

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

JANUARY 22, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Lieders Nikolai, Chair
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Dr. Frank Gerratana

Also Present:

Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Annette Sadlowski, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, general counsel to the
Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division

Karen Vibert, LSR #00064

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:04 a.m.)

2

3 DR. LIEDERS: So the meeting will come to
4 order, the January 21 -- no, it's the 22nd,
5 actually. The January 22, 2021 meeting of the
6 Medical Examining Board is now in session. I am
7 Dr. Lieders. Present also are members of the
8 Medical Examining Board Dr. Frank Gerratana. I hope
9 I'm pronouncing your name correctly.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Yes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: And Dr. Ralph Rosenberg.

12 Present from the Office of the State
13 Comptroller Retirement Services Division we have
14 Mr. Colin Newman, Ms. Annette Sadlowski,
15 Mr. Robert Helfand and Mr. William Cassada. We also
16 have general counsel for the Retirement Services
17 Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

18 Do we have to amend the agenda? I
19 don't think so, do we?

20 MS. SADLOWSKI: No, there are no
21 amendments.

22 DR. LIEDERS: There are no amendments, so
23 I'm going to make a motion for us to go into
24 executive session. Is there a second?

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in
2 favor say aye. All opposed say nay. Motion passes.
3 In executive session, I'm going to request members
4 of the Retirement Services Division and and counsel
5 to remain during the meeting, please.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Lieders.

7 Ms. Waggoner, good morning. What
8 that means is we're going to go into executive
9 session to discuss everyone's medical information.
10 We do that in private so that your medical
11 information isn't shared with everyone else who can
12 view this meeting.

13 When is it your turn to make a
14 statement, you will be invited back in. So, I'm
15 going to place you in the waiting room. It could be
16 some time. It's not going to be just five minutes.
17 It will probably be at least a half hour, if not an
18 hour or more.

19 I also know that you have an
20 attorney; so, if your attorney is in the waiting
21 room when your matter is called, I will also let
22 your attorney in. All right?

23 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you.

25 (The Board was in executive session from

1 9:05 a.m. until 11:51 a.m.)

2 DR. LIEDERS: Well, we will proceed to
3 present the cases.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Hold on. I'm. Sorry.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, we're ready
7 when you are.

8 DR. LIEDERS: So, the Board will be making
9 determinations and voting on those determinations.
10 I would like to remind members that only the final
11 vote will be given today and not the reasons for the
12 vote. In some instances we might not have had
13 enough medical information to make a determination
14 or perhaps a non-service-connected disability is
15 more likely than a service-connected disability.

16 You may seek reconsideration of an
17 initial denial. You will receive the Board's
18 written determination within two to four weeks,
19 which will provide you with that additional
20 information.

21 So, I propose we do -- the ones that
22 are going to be just the change from service to
23 non-service, they're going to be pretty much
24 automatically approved, so I'm going to read the
25 names as a group.

1 So, I make a motion approve the
2 request to change from service to non-service
3 disability retirement for the following individuals:
4 Jeffrey Barrett, George Denning, Calvin Johnson,
5 Donna Maldonado, Barbarellen Olson, and
6 Christine Pantanella.

7 Any seconds?

8 DR. GERRATANA: I second that motion.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

10 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
11 say nay. The motion passes.

12 DR. LIEDERS: Okay. I'll make a motion
13 approve Irma Francis's application for
14 non-service-connected disability retirement.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

17 There being none, all in favor a say. All opposed
18 say nay. The motion passes.

19 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
20 approve Chayne Hawkins' application for
21 non-service-connected disability retirement.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

24 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
25 say nay. The motions passes.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
2 approve Thomas Kuntz's application for
3 service-connected disability retirement.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
6 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
7 say nay. The motion passes.

8 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
9 Carmen LaSalle's application for service-connected
10 disability retirement.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
13 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
14 say nay. The motion passes.

15 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
16 Louise Lee's application for non-service-connected
17 disability retirement.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
20 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
21 say nay. The motion passes.

22 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
23 approve Delondra Munn's application for
24 service-connected retirement.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
2 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
3 say nay. The motion passes.

4 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
5 approve James Orifice's application for
6 service-connected disability retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
9 There being none, all in favor say. All opposed say
10 nay. The motion passes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
12 approve Jesus Ortiz's application for
13 non-service-connected disability retirement.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
16 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
17 say nay. The motion passes.

18 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
19 approve Nelson Perez's application for
20 service-connected disability retirement.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?
23 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
24 say nay. The motion passes.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Elsa Perez de Ortiz's application for
2 non-service-connected disability retirement.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

5 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
6 say nay. The motion passes.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
8 James Riley's application for service-connected
9 retirement.

10 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

12 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
13 say nay. The motion passes.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
15 approve Kevin Rivenburgh's application for
16 service-connected disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

19 There being none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed
20 say nay. The motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
22 approve Theda Scott's application for
23 non-service-connected disability retirement.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

1 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
2 say nay. The motion passes.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
4 approve Ana Smith's application for
5 service-connected disability retirement.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

8 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
9 say nay. The motion passes.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
11 Kelly Swiatowiec's application for service-connected
12 disability retirement.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

15 There being none, all in favor say. All opposed say
16 nay. The motion passes.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
18 Nirmala Tadepalli's application for
19 non-service-connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

22 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
23 say nay. The motion passes.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny
25 Patricia Targett's application for

1 non-service-connected disability retirement.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

4 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
5 say nay. The motion passes.

6 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
7 approve Autumn Waggoner's application for
8 service-connected disability retirement.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

11 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
12 say nay. The motion passes.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Finally, I make a motion to
14 deny Larry Wilson's application for
15 non-service-connected disability retirement.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion?

18 There being none, all in favor say aye. All opposed
19 say nay. The motion passes.

20 MR. HOLDING: Can I say thank you? It's
21 appreciated. I'll leave the meeting now.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Have a good day.

23 MR. HOLDING: Thank you.

24 DR. LIEDERS: If there are no further
25 items to be addressed, I will make the motion to

1 adjourn the meeting.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Second.

3 (Concluded at 12:01 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT:
: ss: Bristol
2 COUNTY OF HARTFORD :

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4 I, Karen Vibert, LSR No. 00064, a
5 Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, do hereby
6 certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
7 transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
8 Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Boar meeting
9 held electronically via Zoom, convening at 9:04 a.m.,
10 on January 22, 2021.

11
12 Dated at Bristol, Connecticut,
13 this 10th day of February 2021.

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Karen Vibert



Karen Vibert, Notary Public
My commission expires: 08/31/2024.

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