

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 November 19, 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
- 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
- Paul Fortier, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

The following members of the Commission were absent:

- Janet Andrews, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Natalie Braswell, General Counsel Office of the State Comptroller
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- 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

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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. Chairman Adomeit advised that he has appointed Mr. Chisem to the Investment Subcommittee, and Mr. Luciano has contacted CSEA for appointment of another trustee.

Division Director's Report

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

Division Director Report (11/18/2020)

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 2021 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into March 2021.

- There are 83 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 17 New applications received for October 2020
 - 68 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through March 2021
 - 15 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

<u>11/19</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>1/20</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>5/20</u>	<u>6/20</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>8/20</u>	<u>9/20</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>11/20</u>
302	272	291	232	226	197	162	140	117	114	97	86	83

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews

169 Cases are due for a 24-month review.

- 14 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process) of which all are scheduled on 11/20/2020

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- 155Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 48 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.

C. Disability Files Processed:

<u>10/19</u>	<u>11/19</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>1/20</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>5/20</u>	<u>6/20</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>8/20</u>	<u>9/20</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>11/20</u>
82	41	57	19	93	103	48	29	53	43	38	38	44	35
				Backlog Team (65)	Backlog Team (66)	Backlog Team (22)	Backlog Team (11)	Backlog Team (26)					

D. Disability Backlog:

<u>10/19</u>	<u>11/19</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>1/20</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>5/20</u>	<u>6/20</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>8/20</u>	<u>9/20</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>11/20</u>
1941	1923	1927	1922	1868	1777	1729	1765	1739	1732	1687	1687	1675	1625

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

<u>10/19</u>	<u>11/19</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>1/20</u>	<u>2/20</u>	<u>3/20</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>5/20</u>	<u>6/20</u>	<u>7/20</u>	<u>8/20</u>	<u>9/20</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>11/20</u>
162	151	100	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101

At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Carlson advised that the administration has hired BCG Consulting regarding analysis of executive agencies for June 1, 2022.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the October 15, 2020 minutes.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the October 15, 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 October 15, 2020 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman’s Per Diem Expenses.

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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 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 9:19 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 9:19 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 October.
 - i. At 9:19 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 October.
 - 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.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of October.

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- i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of October.
 - 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.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2020.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of October 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 Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of October 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 October 2020.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Pre-Retirement Death Benefit for the Month of October 2020.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Pre-Retirement Death Benefit for the Month of October 2020.
 - 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 Connecticut State Employees System Pre-Retirement Death Benefit for the Month of October 2020.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of October 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 Employees Retirements for the Month of October 2020.
 12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Retirement System Disability Retirements Approvals.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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.
 13. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period September 11, 2020 through October 18, 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period September 11, 2020 through October 18, 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 September 11, 2020 through October 18, 2020.
 14. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the MERS Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the MERS Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
 - 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 MERS Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
 - b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the MERS Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the MERS Balance sheet as of June 30, 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 accept the MERS Balance sheet as of June 30, 2020.
- 15. a. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the SERS Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the SERS Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 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 accept the SERS Fund Statement of Operations for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.
- b. Request Commission Review and Acceptance of the SERS Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to accept the SERS Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 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 accept the SERS Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020.

Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Summary Plan Description update – written legal opinion.
2. Hartford Housing Authority – written legal opinion.
3. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/litigation.
4. Ralph Tedesco v. SERC – pending litigation.
5. Riju Das request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
6. MEB meetings – update – written legal opinion.
7. Marianna Grzeszczyk v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation/written legal opinion.
8. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
9. Brian Comerford v. SERC – pending litigation.

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At 9:23 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 Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Michael 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 9:27 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 9:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 2. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Michael 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 9:34 a.m., Mr. Bailey 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 9:34 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 3. Attorney Barth, Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Michael 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 9:40 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.

Attorney Barth and Attorney Sullivan exited the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

At 9:41 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 4. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 4.

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At 9:42 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 9:43 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 5. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 5.

At 9:57 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 9:57 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 6. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 6.

At 10:08 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 7. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 7.

At 10:10 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was some discussion by Mr. Poulin. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

At 10:10 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 8. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 8.

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At 10:12 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 10:12 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to go into executive session for purposes of discussing Item 9. Attorney Braswell, Attorney Cieslak, John Herrington, 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 Item 9.

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.

Public Session

At 10:14 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to deny the request of Mr. Das for reconsideration of his matter. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

At 10:14a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to provide Ms. Grzeszczyk with the declaratory ruling. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division

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