

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

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

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on May 19, 2022 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Natalie Braswell, Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- 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
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, 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
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh MacDonald
- Russell Zimmerlin, counsel for Patrick Butler
- Dr. Thomas Kocienda



## Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

## Chairman's Report

At 9:05 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman commended the Retirement Services Division's efforts concerning processing of retirements.

## Division Director's Report

At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

### Division Director Report (5/19/2022)

#### 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 2022 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into September 2022.

- There are 120 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 21 New applications received for May 2022
    - 69 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through September 2022
    - 51 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

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

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**B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:**

148 Cases are due for a 24-month review (i.e. approved within the past 24 months)

- 6 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 142 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
  - 38 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.
  - 30 have been scheduled for February 2022

**II. Normal Retirement Audits:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2022	356	268	337	1,137	<b>277</b>								2375
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:**

<b>Projected Retirements</b> (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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,213</b>	<b>2,757</b>

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<b>Projected Retirements</b> (As of April 21, 2022)		
<b>D.O.R.</b>	<b>Number of Intents to Retire Received</b>	<b>Number of Retirement Applications Received</b>
<b>1/1/2022</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>2/1/2022</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>3/1/2022</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>4/1/2022</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<b>5/1/2022</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>7/1/2022</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>2,300</b>

Mr. Herrington announced the upcoming retirements of Colin Newman and Annette Sadlowski.

At 9:08 a.m., Ms. Carlson provided her remarks concerning the audits and the most recent SEBAC Agreement regarding wage increases, adjustments, and bonuses. Ms. Carlson commended the efforts of Mark Bissoni concerning his efforts as it relates to automating some of the payroll functions.

At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to amend the agenda to include as Item 18: Commission Acceptance of Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2021. All voted in favor.

At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to amend the agenda to include as Item 19: Commission Review of Request for Ms. Brown-Brewton's posthumous disability retirement application to be processed. All voted in favor.

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**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of the April 21, 2022 minutes.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the April 21, 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 April 21, 2022 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey 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.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey 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 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey 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.

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5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of April 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 April 2022.
  
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of April 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 April 2022.
  
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 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 Service Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 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 April 2022.
  
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 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 System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirement for the month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano approve Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirement for the month of April 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 Retirement for the month of April 2022.
  
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of April 2022.
  - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of April 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 April 2022.
  
12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
  - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period March 11, 2022 through April 7, 2022.
- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period March 11, 2022 through April 7, 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 March 11, 2022 through April 7, 2022.
15. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Probate Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Probate Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 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 Probate Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021.
- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the Connecticut Probate Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Connecticut Probate Balance Sheet as of December 31, 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 Connecticut Probate Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendation from the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee Meeting held on May 5, 2022.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendation of the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee Meeting held on 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 recommendation of the Hazardous Duty Subcommittee Meeting held on May 5, 2022.



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17. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of Rose Kallor contract.
  - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve a two year extension of the Rose Kallor contract.
  - 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 a two year extension of the Rose Kallor contract.
  
18. Commission Acceptance of Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2021.
  - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 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 Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation prepared as of December 31, 2021.
  
19. Commission Review of Request for Ms. Brown-Brewton's posthumous disability retirement application to be processed.
  - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the processing of the disability retirement application for Ms. Brown-Brewton.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Carey noted that the recommendation of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee was that the disability retirement application would be processed with the election of the 100% contingent annuitant option.
  - iii. Following discussion, the Chairman called for a vote.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the processing of the disability retirement application for Ms. Brown-Brewton, including the election of the 100% contingent annuitant option.

**Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. ARP Plan Amendment – written legal opinion.
2. CT House Bill 5172 – written legal opinion.
3. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
4. Douglas Latham Petition for Declaratory Ruling – written legal opinion.
5. Patrick Butler request for review pursuant to Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 5-155a-2(i) – written legal opinion.

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6. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-6 on the executive session agenda. 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 Items 1-6.

Comptroller Braswell joined the meeting for discussion on Item 2.

At 10:21 a.m., Mr. Bailey 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**

At 10:22 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the recommended ARP Plan Amendment. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin to move to ask Governor Lamont to veto House Bill 5172 because of the catastrophic consequences it would have to the CMERS plan, and to provide a letter including a potential solution. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:23 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to table Mr. Butler's request until next month in order to allow Mr. Butler's attorney to present information. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:24 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the declaratory ruling in the Latham matter as corrected by recommendations made at this meeting. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. All voted in favor.

At 10:25, Mr. Barth announced that this would be Ms. Sullivan's last Commission meeting. Ms. Sullivan stated that it had been a pleasure working with the Retirement Commission.

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**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to adjourn at 10:26 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