

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman
Carl Chisem, Trustee
Michael Bailey, Trustee
Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee
Karen Buffkin, Trustee
Michael Carey, Trustee
Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex officio
Member
Sal Luciano, Trustee
Karen Nolen, Trustee
Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
Michael O'Brien, Trustee
Claude Poulin, Actuarial Trustee
Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
Angel Quiros, Trustee
Timothy Ryor, Actuarial Trustee
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
Michael Carey, Trustee
Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel, Robinson & Cole
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
Vicky Pilon, Paralegal, Rose Kallor
Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller,
Office of the State Comptroller
John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald, Consulting LLC

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:00 a.m.)

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5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: This is the January 20th-

6 MR. FLORES: I think we lost him.

7 MR. ROSE: All right.

8 MS. CARLSON: Well, let's give him a moment
9 to get back on, obviously. I've been known to push the
10 button that I don't agree with the recording, and it
11 sends me completely out of the meeting because I pushed
12 red instead of green.

13 MR. FLORES: I just hope he realizes - yeah,
14 he should, when no one responds to him.

15 MR. ROSE: Yeah, I just got to find - make
16 sure I can see how we invite him back in this waiting
17 room.

18 What I'll do since we're not conducting
19 business-

20 MS. CARLSON: Wait a second. I can see how I
21 can invite him.

22 MR. ROSE: Okay.

23 MS. CARLSON: Mike, if you go - this is your
24 Zoom call; right?

25 MR. ROSE: It is.

1 MS. CARLSON: If you go to the participants
2 and scroll all the way down, there's a button that says
3 invite, and you should be able to pull him in.

4 MR. ROSE: Okay. I just don't see him on
5 there.

6 MS. CARLSON: Well, go all the way down and
7 you'll see a little button that says invite and you
8 just - when you hit invite, it'll have him type in his
9 name somehow.

10 MR. O'BRIEN: Email address.

11 MS. CARLSON: His email address, right. This
12 is beautiful, me talking about the technology, you
13 understand.

14 MR. ROSE: Yeah, that might be a stretch
15 right now because I don't have his email right up.
16 Peter's calling me right now. Hang on. And what I was
17 going to do is just turn the recording off, folks.

18 (Recording paused)

19 (Recording resumed)

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: --myself. I got it.
21 Okay, there we go. Okay. From the top, this is the
22 January 20th, 2022 meeting of the - monthly meeting of
23 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission
24 being held remotely.

25 Do we have the attendance, please?

1 MS. PILON: Do you want me to read the
2 attendance?

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes, please.

4 MS. PILON: I have Alisha Sullivan, Tax
5 Counsel with Robinson & Cole. We have Carl Chisem, a
6 Trustee; Claude Poulin, an Actuarial Trustee; John
7 Flores, General Counsel to the Office of the Treasurer;
8 John Herrington, Division Director; Karen Buffkin, a
9 Trustee; Karen Nolen, a Trustee; Mark Sciota, a
10 Municipal Liaison; Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller;
11 Michael O'Brien, a Trustee; Michael Rose, General
12 Counsel; Michael Bailey, a Trustee; Ms. Menon, General
13 Counsel and Assistant Comptroller; Mr. Adomeit,
14 Chairman; Mr. Coffey, a Trustee; Mr. Luciano, a
15 Trustee; Mr. Ryor, an Actuarial Trustee; and myself,
16 Vicky Pilon.

17 And I don't know if I've missed anybody.

18 MS. SIMONSEN: Oh, you missed me, Rebecca
19 Simonsen.

20 MS. PILON: I'm sorry.

21 MS. SIMONSEN: I think, or maybe I missed
22 (inaudible).

23 MS. PILON: No, I've got you checked.

24 MS. SIMONSEN: Okay.

25 MR. CAREY: Vicky, I'm not - did you catch me

1 as well? Mike Carey.

2 MS. PILON: I did not. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Anyone else? All right.

4 MR. QUIROS: Quiros?

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Did you get Angel, Angel
6 Quiros?

7 MS. PILON: Yes.

8 MR. QUIROS: Okay, thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. At the outset, we
10 need a motion to amend the agenda.

