

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

FEBRUARY 5, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:07 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Dr. J. Robert Galvin, Chair
Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld
Dr. Rita Ohene-Adjei

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 9:07 a.m.)

2

3 DR. GALVIN: Call to order. Here we go.
4 The February 5, 2021 meeting of the Medical
5 Examining Board is now in session. I omitted the
6 mission from -- the music from that.

7 Present are Dr. Rita Ohene-Adjei --
8 did I pronounce that right, Rita -- myself,
9 Dr. J. Robert Galvin, And Dr. Michael Gerstenfeld.

10 Present from the Office of the State
11 Comptroller's Retirement Services are staff members
12 Colin Newman and Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand
13 and William Cassada. And from the general counsel
14 for the Retirement Commission, Dr. Cindy Cieslak.

15 Medical Board agenda. There are
16 apparently no amendments to the agenda, so without
17 further ado, I will go into executive session. I
18 would entertain a motion to be made for the Medical
19 Evaluation Board to go into executive session.

20 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

21 DR. GALVIN: All in favor? Opposed?

22 Okay. We're going to go into
23 executive session for purposes of discussing
24 individual disability health issues, and I must
25 request that members of the Service Division be

1 allowed to remain. Okay?

2 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, those
3 remaining are William Cassada, Colin Newman,
4 Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand and
5 Cindy Cieslak.

6 (The Board was in executive session from
7 9:08 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.)

8 DR. GALVIN: We're going to vote on the
9 individual people that we have discussed. We will
10 start with D.B., and what we need to do is get
11 someone to motion that D.B.'s application for
12 disability be continued.

13 MS. CIESLAK: I just want to remind
14 everyone, for the record, when you are speaking,
15 state your name so that way we have an accurate
16 record.

17 And in public session, when you're
18 making the motion, you can say the member's full
19 name.

20 DR. GALVIN: Oh, okay. All right.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Yes.

22 DR. GALVIN: Okay. So, the first one up
23 is Bertulis. That's yours, Rita.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Right. I'm sorry. My
25 connection is -- Dr. Galvin, what did you just say?

1 DR. GALVIN: The first case we are
2 considering is the one that you discussed --
3 Bertulis -- so we need you to propose -- I motion to
4 whatever, approve or disapprove Ms. Bertulis's
5 application for continued disability retirement.

6 MS. CIESLAK: I think what Dr. Galvin is
7 suggesting is whoever presented the case in
8 executive session can make the motion.

9 DR. GALVIN: Or do you want me to do that?
10 I can make the motion on all the cases.

11 MS. CIESLAK: If it's completely up to
12 you.

13 DR. GALVIN: I'm going to do that so we
14 can move along here.

15 I motion to approve Bertulis -- I
16 don't have her first name here.

17 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Tracy.

18 DR. GALVIN: -- Tracy Bertulis for
19 continued disability. Do I have a second?

20 DR. GERSTENFELD: I second.

21 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Moved and seconded to
22 approve Ms. Bertulis for continued disability. All
23 in favor say aye.

24 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: I wish to -- I'm hoping
25 for better reception. I'm sorry.

1 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Are you going to vote
2 on Ms. Bertulis?

3 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Right. I voted to
4 approve.

5 DR. GALVIN: Okay. The motion passes.
6 She is approved.

7 The next one is Dr. Gerstenfeld's
8 case, Emmerich. Do you want to make a proposal on
9 that?

10 DR. GERSTENFELD: Sure. I motion for
11 Michael Emmerich's application for
12 non-service-connected disability retirement be
13 approved.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

15 DR. GALVIN: Any discussion?

16 Okay. All in favor say aye.
17 Opposed? The motion passes.

18 The next one is I believe mine,
19 Deborah Foss. I motion that we approve
20 Deborah Foss's application for continued
21 disability -- continued disability benefits. Do I
22 hear a second?

23 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

24 DR. GALVIN: Okay. All in favor of
25 approval say aye. All opposed say nay. The motion

1 passes.

2 The next one is also mine. I don't
3 have Mr. Gil's first name.

4 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Antonio.

