

STATE OF CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
PURCHASE OF SERVICE AND RELATED MATTERS SUBCOMMITTEE

MARCH 19, 2020 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 2:29 P.M.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman
Sandra Fae Brown-Brewton, Trustee
Carl Chisem, Trustee
Robert D. Coffey, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:

Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, General counsel to the
Retirement Services Commission
Colin Newman, Assistant Division Director, Retirement
Services Division

1 Court Reporter: Karen Vibert, CSR No. 00064

2 Proceedings commenced at 2:34 p.m.)

3 MR. ADOMEIT: I think I'll call the
4 meeting to order. This is a meeting of the State
5 Employees retirement Commission, Purchase of Service
6 and Related Matters Subcommittee being held by
7 teleconference on March 19, 1921.

8 Cindy, you have the role call,
9 please?

10 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I think it's 2021,
11 Peter.

12 MR. ADOMEIT: What did I say.

13 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: 1921.

14 MR. ADOMEIT: Did I really? Well, you
15 know what? I'm looking at the March 19th. You
16 should never look at your notes when you say
17 something. You should always look in your mind.
18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. CIESLAK: This is when we get for
20 having a meeting on a Friday afternoon.

21 All right. Those present are
22 Chairman Peter Adomeit, Trustee Robert Coffey,
23 Trustee Sandra Fae Brown-Brewton, Trustee
24 Carl Chisem.

25 Colin Newman, Assistant Director from

1 the Retirement Services Division, and I'm
2 Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Retirement
3 commission.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you very much.
5 The first item on the agenda is Mr. Caminero.
6 Colin?

7 MR. NEWMAN: so, Mr. Caminero. it's a
8 little bit of I maze here. He was employed in August
9 of 2004. Now, at the date of hire there's supposed
10 to be two forms completed, one being the CO-931, and
11 the other form is the CO-1088, which is the request
12 for any miscellaneous service that a person may have
13 had.

14 So, when Mr. Caminero was hired, the
15 agency, it appeared that they completed the CO-931
16 and forwarded that to the Division; however, they
17 didn't -- a CO-1088 was not completed. As you can
18 see from the communication from our agency to the --
19 from our agency to judicial, basically, informing
20 them that that form needed to be completed. So we
21 sent that to them October 12th of 2004.

22 Mr. Caminero apparently went on
23 military leave around October 25th of 2004; so, when
24 he came back, what the agency did was they completed
25 another -- they completed the CO-1088. They sort of

1 left that incomplete. They didn't put in the dates
2 of service for his military service on it; but, they
3 provided the CO-1088 plus what they attached -- they
4 attached the initial note from us to them, from
5 October 12th of 2004, and they attached a copy of
6 his DD-214 to reflect his period of military leave.

7 They used the wrong form. They
8 should have used the CO-1090; but in any event, we
9 processed the application for the military leave
10 period in 2007, and so he has -- he has
11 subsequent -- he had subsequent periods ever
12 military leave over the years for which he has then
13 had a CO-1090 completed so that he gets the credit
14 for that.

15 Then in 2017, we received another
16 CO-1088 where they are requesting for two periods --
17 the two periods of service, of military service.
18 One of them was this -- was for another period of
19 military leave that he had from November of '14 to
20 May of '17. The other one was for this period of
21 prior military service from basically a four-month
22 period from March of '99 through July 31st of '99.

23 While we sent him an invoice for the
24 military leave, we sent him an administrative denial
25 letter for the period of prior military service

1 based on the fact that the application -- you're
2 supposed to apply for that within one year -- within
3 the first year of your commencement of State
4 employment.

5 Mr. Caminero -- he sent an appeal
6 letter in October of last year basically
7 requesting -- requesting to see if he could be
8 approved for that first -- that period of prior
9 military service. He basically explained that he --
10 you know, he went away on military -- on military
11 service, and, you know, admittedly he said that
12 wasn't the first thing he was thinking about when he
13 first came back into state employment.

14 So, based on everything, that's what
15 he miss claim is, he's looking to see if he can get
16 credit for the first period of prior military
17 service.