11 Mr. Poulin?

12 MR. POULIN: Mr. Chairman, this is Claude
13 Poulin. I move to amend the agenda to add after Item
14 15, the following Item 16, request the Commission's
15 acceptance of the Report of the Actuary on the
16 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Valuation
17 prepared as of June 30th, 2021, and the following Item
18 17, request the Commission's acceptance of the Report
19 of the Actuary on the Judges, Family Support
20 Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement
21 System prepared as of June 30th, 2021.

22 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or
24 raise your hand.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All opposed, nay, or raise
2 your hand. The ayes have it.

3 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question
4 on the agenda.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Sure.

6 MR. BAILEY: This is Michael Bailey speaking.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Sure, go ahead.

8 MR. BAILEY: Item Number 7 appears to be a
9 gremlin, I think, asking for the April 2021 month.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes. That was also
11 pointed out by Trustee Carey, and I think the
12 explanation is that it is accurate, I believe.

13 MR. BAILEY: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: And I think Colin Newman
15 can explain that when we get to it.

16 MR. BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, thank you.

18 Okay, Chairman's report, as usual, we have
19 functioned very well in the middle of a pandemic, and a
20 shout-out and congratulations to everyone out there in
21 the Division, to John, to Marty, for helping this along
22 and actually improved our services under very trying
23 circumstances.

24 Division directors, administrative, and
25 subcommittee reports, Division Director.

1 MR. HERRINGTON: Good morning, everyone. As
2 you see, I've circulated a report that looks a little
3 bit different this month, where we have kind of worked
4 through our efforts for the disability backlog and have
5 eliminated that backlog, and therefore there's not much
6 to report on there. Going forward with respect to the
7 focus of the agency - or of the Division, we are
8 focused on our preparations for 2022. This is the
9 first month where we're really seeing that uptick, and
10 at the same time, kind of seeing the benefits of all
11 the work that we've done up to this point.

12 As you'll see, January was a relatively heavy
13 month. It was slightly higher than what we anticipated
14 based on where we were for last month's meeting with
15 the number of intents to retire that we had. For last
16 month's meeting, it was 327. We actually had 356
17 retirements. There have only been five months over the
18 past 10 years that have been at that level or higher.
19 In terms of the intents to retire that we've received
20 thus far, you know, we've received, you know, over 600
21 for April, and these are numbers that were confirmed as
22 of yesterday. I think that, you know, if I were to
23 confirm those numbers today, that number would be, you
24 know, over 700, and I think it just continues to climb.

25 So we don't know exactly what the number is

1 going to be, but we are doing everything that we can to
2 be in a position to manage that number. We've released
3 self-service to all of the individuals that have
4 records conducive to the release of self-service and
5 have identified all of the other kind of outliers and
6 are tracking the intents and applications that we
7 receive based on our previous work in assigning them to
8 different silos for the different level of work that's
9 required to go through.

10 What I will say is that we were able to get
11 through that number, 356, for January despite, you
12 know, some issues that we had with staffing related to
13 COVID. We had a couple of auditors that went down; we
14 had the holiday period; we had vacations; and we were
15 still able to hit that very high number without as much
16 kind of stress and strife as we typically would have,
17 and that's just based on the work that we've done up to
18 this point.

19 We continue to monitor this. We continue to
20 talk internally about allocating resources across
21 different divisions within the agency, and at this
22 point, we're trying to find efficiencies where there
23 might be some tasks that we complete in RSD and that's
24 duplicative of work that's either done by the pod, the
25 DAS pod, by our payroll or benefits division, and we're

1 trying to streamline those as best we can. So that's
2 kind of where we are in terms of improving our
3 processes going forward.

4 But I think that this will continue to be a
5 journey, and I expect that, you know, next month's
6 report will have much higher numbers. But we're still,
7 you know, now looking at 1,800 retirees and those are
8 just people that have submitted intents to retire by
9 July 1st and that's almost a year's worth of retirements
10 in a typical year.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you. Are there any
12 comments or questions?

13 Okay, hearing none, Marty Carlson, do you
14 have anything to add?

15 MS. CARLSON: Yeah, just a couple of things,
16 you know, from a front office administrative piece to
17 tag onto what John is saying. We have 30 TWR's queued
18 up at OPM for approval. We've had - I think our number
19 of retirements in the agency - and understand, whether
20 you're in the retirement division or not, every single
21 member of our agency touches somehow this retirement
22 process, whether they're checking in the mail or
23 they're, you know, setting it up in payroll or
24 whatever. And so we've had - I think we now know of 30
25 retirees from our agency, many of them from the

1 retirement division.

