

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:03 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. J. Robert Galvin
Dr. Frank Gerratana
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 LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:03 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Our meeting come to
6 order. The October 7th, 2022 meeting of the Medical
7 Examining Board is now in session. I am going to be
8 chairing the meeting, Nikolai Lieders. We also have
9 Dr. Frank Gerratana and Dr. John Galvin. Present from
10 the Office of the State Comptroller, Retirement
11 Services Division, are Robert Helfand, I'm assuming is
12 here, Colin Newman, William Cassada, and Helena
13 Bartolomeo, also General Counsel for the Retirement
14 Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, this is Cindy
16 Cieslak. I'll just note for the record that Robert
17 Helfand is not here.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: He is not here, okay,
19 because his name is on the list here. Okay.

20 So there is not any - we don't need to amend
21 the agenda. The agenda stays as it is. So I'll make a
22 motion for us to go into executive session.

23 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Is there any
25 discussion? All in favor, say aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

2 DR. GALVIN: Aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye. All opposed, say
4 nay. Motion passes. We're going to go into executive
5 session. I'm going to ask Colin Newman, William
6 Cassada, Helena Bartolomeo, and Cindy Cieslak to remain
7 with us during executive session.

8 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. Thank
9 you, Dr. Lieders. I'm going to place the members of
10 the public into the waiting room, and then when we
11 return to public session, you'll be invited back.

12 (The Board was in executive session from 9:04
13 a.m. until 11:10 a.m.)

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Are we ready to move
15 on?

16 MS. CIESLAK: Yes, Dr. Lieders, you can
17 proceed when you're ready.

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Okay. Dr. Lieders
19 here. The Board will be making determinations and
20 voting on those determinations but would like to remind
21 members that only the final vote will be given today
22 and not the reasons for the vote. In some instances,
23 there may not have been enough medical information to
24 make a determination, or perhaps a non-service-
25 connected disability is more likely than a service-

1 connected disability. You may seek reconsideration of
2 an initial denial. You will receive the Board's
3 written determination within two to four weeks, which
4 will provide you with that additional information.

5 So now I am going to proceed with the voting.
6 So I make a motion to deny Maria Beltran's application
7 for non-service-connected disability retirement.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
17 deny Justin Blandino's application for non-service-
18 connected disability retirement.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

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

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
3 deny Robert Brown's application for service-connected
4 disability retirement, however the Board will look
5 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
6 retirement.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye.

11 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 MS. CIESLAK: All opposed, say nay. The
15 motion passes.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
17 approve Christopher Choinski's application for service-
18 connected disability retirement.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

23 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

1 motion passes.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
3 approve Martin D'Amico's application for non-service-
4 connected disability retirement.

5 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

9 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

13 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
14 deny Dianna Gilbert's application for non-service-
15 connected disability retirement.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

20 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

24 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
25 deny Tywana Johnson's application for service-

1 connected disability retirement, however the Board will
2 look favorably upon a non-service-connected disability
3 retirement.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

8 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
13 deny Kristina Kaczorowski's application for service-
14 connected disability retirement, however the Board
15 would look favorably upon a non-service-connected
16 disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve Amer Khan's application for non-service-
2 connected disability retirement.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
12 approve Frank LaRose's application for non-service-
13 connected disability retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Aye, Lieders.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
21 motion passes.

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
23 deny Alec Mandia's application for service-connected
24 disability retirement, however the Board would look
25 favorably upon a non-service-connected disability

1 retirement.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

6 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

10 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
11 deny Lourdes Montalvo's application for service-
12 connected disability retirement, however the Board
13 would look favorably upon a non-service-connected
14 disability retirement.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

19 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
22 motion passes.

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
24 approve Zofia Mroczek's application for non-service-
25 connected disability retirement.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

4 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
8 motion passes.

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
10 deny Michelle Nadeau's application for service-
11 connected disability retirement.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay. The
19 motion passes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
21 deny Litcy Solhjoo's application for non-service-
22 connected disability retirement.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

1 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

2 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

6 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
7 deny Kelly Spinello's application for service-connected
8 disability retirement.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

12 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

13 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
18 approve Carolyn Timmon's application for non-service-
19 connected disability retirement.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

24 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

3 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
4 approve John Torello's application for non-service-
5 connected disability retirement.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

10 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

14 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to
15 table Sara Vazquez-Guerra's application for non-
16 service-connected disability retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

25 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: The next four are for

1 change from service- to non-service-connected. So I'm
2 going to read - because it's the same request, I'm
3 going to read the four names. I'll make a motion to
4 approve the request to change from service- to non-
5 service-connected disability retirement for the
6 following people: Hortense Morais, Jose Gil, Georgia
7 Brown, and Cheryl Lewis.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

11 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: So we went through the
17 whole list. So if there is no - sorry. I was going to
18 say if there's no further business, I was going to make
19 a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

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

22 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. GALVIN: Aye, Galvin.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

25 MS. CIESLAK: We are adjourned. Thank you

1 all very much.

2 CHAIRPERSON LIEDERS: Yes, thank you very
3 much for everybody, and have a nice weekend.

4 MS. CIESLAK: You too.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Great job.

6 (Adjourned at 11:21 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 9:03 a.m. on
October 7, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

11/03/2022

Date