5 DR. GALVIN: Antonio Gil. I motion that
6 Antonio Gil's application for continued disability
7 benefits be approved.

8 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

9 DR. GALVIN: Is there any discussion? Any
10 discussion? All in favor say aye. All opposed say
11 nay. The motion passes.

12 The next one is Rita's,
13 Mr. Esmet Ibraimov.

14 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: I make a motion to
15 approve it.

16 DR. GALVIN: Second? I second the motion.
17 Is there any discussion? All in favor to approve
18 Mr. Ibraimov say aye. All opposed? The motion
19 passes.

20 The next one is Milardo, and that's
21 Mike Gerstenfeld's case.

22 DR. GERSTENFELD: I motion to approve
23 Lucy Milardo's application for continued
24 service-connection disability retirement.

25 DR. GALVIN: Second. Is there any

1 discussion? All in favor say aye. All opposed say
2 nay. The motion to approve the continued disability
3 passes.

4 And the last one is Mr. Rembisz, I
5 guess, and's my case. I motion to approve his
6 continued disability. Do I have a second?

7 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

8 DR. GALVIN: Is there any discussion?

9 Okay. All in favor of Mr. Rembisz's
10 approval for continued disability indicate by saying
11 aye. All opposed say nay. The motion passes to
12 continue his disability.

13 That is the end of our agenda. I
14 will make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

15 If you stay on the line for a bit, I
16 will give you my email number so that you can send
17 me your reports over the next several days.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin?

19 DR. GALVIN: Yes?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Before we adjourn, I believe
21 there are five individuals who need to be approved
22 pursuant to the memorandum of understanding.

23 DR. GALVIN: Oh, okay. Yup. Can you read
24 those?

25 MS. CIESLAK: Sure.

1 So, the individuals who will be
2 approved for continued entitlement pursuant to the
3 memorandum of understanding of August 6, 2015,
4 include Lynn Maille, Wladyslawa Makowski,
5 Tracey Marquis, Annmarie Rankins, Ginger Rathbun.
6 Is there a motion to approve those individuals?

7 DR. GALVIN: Yes. Can I make a motion to
8 approve all five?

9 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

10 DR. GALVIN: I make a motion to approve
11 the list of the five individuals indicated. Do I
12 have a second?

13 DR. OHENE-ADJEI: Second.

14 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Is there any
15 discussion about this group of five individuals?

16 All in favor of approving them,
17 indicate by saying aye.

18 If there are -- all opposed say nay.
19 The motion passes.

20 Is that it, Cindy, or do we have some
21 other stuff?

22 MS. CIESLAK: That's it.

23 DR. GERSTENFELD: I apologize. Can you
24 just explain what that is, those five people, what
25 we just approved?

1 MS. CIESLAK: Sure. So, there is a
2 memorandum of understanding between the union and
3 the State that was reached in August of 2015 that
4 says if an individual is approved for Social
5 Security Disability Insurance, they do not have to
6 go through a -- well, that means they're
7 automatically deemed approved for their 24-month
8 review. It means that they should be considered
9 unable to work in a suitable and comparable
10 position.

11 DR. GERSTENFELD: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. CIESLAK: It's sort of -- they have
13 to -- because the Superior Court -- actually, the
14 Supreme Court has said that the Medical Examining
15 Board is the sole arbiter of disability, it still
16 has to come before the Medical Examining Board for
17 approval; but, you also have a directive that was
18 collectively bargained that says if they have the
19 SSDI, they should be deemed unable to perform a
20 suitable and comparable job.

21 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Anything else? If
22 not, I'm going to move to adjourn the meeting.
23 Please hang on, my colleagues, for a couple minutes
24 after we're adjourned. I'll give you my email
25 address.

1 Motion to adjourn the meeting. Do I
2 have a second?

3 DR. GERSTENFELD: Second.

4 DR. GALVIN: Any discussion? All in favor
5 of adjourning the meeting indicate by saying aye.

6 Opposed indicate say -- if you're opposed say nay.

7 The motion passes. The meeting is adjourned.

8 (Concluded at 10:01 a.m.)

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

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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 9:07 a.m.,
10 on February 5, 2021.

11

12 Dated at Bristol, Connecticut,
13 this 15th day of February, 2021.

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

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