2 We are asking for refills for every single
3 one of them. Hopefully the fact that we're asking for
4 refills at the CCT level so we can build some talent in
5 the agency combined with the TWR, who has retired and
6 is able to stay for 120 days, can bring that refill
7 along, you know, so that we don't, you know, get
8 through the surge and then find out we can't process
9 any retirements, like for September.

10 As John said, we've got a rapid response team
11 concept between DAS and OSC. John and I actually
12 talked this morning about even physically relocating
13 either two of us or two of them to either our site or
14 their site for those last two weeks in March and
15 probably last - the entire month of June to gain
16 efficiencies in how to process - you know, how to
17 process the retirements.

18 We had a long conversation with the pod
19 yesterday - Sal, you'll be interested in this - that,
20 you know, they're trying to do 15-minute one-on-one
21 meetings with the retirement pod over there that are
22 just sucking up the time. Much of it is not irrelevant
23 questions. It is - you know, it is advice.

24 So we're going to try to bifurcate those and
25 have folks drop off - possibly have folks just drop off

1 a retirement application that is scanned out
2 immediately while that person is there, and then on the
3 way, but no - but at least for those last two weeks in
4 March and those last June, there are going to be people
5 that just want to come and get - you know, should I
6 retire? That's not an answer that we can give them,
7 Sal. You know, they need to know how they retire. We
8 can explain the difference between 100 percent, you
9 know, for your spouse and 50 percent for your spouse,
10 but we can't spend a lot of time giving advice on
11 whether or not they should retire.

12 We are laser-focused on the backlog, on no
13 backlog. I'm going to repeat that because you've -
14 many of you have lived with all of us on that backlog.
15 And I believe - John, correct me if I'm wrong - but the
16 pension calculator improves every day as the retirement
17 division employees clean up the data, improve the data,
18 take out the quirky stuff, correct the quirky stuff.
19 And we've gone from not being able - we've gone from
20 being able to use the pension calculator, just like use
21 it, from like, you know, 10 percent of the cases - and
22 I think the number yesterday, John, was like 60 or 70
23 percent of the cases.

24 MR. HERRINGTON: Correct.

25 MS. CARLSON: So we are very confident that

1 the pension calculator, in the end, is what we are
2 going to be using, except for really quirky cases.

3 I also don't want anybody to underestimate,
4 and I know you won't, the milestone that John has
5 accomplished in eliminating the backlog of
6 disabilities. You know, the big 15,000-piece backlog
7 was hard enough. The disability backlog was even more
8 difficult because it - you know, it affects people's
9 medical conditions and, you know, personal health and
10 wellbeing. So his team took that on, you know, figured
11 out a way to move it along, and it's done. And as John
12 says, it releases or frees up a number of resources in
13 the Division to do other stuff, which John has them - I
14 laugh at this, but John has them pivoting like every
15 day, you know, that everybody - by the end of this,
16 everybody in the Division is going to know how to do
17 every single job because that's the way you have to
18 operate in this kind of environment.

19 The last thing I'll say is, and I think I
20 said it - I don't know if I said it in December or not,
21 but it has been a trying and sad and emotional thing,
22 particularly for me and a number of others, just to let
23 Kevin go. And he resigned as of December 31st. He and
24 I have worked together for 26 years very closely. We
25 live in the same town. And it was - you know, it was

1 probably in August that I - maybe it's because like I'm
2 the mom in the agency - could see the writing on the
3 wall, and it was a very tough decision, as you can
4 imagine.

5 The good news is that the Governor could not
6 have chosen a more perfect fit to fill out this one-
7 year term. Natalie Braswell, you all know her. She
8 was general counsel to the Comptroller for 10 years
9 before she left last March for DEP. And, you know, as
10 Deputy, although, you know, I signed her timesheets and
11 approved her vacation, she was Kevin's lawyer. She was
12 the Comptroller's lawyer. She knows everything inside
13 and out. She's been - she's - we have back-to-back
14 meetings. Since she started on January 1st, she's
15 completely up to speed. She had hoped that she could
16 poke in today to say hi to everybody, but she had to
17 take her daughter to the doctor this morning for
18 whatever reason. I don't think it was awful; I just
19 think that she had to do that.

