

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

JULY 15, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:04 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Frank Gerratana
Dr. Sohrab Zahedi
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLC

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

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

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5 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. We have
6 a lot of people trying to connect to the audio, so I'm
7 giving them a second to make sure they can hear
8 everything.

9 All right, Dr. Rudich, you may proceed when
10 you're ready.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The July 15th,
12 2022 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
13 session. I'm Dr. Lynn Rudich, Chairperson. With us is
14 Dr. Frank Gerratana and Dr. Sohrab Zahedi. Present
15 from the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement
16 Services Division are Robert Helfand, William Cassada,
17 Helena Bartolomeo. We also have General Counsel for
18 the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, this is Cindy
20 Cieslak. I apologize for the interruption. I also
21 want to note that Colin Newman from the Retirement
22 Services Division is present.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Thank you.

24 I make a motion to go into executive session.
25 I also request that members of the Retirement Services

1 Division and counsel be allowed to remain. Is there a
2 second?

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Any
5 discussion? There being none, all in favor, say aye.

6 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

7 DR. RUDICH: Aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The motion passes
10 unanimously.

11 For members of the public, what this means is
12 the doctors are going into executive session, which is
13 not open to the public. So I will place all the
14 members of the public back in the waiting room, and
15 they are going to discuss the applicants' medical
16 information. That is the purpose of the executive
17 session. That way your medical information is not made
18 public. And then if you are on reconsideration, you
19 will be invited to make a statement. And everyone else
20 (inaudible) when we enter public session, and you will
21 be able to hear the decisions during the doctors'
22 public session.

23 So I'm going to be placing everyone in the
24 waiting room right now.

25 (The Board was in executive session from 9:05

1 a.m. until 10:51 a.m.)

2 MS. CIESLAK: And Colin at Colin's iPhone,
3 can - hold on a second.

4 All right, Dr. Rudich, you can proceed when
5 you are ready.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. We've gone out of
7 executive session. The Board will be making
8 determinations and voting on these determinations but
9 would like to remind members that only the final vote
10 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.
11 In some instances, there may not have been enough
12 medical information to make a determination or perhaps
13 a non-service-connected disability is more likely a
14 service-connected disability.

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

19 We are (inaudible) take our votes now. I
20 make a motion to approve the application for non-
21 service-connected disability retirement of Carl Artman.
22 Is there a second?

23 DR. ZAHEDI: Second.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Zahedi seconded the motion.
25 Is there any further discussion? There being none, all

1 in favor, say aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

3 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed? It's unanimous;
6 the motion passes.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
8 the application for service-connected disability
9 retirement of Thomas Banulski.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: It's unanimous; the motion
17 passes.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
19 the application for service-connected disability
20 retirement of Ahmed Bedir.

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Second, Zahedi.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
23 being none, all in favor, say aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: The motion passes unanimously.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
4 the application for service-connected disability of
5 Mark Brown, but the Board would look favorably on non-
6 service-connected disability.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
9 being none, all in favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
13 motion passes.

14 Dr. Zahedi, I did not catch your vote on that
15 matter. I think it was just an audio glitch.

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Aye? Okay. The motion passes
18 unanimously.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
20 approve the application for non-service-connected
21 disability retirement of Ernest Danek.

22 DR. ZAHEDI: Second, Zahedi.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
24 being none, all in favor, say aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

1 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
4 motion passes unanimously.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
6 the application for service-connected disability
7 retirement of Jose Gil, but the Board would look
8 favorably on non-service-connected disability.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
11 being none, all in favor, say aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

13 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
16 motion passes unanimously.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
18 approve the application for service-connected
19 disability retirement of Kevin Holloran.

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
22 being none, all in favor, say aye.

23 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes unanimously.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
4 the application for non-service-connected disability
5 retirement of Lori Laprise.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
8 being none, all in favor, say aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

10 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
13 motion passes unanimously.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
15 the application for service-connected disability
16 retirement of Angel Martinez, but the Board would
17 favorably on non-service-connected disability.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Zahedi seconded the motion.
20 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
21 favor, say aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The

1 motion passes unanimously.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
3 the application for service-connected disability
4 retirement of William Mihaliak.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
7 being none, all in favor, say aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

9 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
12 motion passes unanimously.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
14 approve the service-connected disability retirement of
15 Cindy Noel.

16 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Zahedi seconded the motion.
18 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
19 favor, say aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

21 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
24 motion passes unanimously.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny

1 the application for non-service-connected disability
2 retirement of Michael Otero.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
5 being none, all in favor, say aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

7 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
10 motion passes unanimously.

11 MR. OTERO: (Inaudible) I wanted (inaudible)
12 for Michael Otero, for the rejection of that, for the
13 non-service disability for Michael Otero, that that's a
14 nay from me. There will be a-

15 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Mr. Otero.

16 Dr. Rudich, you may proceed.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
18 approve the application for non-service-connected
19 disability of Heather Prescott.

20 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Zahedi seconded the motion.
22 Is there any further discussion? There being none, all
23 in favor, say aye.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
3 motion passes unanimously.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to deny
5 the application for service-connected disability
6 retirement of Margie Soto.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
9 being none, all in favor, say aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

11 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
14 motion passes unanimously.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
16 approve the application for non-service-connected
17 disability retirement of Lucien Vaillant.

18 DR. ZAHEDI: Zahedi, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Is there a second?

20 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Zahedi seconded the motion.
21 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
22 favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
2 motion passes unanimously.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
4 change the application from service to non-service-
5 connected disability retirement and approve the
6 applications for the following: Manuel Gomes, Calvin
7 Johnson, Christine Pantella, Linda Turgeon. Is there a
8 second?

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.
10 Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There
12 being none, all in favor, say aye.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

14 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
17 motion passes unanimously.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
19 adjourn this meeting of the Medical Examining Board.
20 Is there a second?

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor, say aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Aye.

25 DR. ZAHEDI: Aye.

1 MS. CIESLAK: All right, we are adjourned.
2 Thank you, everyone.

3 MR. NEWMAN: Cindy, if we have a couple of
4 minutes after we're all done, just got a couple
5 questions.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Yep.

7 (Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.)
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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:04 a.m. on
July 15, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

08/11/2022

Date