

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 October 19, 2023 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O'Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

#### Also present were:

- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Charlotte Moller, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division
- Evelyn Silva
- Dawn McKay, P4 Steward, representing Ms. Silva



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#### Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

### **Division Director's Report**

At 9:04 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

#### I. Disability Retirements:

- **A.** Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into January 2023.
  - There are 79 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
    - 10 New applications received for October 2023
      - 59 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through January 2023
      - 20 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	92	93	90	80	79		
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	96

- o In addition, the number of tabled cases and re-consideration cases are as follows:
  - 15 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
  - 25 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- **B.** Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into March 2023.
  - 20 Cases are Scheduled
  - 2 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
  - 4 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
  - 126 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review
- **C. Investigations:** The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 0 investigation cases.



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#### **II.** Normal Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48	47	50	63	100	75	79	67			670
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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from September 21, 2023.
  - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from September 21, 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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from September 21, 2023.
- 2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for September 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 SERS Expenses for September 2023.
- 3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for September 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 September 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 September 2023.
- 4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for September 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 September 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 September 2023.



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- 5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:08 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 September 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, with Mr. Ryor abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for September 2023.
- 6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for September 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 for September 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 for September 2023.
- 7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for September 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 September 2023.
- 8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for September 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 September 2023.
- 9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for September 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 Disability Retirements for September 2023.
- 10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for September 2023.



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- i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for September 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 Retroactive Retirements for September 2023.
- 11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for September 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 September 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 September 2023.
- 12. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and/or Denials from the Medical Examining Board for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for September 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 tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for September 2023.
- 13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement approvals for September 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 September 2023.
- 14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials for September 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 September 2023.



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- 15. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. Due to the 1-Year Limitations, for September 2023
  - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve that the RSD discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations period for September 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 that the RSD discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations period for September 2023.
- 16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for September 2023.
- 17. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Retirements for September 2023.
  - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Retirements for September 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System Retirements for September 2023.
- 18. Request received from Evelyn Silva that the Commission review and reconsider its May 18, 2023 denial of her request to purchase her grandfathered normal retirement date.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to address Ms. Silva's request.
  - 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 address Ms. Silva's request.
  - iv. Ms. Silva presented her request, with assistance by Ms. McKay. The trustees asked questions of Ms. Silva and Ms. McKay.
  - v. At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Carey to refer the Ms. Silva's request to legal counsel for advice. All voted in favor.
- 19. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendation from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee Meeting held on October 10, 2023.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendation from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on October 10, 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 recommendation from the Regulations and Overpayments Subcommittee meeting held on October 2023.



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#### **Executive Session – discussion and possible action**

- 1. Yvonne Muniz appeal written legal opinion.
- 2. SERC v. Town of Ellington pending litigation.
- 3. Linda Cicarella v. SERC pending litigation.

At 9:32 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 1-3. Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, Charlotte Moller, Colin Newman, Ben Sedrowski, and Michael Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-3. 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 1-3.

At 9:59 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 9:59 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Poulin to remand Ms. Muniz's application for disability retirement benefits to the MEB, and further that the Retirement Commission encourages Ms. Muniz to provide all information provided to the Social Security Administration to the MEB for consideration by the MEB. All voted in favor.

#### Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:	
Peter Adomeit, Chairman	
Prepared by John Herrington Director Retirement Services Division	_