20 So she will pop in at one of these meetings,
21 but I just wanted to - I wanted to assure you, I - this
22 is - I'm starting to feel really confident. I think
23 John is feeling better too. You know, at this time
24 last year, even six months ago, it was oh, my God; oh,
25 my God; and we've really, really, really - that

1 division has really come along with the help of every
2 other division director and every other member of the
3 staff. We are - you know, they all stand ready; they
4 know it's coming; and they're ready to go. So
5 hopefully on the flip side of this, you know, all of
6 what I just said will be true.

7 John, do you want to circle back on anything
8 I just spoke about?

9 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, just two things. I'm
10 looking for wood to knock on for you in terms of our
11 confidence. But the next issue would be with respect
12 to kind of the 15-minute meetings that the pod has had
13 that we likely are going to have to kind of suspend.
14 We are augmenting the process by - right now, we're
15 holding monthly webinars for the eligible population.
16 We're going to increase those to at least weekly so
17 that we will have an opportunity for information
18 sessions where people can attend and ask questions of
19 our staff, and as always, we will encourage individuals
20 to contact our customer service center. So to the
21 extent that people have questions, it's not as though
22 those are questions that won't be asked - or won't be
23 answered, they just won't be answered in that forum.

24 MS. CARLSON: And we really need the support
25 of labor on this, Sal. We need the support of the

1 labor leaders to let - you know, when we have to
2 suspend those meetings, we need the support of labor,
3 that this is the way it has to be. If everybody is
4 going to get the pension payment they want, even though
5 they've applied the last day of the month before, we
6 need support. And I believe that John has sent every
7 communication that we are sending out to the eligible
8 employees, that he's copied that to Danny Livingston,
9 so he knows.

10 But over the next few months, if labor can
11 just constantly beat the drum that the sooner they let
12 us know they're retiring, the less complicated it's
13 going to be for them. You know, for those - I assume
14 everybody here knows that the labor agreement, I guess,
15 if not the statute says, if I want to retire on July 1,
16 I can hand my paperwork on June 30th. We've made a
17 couple attempts over the years, Sal, to say, can we at
18 least get it to be 30 days? But, you know, it's fallen
19 on deaf ears. But this time, it's really important,
20 particularly in the context, if we remind everybody of
21 what happened with that 15,000-piece backlog. We need
22 to stay ahead.

23 So if you have any ideas on that, Sal, if you
24 would just communicate that to John, you know, because
25 I think your members listen to your leaders on matters

1 like this.

2 MR. LUCIANO: We'll do the best we can. I've
3 already put the word out. I think some of the problem
4 is that-

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: That is Sal Luciano
6 speaking. Go ahead, Sal.

7 MR. LUCIANO: Yeah, I think some of the
8 problem is some of the word of mouth, the social media
9 stuff, they talk about changes to reimbursement for the
10 Part B Medicare and people start freaking out and they
11 think they need to retire even though they shouldn't
12 retire. And that's why you're getting questions like
13 not what is my benefit, but should I retire or not.
14 And we'll do the best we can with those based on our
15 agreement with the State through SEBAC.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Sal. Any
17 further questions or comments? Thank you, Marty.
18 Thank you, John.

19 MR. CHISEM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Carl Chisem.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, yeah.

21 MR. CHISEM: I know that Danny has talked to
22 some of those leaders about - and also Marty knows
23 about this, part of my membership as - you know, I know
24 the pods and stuff. I had my person who takes care of
25 our healthcare and everything go through some of the

1 videos and stuff like that, but I think we were going
2 to look at it a different way. Because, you know, part
3 of my membership, as I said, they have an issue with
4 getting on the computer and that's really critical to
5 our membership. And, you know, just a month ago, I had
6 two members from two different agencies that put their
7 paperwork in way ahead of time and I had to have my
8 healthcare person, you know, call up the day before
9 because they said, well, they didn't do it through the
10 proper channels, and we had to scramble and get it done
11 because there was no communication on that. And that's
12 part of the problem with, you know, some of our
13 members.

14 So - and they need to, you know - and I know
15 I'm on a computer and most of our members are on, but
16 we do have a portion of them that are not. And I
17 thought we were going to work on something to try to
18 get that working.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, Marty, Marty
20 Carlson.

21 MS. CARLSON: Carl, this is - you know,
22 having grown up in a blue-collar family, this is a
23 thing I bring up at every single meeting we have. And
24 that is to understand that there is a significant
25 population - this happened with the testing as well, as

1 you know, the vaccine - the COVID testing, that either
2 don't have access to a computer, don't know how to use
3 a computer, have no need for a computer, and we're -
4 and it's - it's - we have to always consider that. And
5 I think that's what we're trying to fold into this,
6 that there are some people that just need to hold a
7 hand.

