

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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STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on November 17, 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
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- David Krayski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

Absent

- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Tara Downes, Assistant Comptroller
- Elizabeth Doyon, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- 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 9:03 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

• **Chairman’s Report**

- At 9:04 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 9:06 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report. He discussed the transition taking place as the OSC prepares for Sean Scanlon to take office. Mr. Herrington also recognized Yam Menon and Cindy Cieslak for their work on the reemployment regulation, noting that it has passed legal sufficiency review.

Division Director Report (11/17/2022)

I. Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into February 2023.

- There are 122 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 8 New applications received for November 2022
 - 105 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through February 2023
 - 17 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90	89	85	77	79	99	71

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into March 2023.

- 36 Cases are Scheduled to go before the MEB in January, February and March
- 0 Cases are Overdue
- 29 Cases have been Tabled
- 3 Cases Seeking Reconsideration
- 123 Cases are Awaiting 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	1,436	46	52	101	50		4,783
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244	291	213	234	331	159	136	2,656
10-Yr. Avg.	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2,130



At 9:11 a.m., Ms. Carlson also commented on the transition of administrations. Ms. Carlson noted that the transition is on track. Mr. Scanlon has scheduled meetings with all of the OSC's Directors.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the October 20, 2022 minutes.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the October 20, 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 October 20, 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. Coffey 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. Coffey 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. Coffey 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 Rose Kallor rendered for the month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of October 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 October 2022.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of October 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 October 2022.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2022.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of October 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 October 2022.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2022.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of October 2022.



- i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2022.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2022.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the month of October 2022.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey approve Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the month of October 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 October 2022.
13. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Municipal Employees 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 Employees Retirement System disability retirement approvals.
14. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement 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 retirement denials.
15. 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. Coffey 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.
16. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey 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.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey 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.
18. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period September 9, 2022 through October 6, 2022.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period September 9, 2022 through October 6, 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 September 9, 2022 through October 6, 2022.
19. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
- iv. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
 - 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 the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.

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Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending litigation.
2. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-2. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Tara Downes, Elizabeth Doyon, John Herrington, Yamuna Menon, Colin Newman, and Michael 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 Items 1-2.

At 9:24 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey 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 further business was discussed in public session, and no further action was taken in public session.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to adjourn at 9:25 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division