

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

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on May 18, 2023 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- David Kraveski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent

- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Elizabeth Gupta, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant 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.

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Division Director's Report

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (05/18/2023)

I. Disability Retirements:

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

- There are 88 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 20 New applications received for May 2023
 - 62 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through September 2023
 - 26 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	78	75	75	86	88							
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	96

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

- 52 Cases are Scheduled
- 10 Tabled Cases
 - 7 Scheduled
- 6 Reconsideration Cases
 - 3 Scheduled
- 94 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

C. Investigations: The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 7 investigation cases for August 2023.

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48	47	50								286
2022	356	268	337	1,137	277	723	1,436	46	52	101	50	30	4,813
Historical Average	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2,130

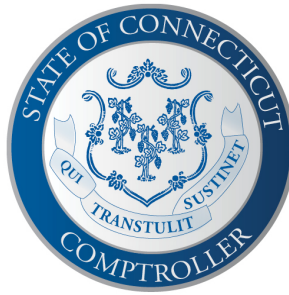
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the April 20, 2023 minutes.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the April 20, 2023 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 20, 2023 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of April 2023.

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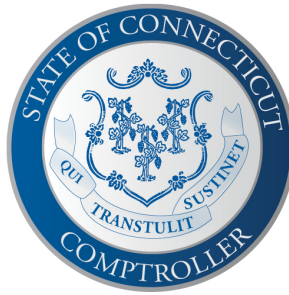
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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of April 2023.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for April 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for April 2023.
 - 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 for April 2023.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for April 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 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 for April 2023.
 - 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 for April 2023.
5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for April 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 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 for April 2023.
 - 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 to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for April 2023.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services rendered for April 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services rendered for April 2023.
 - 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 services rendered for April 2023.
7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for April 2023.

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- i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for April 2023.
 - 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 for April 2023.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - 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 2023.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - 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 2023.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of April 2023.
 - 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 April 2023.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 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 2023.
 - 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 2023.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of April 2023.

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- i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of April 2023.
 - 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 Retroactive Retirements for the Month of April 2023.

13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals for the month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement approvals for the month of April 2023.
 - 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 for the month of April 2023.

14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials for the month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials for the month of April 2023.
 - 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 for the month of April 2023.

15. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement approvals from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.
 - 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 from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.

16. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Denials from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement denials from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.
 - 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement denials from the Medical Examining Board for the month of April 2023.
17. 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 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.
 - 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 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.
 18. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the month of April 2023.
 - iv. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the month of April 2023.
 - 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the month of April 2023.
 19. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System, Retirements for the month of April 2023.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System, Retirements for the month of April 2023.
 - 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, Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System, Retirements for the month of April 2023.
 20. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayment Subcommittee held on April 20, 2023.
 - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee held on April 20, 2023.
 - 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 to approve the recommendations from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee held on April 20, 2023.
21. Request Commission Acceptance of the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on May 11, 2023.
- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano, to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on May 11, 2023.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on May 11, 2023.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. CMERS proposals – written legal opinion.
2. Cynthia Dabbs-Lindenberger – written legal opinion.
3. Richard Colangelo appeal – written legal opinion.
4. William Kenney appeal – written legal opinion.
5. James Conley appeal – written legal opinion.
6. SERC v. Town of Ellington - pending litigation.
7. Linda Cicarella v. SERC - pending litigation.
8. David J. Dunn v. William Tong et al. - pending litigation.
9. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimberlin - pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:14 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 1-9. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Elizabeth Gupta, Robert Helfand, 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 1-9.

At 10:29 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem 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.

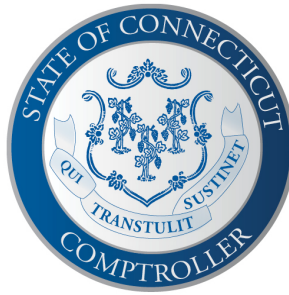
Public Session

At 10:29 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to table the Richard Colangelo matter to remand it to the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee for further examination of the legal issues. All voted in favor.

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At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Kenney's request for a remand to the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

At 10:30 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to grant Mr. Conley's request for a remand to the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to adjourn at 10:31 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division