8 I will state, and it's not unfortunate, but I
9 think one of the side effects of the retirement of the
10 HR consolidation is that this handholding used to be
11 back at the agency. They would go to their HR person,
12 and if their HR person couldn't answer the question,
13 their HR person would call us, and we would walk it
14 through that way. We've lost that middle step. So
15 they're trying to go to the pod, and when that doesn't
16 work, because, of course, the pod is like completely
17 overloaded, they come to us. So John and I have talked
18 at length about how do we get that word, you know, out
19 to that population, and it wouldn't hurt to have the
20 whole population get it, you know the 12,000 or
21 whatever it is.

22 And, you know, I am all in favor of countdown
23 to July 1 and peppering this entire population on a
24 multiple-day basis with fun facts about retiring. You
25 know, here's your fun fact about, you know, if you're

1 65, don't worry about it because you don't have to
2 worry about the premium. If you're - you know, the
3 healthcare, here's the deal with that. And just try to
4 get it out. That does not capture your folks that
5 don't read email. So that's why we need to work
6 through you.

7 MR. CHISEM: Yes, I've had - you know,
8 luckily have somebody on staffing that's just very,
9 very good with that, but when they do call up HR,
10 they're like, it's not my job; you know, call the pod;
11 and they get discouraged. That's a really big issue.
12 You know, they're like, that's not my - and this is
13 what they say, it's not our job; we're not going to
14 worry about it; call the pod. You know, they have no
15 access to that.

16 So then they call us and, you know, I really
17 try to make sure that we try to guide them in the right
18 way, right direction, because some of these folks are
19 right down to the weeks and days when they put it in
20 probably about three or four months prior to their
21 retirement.

22 I had two of them probably a month ago from
23 two different agencies that, you know, we've helped
24 out, and they didn't understand. So, you know, we took
25 the time to go through it with them. And I don't know

1 how many more we've got coming down the pike, you know.

2 MS. CARLSON: John, I think actually what we
3 should probably do is have a meeting with the two or
4 three labor leaders that have that issue in their
5 population.

6 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, because I think I hear
7 two issues, right. One issue is educating individuals
8 so that they can make their decision. And then the
9 next issue is people that have made their decision and
10 working through the completion of the paperwork, right.
11 So those are the two issues that I've heard.

12 But, yeah, I mean, I think that the answer to
13 the education piece, right, if we can't rely on
14 webinars and videos, you know, we could have, you know,
15 a large session where we would provide this information
16 to large groups. This just obviously is not the period
17 where we would want to gather hundreds of people in a
18 room together.

19 So I'm open to ideas, and I do think that we
20 should, you know, have those discussions in the next
21 week or so.

22 MS. CARLSON: So maybe Angel and Carl and any
23 other labor leaders, Sal, that you can think of that
24 would have that population that is technologically, you
25 know, challenged - not challenged, but, you know, they

1 just - you know, they - we have learned this through
2 the testing. You know, there are employees, they can
3 rip through that, you know, their iPhone and take
4 pictures of their kids and text their kids, and you ask
5 them to like go up online and look at a webinar,
6 they're just completely lost. So we need to - you
7 know, it's sort of been my sole mission - sometimes I
8 feel lonely at it - to get - to make sure that we can
9 get to those people.

10 So, John, let's just remember, the two of us,
11 to get a hold of Carl and Angel. Are you still here,
12 Angel? I see you. Is that something that you think
13 would be helpful to your folks too, Angel?

14 MR. QUIROS: Yes. This is Angel Quiros.
15 And, Marty, understand too that we went probably from
16 the last 30 years to having that face-to-face contact
17 with the HR personnel, and particularly with
18 retirement, it was very important, and to just stop it
19 because of the HR centralization, my staff are
20 struggling, and particularly those that may have
21 questions that cannot navigate through the new system.

22 I know that when I get ready to retire and
23 I've got to navigate through that system, I know
24 there's going to be somebody with me, next to me, to
25 help me navigate through the system to get the

1 information correct. You know, so it has been a
2 struggle and the face-to-face has been a struggle for
3 my staff.