18 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you, Colin.
19 Any comments?

20 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: We have to look at
21 these to see if there was agency error. I know there
22 have been some problems with the form being submitted
23 at the beginning; but, that seemed to have been
24 cured.

25 Is there any other agency error we

1 can point to, Colin?

2 A MR. NEWMAN: Not really. It would have
3 been that when they initially didn't send -- you
4 know, didn't send the form when they should have,
5 because he did -- he actually did complete it within
6 the -- you know, as required, within his first year.
7 It's just that it never arrived at the Division,
8 and, you know, set up the sequence of events after
9 he came back from the military service.

10 I mean, it's quite -- I mean, it's
11 possible that if he hadn't gone out militarily, that
12 it may have been processed at that point; but, he
13 went away on military leave and didn't come back
14 until late November of 2005.

15 MR. ADOMEIT: Colin, so I understand it,
16 he was on military leave when the time limit
17 expired. Am I correct?

18 MR. NEWMAN: Correct, correct, because he
19 would have had up to August of 2005 in which to
20 basically make the request for the period of prior
21 military service.

22 MR. COFFEY: Do we have any other cases
23 that are similar in terms of the employee being away
24 on military leave, you know, at the time that the
25 deadline would expire?

1 MR. NEWMAN: I haven't really researched
2 it. I haven't really come across any recent cases
3 like that. There may be cases like that in the
4 past; but, I haven't -- I haven't seen anything
5 recently with regards to this.

6 MR. COFFEY: I mean, I have some sympathy
7 for him in that he was --

8 (Outside interruption.)

9 MR. COFFEY: But I have some sympathy for
10 him in that, you know, he had to go back into
11 military service, I believe to Iraq.

12 MR. NEWMAN: Right.

13 MR. COFFEY: It does make you wonder but
14 for the fact that he was away --

15 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: He was deployed.

16 MR. COFFEY: Yeah, he missed the
17 opportunity; but, I really would like to know if
18 there were other situations we've had like this.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Okay. You want me to see if
20 I can research to find other cases that are similar
21 to this?

22 MR. ADOMEIT: I have not read the Soldiers
23 and Sailors Relief Act recently; but, it was
24 obviously designed to protect our servicemen who go
25 overseas. I'm wondering whether that Act has any

1 bearing, either directly or indirectly, through the
2 morality of it in our decision.

3 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Well, we can't treat
4 him any more harshly than we would anybody else
5 because of his military service, and so, applying
6 that principal, he was given the opportunity to
7 purchase the time even upon return, correct, Colin?

8 MR. NEWMAN: Well, it's interesting. So,
9 he completed -- right, right. So, he completed the
10 form. He completed another -- or he signed off on
11 another CO-1088 when he returned; but, it was like
12 incomplete because they never actually -- all they
13 put was "U.S. Army" in the description. They didn't
14 put down the dates for which he was applying for.

15 The other thing, though, is that they
16 attached the period of time when he was out on
17 military leave. They didn't attach -- there wasn't
18 an attachment for his DD-214 for prior -- his four
19 months of prior military service. So, that's the
20 reason why I guess we probably should have picked up
21 on the fact that the form that was provided was not
22 the adequate form; but, we went ahead and processed
23 the military leave because there was no indication
24 about his -- about this prior military service. It
25 was only in 2017 when he came forward and asked

1 about -- asked why he basically hasn't received
2 credit for that time, because all he's -- he had
3 subsequent military leave, as you can see.

4 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Right. Didn't miss a
5 beat with that, right?

6 MR. NEWMAN: Didn't miss a beat with that.
7 Applied for it and apparently wasn't thought --
8 well, that's his argument, that he wasn't thinking
9 about it when he returned in 2005.

10 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I'm willing to look at
11 this from the perspective of agency error, because
12 they did make the mistake in the beginning with
13 respect to failing to provide the correct form, no
14 DD-214. And, on that basis, I'd be willing to grant
15 his request.

16 MR. COFFEY: I would be very comfortable
17 with that as well.

18 MR. CHISEM: I'm fine with that, too.

19 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: So moved.

