.m., Ms. Carlson remarked upon current operations and anticipated retirements.

At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to amend the agenda to move Item 17 (regarding the Request Received by Ms. Williams-Knight for Review and Reconsideration) to Item 18, and replace Item 17 with “Request Commission Acceptance of Additional Employer Contribution to the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System (PJERS) in the Current Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.” 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 as moved.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the April 15, 2021 minutes.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the April 15, 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 April 15, 2021 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.

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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 Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:22 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 April.
 - i. At 9:22 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 April.
 - 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 April.

6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of April.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of April.
 - 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 April.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 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 April 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 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 April 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 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 Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
 - i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of April 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 April 2021.

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11. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:23 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.

12. 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 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.

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 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.

14. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:24 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.

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15. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:24 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.

16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period March 12, 2021 through April 8, 2021.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period March 12, 2021 through April 8, 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 March 12, 2021 through April 8, 2021.

17. Request Commission Acceptance of Additional Employer Contribution to the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System (PJERS) in the Current Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.
 - i. At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the Additional Employer Contribution to the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System (PJERS) in the Current Fiscal Year Ending 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 Additional Employer Contribution to the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System (PJERS) in the Current Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.

18. Request Received from Tina Williams-Knight that the Commission Review and Reconsider its October 15, 2020 denial of her request for the Retirement Commission to direct that her May 1, 2009 application for service-connected disability go before the Medical Examining Board (Board) for reconsideration of the Board's November 20, 2009 denial.
 - i. At 9:25 a.m., Attorney Zimmerlin and Ms. Williams-Knight were invited to present their claims to the Commission.

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- ii. Following the presentation, at 9:39 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Brown Brewton to send Ms. Williams-Knight's service-connected disability application to the Medical Examining Board for reconsideration of the Board's November 20, 2009 denial.
- 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 send Ms. Williams-Knight's service-connected disability application to the Medical Examining Board for reconsideration of the Board's November 20, 2009 denial.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Virtual meetings – written legal opinion.
2. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
3. Todd Krasinsky Appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Vito Barbagallo Request for Reconsideration – written legal opinion.
5. Armando Bettini Request for Reconsideration – written legal opinion.
6. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation.
7. Thomas Giarratona v. CMERS – pending litigation.
8. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
9. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:39 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 9:50 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 9:50 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 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.

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At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session for 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 to exit executive session for Item 2 and enter executive session for Item 3. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, Colin Newman, and Attorney Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session to discuss Item 3.

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 4. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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 4.

At 10:07 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 10:08 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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 5.

At 10:13 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 10:13 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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.

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At 10:15 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 10:15 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 7. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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 10:16 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 10:16 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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 10:17 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 10:17 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 9. Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Attorney Menon, 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 10:18 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 10:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to grant Mr. Bettini's request for reconsideration and schedule an appearance before the Commission. 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 10:18 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin to grant Mr. Barbagallo's request for reconsideration and schedule an appearance before the Commission. 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 10:19 a.m., Ms. Brown Brewton moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendation of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee on Mr. Krasinsky's request. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was brief discussion that the Subcommittee recommended denial of the request. There being no further discussion, the Chairman 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 10:19 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division