4 So it would be helpful.

5 MS. CARLSON: The thing - well, John, let's
6 talk about that. There may be some way that we can -
7 force is a strong word, or just take on getting to
8 those populations some other way. The one thing that I
9 worry about happening, which I heard yesterday, Sal, is
10 that some employees are - do not even know if - they
11 don't know or don't think they're going to retire, but
12 they're submitting retirement paperwork anyway because
13 their colleagues are telling them, get it in; get it
14 in; and then you can decide later.

15 So because you have - I think you have three
16 months to rescind. John, is that the right - John
17 Herrington?

18 MR. HERRINGTON: I mean, you can rescind up
19 until your retirement date.

20 MS. CARLSON: Oh, yeah, so - oh, that's
21 right. You can rescind up to your retirement date.

22 So anyway, this is sort of the stuff that
23 we're looking at. But I just wanted to show everybody
24 we're on it, and John will report out on it every
25 month. I still remain confident. We just - I just

1 worry about this population that has technology issues
2 or technology limitations, and we'll work on that.

3 John, you and I can talk about that offline.

4 And I also want to say, the pod staff are
5 working really, really, really hard. And I'm not sure
6 I would agree on the concept, particularly in a year of
7 the retirement surge, that - you know, that - but I
8 know that the concept was, let's do this now, because
9 when the retirement surge happens, we're going to lose
10 all these - you know, all these HR people, and you
11 know, if we consolidate now, we can save that. I'm not
12 quite sure that's working as efficiently as we had
13 hoped.

14 But we're in touch with Nick Hermes and his
15 team all the time, and everybody's working really hard
16 to get to a place where we think we can pull this off.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you.

18 MS. CARLSON: End of my report.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I'm sorry?

20 MS. CARLSON: End of my report. Sorry. It
21 took a long time.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, just one suggestion.
23 There's plenty of programs out there that I can't
24 operate. So I go on YouTube and there's someone there
25 who explains item - point by point exactly how to use

1 that particular program, and it's something to consider
2 perhaps, for us as well. That's all.

3 MS. CARLSON: That's a really interesting
4 point. Thanks, Peter.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Right. Without that
6 YouTube, I could not function on the Internet. I could
7 not use Microsoft Word very often because all these
8 programs just contain, as was demonstrated today, fatal
9 traps. Thank you very much.

10 All right, shall we go on to new matters?

11 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano. Request
12 Commission approval of the December 16th, 2021 minutes.

13 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
15 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
18 your hand. The ayes have it.

19 MS. BUFFKIN: Chairman Adomeit, I was trying
20 to raise my hand.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I know.

22 MS. BUFFKIN: The December minutes have me as
23 absent. I believe that I was present for most of the
24 December meeting.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh, thank you.

1 MR. LUCIANO: And I will abstain because I
2 was absent last month. I was in England.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

4 MR. LUCIANO: Next item, request Commission
5 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission
6 Chairman per diem expenses.

7 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
9 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
12 your hand. The ayes have it.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Item Number 3, request
14 Commission approval of State Employee Retirement
15 Commission Union Trustee, Claude Poulin's per diem and
16 travel expenses reimbursement, with Claude abstaining.

17 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
19 none, all in favor, raise your hand or say aye.

20 (No audible response)

21 MR. POULIN: I abstain.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
23 your hand. The ayes have it.

24 MR. LUCIANO: Item 4, request Commission
25 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission

1 Management Trustee, Tim, per diem expenses, with Tim
2 abstaining.

3 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
5 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

6 (No audible response)

7 MR. RYOR: Abstain.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
9 your hand. The ayes have it.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Items 5 and 6, motion to
11 request acceptance of invoices from Robinson & Cole and
12 Rose Kallor for the month of December.

13 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
15 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

16 (No audible response)

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
18 your hand. The ayes have it.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Motion for approval for the
20 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System
21 disability retirements for the month of April 2021.

22 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
24 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

25 (No audible response)

1 MR. LUCIANO: I thought we were going to
2 (inaudible).

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
4 your hand. The ayes have it.

5 What's that, Sal?

6 MR. LUCIANO: I thought we were going to get
7 an explanation of why we're doing the April-

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, I'm not certain if
11 Colin can speak. It looks like he continues to have
12 some technological issues here. But the basic issue is
13 that this is a single name that should have been
14 included with April 2021 approvals, and just we
15 realized that this particular name hadn't gone before
16 the Commission previously, and this is just cleaning up
17 that error.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. Thank you.