20 MR. COFFEY: Second.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.
22 Unanimous. The ayes have it. Thank you very much.

23 Okay. Moving on, Dale DeeGaetano.

24 MR. NEWMAN: This one's even more
25 confusing.

1 So, he's a Tier III hazardous duty
2 employee hired June 14, 2013. So, he completes a
3 CO-991, which is the equivalent form for Tier III
4 members and provides his DD-214 for his period of
5 prior military service from April 12th of 2011
6 through May 22nd of 2012.

7 So, if you look at Exhibit A, this is
8 the -- this is the form that was received in by the
9 agency -- by the Division, and as you can see there,
10 apparently the period of time from March 2002 to
11 March of 2006 appears to be scribbled out; but, then
12 it's added back in at the -- underneath the period
13 of time from April 2011 to May of 2012. But, this
14 is the form that was received by the Division in
15 2013.

16 So, the Division, what we do is when
17 we go to process -- well, we looked to process this
18 in 2014, and we sent him -- sent him a letter. We
19 sent him a letter on June 9th of 2014 -- this is
20 Exhibit C -- basically saying, We sent you an
21 invoice for the period of time that we had the
22 documentation for, which was the April 2011 to
23 May 2012 time; but, you never responded. You never
24 responded to the invoice; so, we're giving you one
25 last shot at doing it. The form -- the attached

1 form he needed to complete to basically advise us
2 whether or not he was still interested in doing the
3 purchase.

4 Clearly, you know, it says, I'm aware
5 that failure to respond to the subsequent revised
6 invoice within the prescribed time frames will
7 result in the close of my file. There may not be
8 another opportunity in the future. Well, it should
9 say, For me to obtain this additional credit.

10 So, he does actually fill it out and
11 says, Yes, I want -- I am still interested. I
12 want -- please give me a revised invoice for this
13 service; but, at the same time, he provides a DD-214
14 for that first period from March of 2002 to March of
15 2006, and he basically --you know, he writes in,
16 While you're at it, please figure out the cost for
17 this one -- for this period of service, also, which
18 we do. We send him an invoice, Exhibit E. We sent
19 him an invoice with both periods of service on it,
20 and we mailed it to him.

21 He never responds. He never responds
22 to the -- never responds to it. You know, I just
23 noted that when we closed this file, whoever did put
24 this together, put the wrong date, put this
25 11-20-2013 date in there and it should have been

1 from 2014.

2 But, essentially, he never responded
3 to the revised invoice.

4 So, in 2018, we get a memo from the
5 State Police where they attach different
6 applications. One of them was for a military leave
7 and then the -- then they provide another
8 application which includes the prior military
9 service for both periods, the one from 2002 to 2006
10 and 2011 through 2012.

11 What's interesting is the DD-214 --
12 which is Exhibit G -- comes in and it was supposed
13 to be -- it's like it was -- like if you looked at
14 it closely, it looked like something had been whited
15 out, and then they just sent -- re-sent the same
16 invoice.

17 In any event, we've got one invoice
18 reflecting the April 2011 to May 2012 time, and then
19 there's another invoice that's separate but that's
20 more up to date in 2018 requesting the 2002 to 2006
21 time. We sent the letter, basically
22 administratively denying it because of the one-year
23 deadline rule. He then sends his appeal letter in
24 March of last year and basically he's looking to
25 lay -- I guess like lay blame at the agency, at the

1 HR person by basically saying that because --
2 clearly she sent him an email way back in Exhibit I.
3 Apparently, she sent him an email like after, like a
4 week after he got hired, explaining what she was
5 submitting on his behalf because he hadn't provided
6 the DD-214 for that your-year military period. Oh,
7 and actually -- and this is part of the like
8 evidence that he submitted along with the letter,
9 and if you look at -- there's the CO-1088. That's
10 where you can see where like dates have been whited
11 out and it's -- yeah, it's not clear exactly what's
12 going on.

13 So, he's asking if the one-year
14 deadline can be waived and he could get credit for
15 his prior military service.

16 MR. ADOMEIT: Any comments?

17 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: No.