19 MR. LUCIANO: I think everybody already
20 voted.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: They did. Yeah, it's -
22 now we know why.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Would you like to just
24 announce-

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I can call it again. I

1 can call the vote again.

2 MR. LUCIANO: No, no. You just announce the
3 results of the voting because you didn't do that.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I'm sorry. Thank you.
5 The ayes have it.

6 MR. LUCIANO: Item Number 8, request
7 Commission approval of the Connecticut State Employees
8 Retirement System service retirements for the month of
9 December 2021.

10 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
12 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

13 (No audible response)

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
15 your hand. The ayes have it.

16 MR. LUCIANO: Item 9, request Commission
17 approval of the Connecticut State Employees System
18 voluntary pending retirements for the month of
19 December.

20 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
22 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

23 (No audible response)

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
25 your hand. The ayes have it.

1 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve the
2 Connecticut State Employees System disability
3 retirements for the month of December.

4 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
6 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

7 (No audible response)

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
9 your hand. The ayes have it.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve the
11 Connecticut State Employees System municipal employees
12 retirement for the month of December.

13 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
15 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

16 (No audible response)

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
18 your hand. The ayes have it.

19 MR. LUCIANO: Request Commission acceptance
20 for both Items 12 and 13.

21 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
23 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

24 (No audible response)

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise

1 your hand. The ayes have it.

2 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve the
3 Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement
4 System.

5 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
7 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

8 (No audible response)

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
10 your hand. The ayes have it.

11 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to request approval of
12 the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund
13 personnel expenses for the pay period November 5th, 2021
14 through December 16th, 2021.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
17 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
20 your hand. The ayes have it.

21 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to turn over the new
22 matters, Items 16 and 17, over to Claude.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you. Mr. Poulin.
24 You're on mute, Claude. Thank you.

25 MR. POULIN: Request Commission acceptance of

1 the Report of the Actuary and the SERS Valuation
2 prepared as of June 30th, 2021.

3 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
5 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

6 (No audible response)

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
8 your hand. The ayes have it.

9 MR. POULIN: Item 17, request Commission
10 acceptance of the Report of the Actuary of the Judges,
11 Family Support Magistrates, and Compensation
12 Commissioners Retirement System prepared as of June
13 30th, 2021.

14 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
16 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

17 (No audible response)

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
19 your hand. The ayes have it.

20 You're muted, Sal.

21 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to make a motion we go
22 into executive session.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
25 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

1 (No audible response)

2 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
3 your hand. The ayes have it.

4 (The Commission was in executive session for
5 an unknown period of time.)

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. We'll need a
7 motion on the Krasinsky matter.

8 MR. COFFEY: This is Bob Coffey. I move that
9 the Commission deny Mr. Krasinsky's request for a
10 declaratory ruling.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
12 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

13 (No audible response)

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
15 your hand.

16 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't think - I
17 don't know that a second had been registered on that.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh.

19 MR. BAILEY: So I see everyone has voted, so
20 just note me as having seconded that.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, let's go back -
22 let's-

23 MR. BAILEY: I'll second that motion.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. We'll run
25 through the vote. All in favor, say aye, or raise your

1 hand.

2 (No audible response)

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
4 your hand. The ayes have it.

5 MR. LUCIANO: And I'd like to make a motion
6 for Doug Latham, that we table the decision until next
7 month so that we can just take a look at the math
8 again.

9 MR. COFFEY: Coffey, second.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
11 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

12 (No audible response)

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
14 your hand. The ayes have it.

15 MR. LUCIANO: On Kenney, I'd like to make a
16 motion that we remand the case back to the MEB to see
17 that they've reviewed all of the information, and with
18 an emphasis on the supervisor's email.

19 MR. COFFEY: Coffey, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing
21 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

22 (No audible response)

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
24 your hand. The ayes have it.

25 MR. LUCIANO: Happy New Year, everybody. I'd

1 like to make a motion to adjourn.

2 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye, or
4 raise your hand.

5 (No audible response)

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
7 your hand. The ayes have it. Thank you all very much.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Thank you. Stay safe.

9 MR. COFFEY: Thank you. Take care.

10 MS. CARLSON: Bye, everybody.

11 (Adjourned at unknown time)

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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 meeting held electronically via
Zoom, conducted at 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

02/28/2022

Date