18 MR. ADOMEIT: I'll wait.

19 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: That was in response
20 to Colin's query.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: Oh, okay.

22 MR. NEWMAN: Essentially, he got the
23 invoice back in 2014 and he never responded to it.

24 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Period. End of story.

25 Full stop.

1 MR. COFFEY: Colin, we have nothing from
2 the agency assuming any responsibility for what
3 happened?

4 MR. NEWMAN: Well, the individual
5 apparently has retired, that would have been
6 involved with him back in 2013. And the fact that
7 the agency, they just sent -- they just sent the
8 memo basically that they were unaware what had
9 happened prior to that.

10 MR. COFFEY: I'll move that we deny.

11 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Second.

12 MR. ADOMEIT: Any further discussion?
13 Hearing none, all in favor say aye. There are no
14 no's, so the ayes have it. It was unanimous,
15 correct?

16 MR. COFFEY: Yes.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Moving on to
18 Andrew Hull.

19 MR. NEWMAN: Actually, I think I sent a
20 revised agenda yesterday.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: What's the next item?

22 MR. NEWMAN: David Gulick.

23 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. How do you spell the
24 last name?

25 MR. NEWMAN: G-U-L-I-C-K. I sent --

1 MR. ADOMEIT: I'm looking in my emails
2 right now.

3 So, Colin, where does he see -- or
4 say that the error is?

5 MR. NEWMAN: What is he saying that the
6 error is?

7 MR. ADOMEIT: Yes. He doesn't agree with
8 the calculation.

9 MR. NEWMAN: Right, he doesn't agree with
10 the calculation.

11 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: That's different than
12 his friends.

13 MR. NEWMAN: Right. Basically, his
14 argument is the same one I believe we just dealt
15 with Brian Comerford. He doesn't agree with the
16 method of where -- because the language in the
17 statute --

18 MR. ADOMEIT: I see.

19 MR. NEWMAN: -- is different from
20 the way -- the benefit -- uh, the service is
21 calculated under this particular statute.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Not identical; but
23 cComerford could certainly be persuasive.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: She wants to buy a new Volvo
25 at the price of an '84.

1 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I would deny. Move to
2 deny the request.

3 MR. COFFEY: I'll second.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: Any further discussion?
5 Hearing none, all in favor say aye. Unanimous. The
6 ayes have it. Thank you very much.

7 Okay. Can I go back now to
8 Andrew Hull, Colin?

9 MR. NEWMAN: Yes.

10 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. NEWMAN: So, this is a tabled item
12 from the December 2nd meeting. Essentially, you
13 know, Mr. Hull, he was -- he was rehired into State
14 service in January of 2019 by WestConn as a
15 full-time faculty member. He completed the required
16 documentation at hire, including the CO-991 where he
17 was requesting retirement credit for his prior
18 military service from April of '94 through January
19 of '98. When this was reviewed, the application was
20 denied based upon the fact that the application had
21 to occur within the first year of the commencement
22 of State service.

23 The records reflected that he
24 actually had started State service in January of
25 2017 and we had sent him a letter basically

1 informing him of that in 2019. In February of 2019.
2 He appealed. He's appealed our administrative
3 denial. The argument was when he got hired, he was
4 an adjunct, and he basically stated that he was
5 never advised of his rights with respect to applying
6 for his -- applying to get credit for his prior
7 military service. We had no record of ever
8 receiving a CO-931 or a CO-991 when he was hired by
9 Naugatuck back in 2017. In fact, the only time we
10 did receive one from them was when he had a change
11 of address.

12 It came before this body and you
13 recommended tabling it because you wanted to see --
14 because of the fact we had -- I reached out to NVCC
15 to comment on his assertions, and I got an email
16 back in response. Basically they said that they had
17 emailed him at least two CO-931s, and with respect
18 to -- that if he wasn't going to choose a plan, he
19 was going to default into Tier III; but, there was
20 no mention that the CO-991 was ever discussed and
21 there's never been one produced for when he was
22 hired by them.

23 So, they didn't -- when I asked the
24 question, Was there a CO-911, they never addressed
25 it in the response.

1 MR. CHISEM: So, it sounded like he was
2 right, Colin, that there was nothing that would tell
3 him or indicate to him that he had any knowledge
4 that he could do that, right?

5 MR. NEWMAN: Right. It appears that they
6 were concerned more with his Tier placement and the
7 fact that they wanted him to complete the -- you
8 know, to choose a plan.

9 MR. CHISEM: Right.

10 MR. NEWMAN: Which to go in.

11 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Sounds like agency
12 error to me. I could be wrong; but, I don't think
13 so.

14 MR. COFFEY: I agree.

15 MR. ADOMEIT: Are we ready for a motion?

16 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I would move to grant
17 his request.

18 MR. CHISEM: Second.

19 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor say aye.
20 It's unanimous, right? The ayes have it.

21 Moving on, Nicole Justice.

22 MR. NEWMAN: So Nicole Justice. So, she
23 was just recently hired in August of last year at
24 UConn. And there's another one of these, I guess
25 because of the -- obviously, having to work

1 remotely, the HR was working with, you know, the new
2 hires on a remote basis, and I guess had given her a
3 date in which to be able to get the paperwork back
4 in by her date of hire, which was August 23rd of
5 2020. So, it appeared that she sent in -- she
6 sent -- a CO-931 was sent in. It appears that she
7 elected to go into the hybrid plan and then she must
8 have -- like three days later she -- there was some
9 discussion between UConn and her because it appears
10 that she misunderstood. She thought that the ARP --
11 she thought she was choosing the lower -- the lowest
12 contribution rate where she saw -- where for some
13 reason she missed the 8 percent for the hybrid and
14 she may have been looking at the fact that she would
15 be required to contribute 1 percent for the DC
16 portion. She doesn't say that; but, she's
17 essentially now requesting that she be allowed to go
18 into ARP because of what appears to be the lowest
19 amount of contribution required, and she provides
20 her reasons why she wants to rescind her membership
21 in hybrid and then go into ARP.

22 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: She will be sorry.

23 With the issues concerning virtual
24 orientation and really not having an opportunity to
25 meet face to face with someone and have these

1 details explained to her, I would submit that she
2 wants it today. Let's just wait 30 years.

3 But, I would move to grant her
4 request.

5 MR. ADOMEIT: Is there any indication as
6 to who was advising her? Is she self-advised?

7 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: There's correspondence
8 from Jessica Van Alstyne over at UConn, and, I mean,
9 I know we were all working remotely. I was
10 communicating with UConn both UConn folks remotely
11 through this period, so I don't question what she's
12 saying at all.

13 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay.

14 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: That 1 percent, she
15 blinked and missed the 8 percent. Okay. I get
16 that.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: So, is there any further
18 discussion?

19 Fae, do you want to make a motion?

20 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I move to grant
21 MS. Nicole's request to swap into the ARP plan from
22 the hybrid plan.

23 MR. COFFEY: I'll second.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: Any further discussion?

25 Hearing none, all in favor say aye. No opposition.

1 Unanimous, the ayes have it.

2 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I won't be around when
3 she comes back.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: Yeah. Well, she'll receive
5 justice. I just don't know the definition of it.

6 Jessica Stefanowicz?

7 MR. NEWMAN: Yes. So, Jessica Stefanowicz
8 was the employee that passed away at age 41 in
9 September of last year. This body recommended to
10 accept her posthumous application, disability
11 retirement application, which the Commission
12 accepted that recommendation; however at the time it
13 wasn't stated under which option this benefit -- if
14 approved for the disability, under which option the
15 beneficiary would be payable.

16 So, the Commission reverted it back
17 to this body to determine under which option --
18 which benefit option should be chosen.

19 MR. COFFEY: Colin, is there any evidence
20 anywhere showing that she would have opted for the
21 hundred percent option?

22 MR. NEWMAN: The only -- I don't -- I
23 don't think so. It's more -- all the evidence that
24 was provided was about the fact that she would be
25 looking to retire because she didn't -- you know,

1 she was being encouraged to like seek retirement
2 because they didn't believe that she was going to --
3 the person she was texting with, it didn't appear
4 that -- they didn't think she wasn't going to be
5 able to come back; but, there wasn't any discussion
6 anywhere as to under like what option. Do you think
7 I should just go with a hundred percent? You know,
8 I want my husband to get the maximum amount that he
9 can get. It wasn't anything like that.

10 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: From the text message
11 it's clear she was concerned about protecting her
12 son Nathan, and so I would submit that although, you
13 know, it could be clearer, you know, just like a
14 dying declaration: I am aware of the imminence of
15 death. People don't always say that; but, from the
16 communication, it's clear to me that she was
17 concerned about protecting her own.

18 MR. NEWMAN: Yes. She talks about, you
19 know, having someone please connect Chris -- that's
20 her husband.

21 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: That's her husband?

22 MR. COFFEY: Yes. Please connect Chris
23 with Sandy or someone to do the paperwork.

24 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Obviously, she didn't
25 hate his guts.

1 MR. COFFEY: I'm all right with giving the
2 full amount, and if we see that there's enough here
3 to grant the benefit and nothing to indicate, you
4 know, that she would want to do something that's
5 really adverse to her family's interest, it makes
6 sense to believe that she would have wanted the
7 beneficiary to have the 100 percent.

8 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Are we ready for a
9 motion?

10 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Isn't that what you
11 did, Bob?

12 MR. COFFEY: I think that is what I did;
13 but let me restate it.

14 I move that we recommend to the
15 Commission that the amount of benefit be the full
16 100 percent option.

17 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I'll second that.

18 MR. ADOMEIT: Is there any further
19 discussion? Okay. Hearing none, all in favor say
20 aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

21 Okay. Mario -- is it Trapanese?

22 MR. NEWMAN: Yes.

23 So, Mr. Trapanese. It appears he was
24 hired into State service September 30th of 2011 as a
25 per diem sub instructor, and we had placed him in

1 Tier II A because at the time, that's when -- that
2 was just after SEBAC 2011, and people were still
3 being placed in Tier II A until we were able to
4 correct that, which we did in this case, where he
5 was correctly placed into Tier III in December of
6 2011.

7 So, he -- at the time when he was --
8 when he was hired, he did complete the CO-1088.
9 When he completed it, he basically signed off saying
10 that he didn't have -- he didn't have any qualifying
11 service that he could get retirement credit for.

12 MR. ADOMEIT: Colin, that's when he was
13 hired as a per diem?

14 MR. NEWMAN: That's when he was hired as a
15 per diem in September, yeah.

16 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you.

17 MR. NEWMAN: So, we received that in
18 October of 2011.

19 Because he was a per diem, he would
20 be like terminated, rehired, terminated, rehired.
21 So, he eventually gets a position, still with the
22 Department of Education, and I believe it was in --
23 oh, in 2015. He received -- he got hired as a
24 building and grounds patrol officer at Goodwin.
25 Yeah, at E.C. Goodwin Technical School.

1 So, he submits a CO-911 as a Tier III
2 member, a request for his prior military service
3 from January of '66 through October of '67. And
4 along with that, we get the corresponding DD-214.

5 About a month later we respond,
6 basically denying it, again saying it was not
7 received within the first year of commencement of
8 State service, and we tell him that he -- that that
9 wasn't -- that the records show it was December 1st
10 of 2011.

11 He's appealing that administrative
12 denial. He's saying that he didn't know -- he
13 totally understands; but, he basically says he
14 didn't know his job change from being a per diem
15 substitute to the building and grounds patrol
16 officer all of a sudden made him eligible to
17 purchase retirement credit for his prior military
18 service.

19 Again, this is something that he
20 actually did complete -- he completed the CO --
21 well, at the time, the CO-1088; but, it's
22 questionable as to if like he fully understood -- to
23 me, that he fully understood what he was signing
24 off, saying that he doesn't have the credit.

25 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: So when did the light

1 bulb go on?

2 MR. NEWMAN: I don't know. I don't know
3 if it was when gets -- I don't know if it's because
4 he's looking to --

5 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Retire?

6 MR. NEWMAN: -- retire, because his --
7 because this new application came in in September of
8 this year. It's like nothing was even done when he
9 got rehired in 2015.

10 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: He was rehired.

11 MR. ADOMEIT: So, Colin, it looks like
12 when he was initially hired, he filled out the
13 correct form, I take it?

14 MR. NEWMAN: He filled out the correct
15 form; but, he signed off saying that he doesn't have
16 any qualifying service.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: Now, why did he do that?

18 MR. NEWMAN: That's hard to say.

19 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. When I read the facts
20 of this case, I said, This doesn't compute.

21 MR. NEWMAN: Right. And the fact that the
22 agency just accepted it, signed it and sent it on
23 its way.

24 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: What was he supposed
25 to do other than that?

1 MR. NEWMAN: Right, right, right, right.
2 They wouldn't have questioned. They wouldn't have
3 questioned it. Okay. You don't have any qualifying
4 service.

5 MR. ADOMEIT: Was that factually accurate
6 at the time?

7 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Not if we believe he
8 had prior Vietnam military service.

9 MR. NEWMAN: But there's no evidence
10 anybody got -- you know, whether or not he was asked
11 that question about whether or not he had the
12 service.

13 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: But he did sign off on
14 the document declaring he didn't?

15 MR. NEWMAN: Right. Quite honestly, when
16 we sent that denial letter, we should have indicated
17 that we had this on file, or record, that he was
18 basically ineligible because he already signed off
19 saying he didn't -- he didn't have any qualifying
20 service.

21 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: In 2020, they
22 submitted a document with the DD-214?

23 MR. NEWMAN: Correct.

24 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: So, he had the service
25 at the time, way back when?

1 MR. NEWMAN: Right.

2 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: The only thing that
3 has changed is time.

4 MR. NEWMAN: Right.

5 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: He wasn't thinking
6 about retirement at that time; but, today, it's kind
7 of important. That's just how I see it. I mean,
8 it's not that he's not going to be -- it is not as
9 if he's going to be without a retirement benefit.
10 He's going to have a retirement benefit. It's just
11 not going to be enhanced by the military time,
12 correct, Colin?

13 MR. NEWMAN: Actually, yeah. If he has
14 10 years of vesting, because he's Tier III -- so,
15 right now, if he's been working continuously since
16 2015, yeah, he has at least five years, and it
17 depends on how much time he has between 2011 --
18 well, actually between 2011 and 2015. That's only
19 four years. So, even if he got date-to-date
20 service, that's nine years. So he still has at
21 least another year or so in which to work to
22 qualify.

23 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: So January of '66 to
24 October of '67 gets him there.

25 MR. NEWMAN: Yeah, it will. Maybe that's

1 what he figured out.

2 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I mean, the one year
3 is there for a reason.

4 MR. NEWMAN: Right.

5 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: It's not just for
6 people to ignore until they get close to retirement
7 time and they say, Oops.

8 MR. NEWMAN: Right.

9 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: I would move to deny
10 the request, heartless wonder that I am.

11 MR. COFFEY: I feel exactly the same way
12 when it comes to this kind of stuff. But, he said
13 he didn't have service at the time that he was
14 supposed to tell us.

15 I have to second your motion, Fae.

16 MR. ADOMEIT: All right. It's been moved
17 and seconded to deny. Is there any further
18 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.
19 Opposed nay. The ayes have it.

20 Okay. I think that completes the
21 agenda. Am I correct this time?

22 MR. COFFEY: I'll move that we adjourn.

23 MS. BROWN-BREWTON: Second.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.

25 Opposed nay. The ayes have it. Thank you all very

1 much.

2 (Concluded at 3:29 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 Purchase of Service and Related
8 Matters Subcommittee of the State Employees Retirement
9 Commission meeting held electronically via Zoom,
10 convening at 2:34 p.m., on March 19, 2020.

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Dated at Bristol, Connecticut,
this 30th day of March, 2021.

Karen Vibert
Karen Vibert, Notary Public
Commission expires: 8/31/2024



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