

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

APRIL 21, 2022 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:05 a.m.

Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman
Michael Bailey, Trustee
Karen Buffkin, Trustee
Michael Carey, Trustee
Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
Carl Chisem, Trustee
Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
John Disette, Trustee
John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
Sal Luciano, Trustee
Karen Nolen, Trustee
Michael O'Brien, Trustee
Claude Poulin, Trustee
Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent:

Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller,
Office of the State Comptroller
Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
Russell Zimmerlin, counsel for Patrick Butler, and Mr. Butler

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:05 a.m.)

2
3
4
5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: John Herrington, do you
6 know whether Marty Carlson is going to be signing in
7 today?

8 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, so I just spoke to her
9 and she's having trouble signing on.

10 MS. CIESLAK: She should be joining right
11 now.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: There she is. Thank you.
13 We have a quorum, so I will call the meeting
14 to order. Ms. Cieslak, do you have the attendance,
15 please?

16 MS. CIESLAK: Good morning. This is Cindy
17 Cieslak. Present this morning we have Chairman Peter
18 Adomeit; Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel from Robinson &
19 Cole; Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel from Robinson & Cole;
20 Claude Poulin, Actuarial Trustee; Colin Newman,
21 Assistant Director from the Retirement Services
22 Division; John Disette, Trustee; John Herrington,
23 Division Director of the Retirement Services Division;
24 Karen Buffkin, Trustee; Karen Nolen, Trustee; Mark
25 Sciota, Municipal Liaison; Martha Carlson, Deputy

1 Comptroller and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement
2 Commission; Michael Carey, Trustee; Michael O'Brien,
3 Trustee; Michael Rose, General Counsel from Rose
4 Kallor; Michael Bailey, Trustee; Yam Menon, General
5 Counsel and Assistant Comptroller; Robert Coffey,
6 Trustee; Sal Luciano, Trustee; Tim Ryor, Actuarial
7 Trustee; and myself, Cindy Cieslak from Rose Kallor,
8 General Counsel. And present today, we also have
9 Attorney Russell Zimmerlin representing Patrick Butler.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Cindy.

11 And the Chairman's Report is going to be
12 brief and sad. We all know of the passing of Fae.
13 There were two statements issued formally, one by
14 Comptroller Braswell, one by myself. Now if I could
15 briefly read those statements to you in case you have
16 not received them.

17 From Natalie Braswell, Comptroller: Fae was a
18 dedicated public servant who was gifted in navigating
19 the complexities of labor management issues and
20 collective bargaining. Connecticut is a better state
21 because of her time in state government. Even in
22 stressful and chaotic situations, Fae was a calm and
23 kind presence, always quick with a solution and a
24 folksy idiom. On behalf of the entire Comptroller's
25 Office, I extend my heartfelt condolences to her loved

1 ones and colleagues.

2 I'll read a statement from the Chairman of
3 the Commission, myself. As a longtime member of the
4 Retirement Commission, Fae was universally respected
5 for her cooperation and expertise. She will be greatly
6 missed. My thoughts and those of the other members of
7 the Commission are with Fae's family and friends during
8 this difficult time. And there will be a brief moment
9 of silence starting now.

10 That concludes the Chairman's Report.
11 Division Director's Report?

12 MR. HERRINGTON: Yes. This was quite the
13 surprise. I think, you know, we all can agree that Fae
14 helped the Commission along tremendously, but
15 particularly me in my position as Director. As I came
16 into this division and had to navigate some of the
17 other kind of day-to-day issues that required
18 clarification on previous party agreements, she was
19 like - she was absolutely an invaluable resource, so
20 she will definitely be sorely missed. And she was also
21 just a pleasure to work with. And I mean, she was
22 always helpful, and she just made my life easier as I
23 worked through a number of thorny issues, and she will
24 definitely be missed.

25 In terms of the Director's Report, we

1 certainly are right in the midst of this 2022 surge
2 that we've been preparing for. If there was any
3 question in terms of whether there would actually be a
4 surge, that question was answered this month. We had
5 over 1,100 retirements to process in April, and so that
6 is more than half of a typical year's worth of
7 retirements all in April. Thankfully, however, due to
8 our preparations and our utilization of technology, we
9 were able to get through that number relatively
10 quickly.

11 Whereas historically we would process
12 retirements right up until the close of the payroll, we
13 were actually in a very strong position where we were
14 able to process many of those right around the First of
15 April. And so that's quite an achievement within the
16 Retirement Division, but also the benefits in Payroll
17 Division.

18 So our hard work has kind of paid off.
19 There's still quite a bit of work to be done going
20 forward. June and July project to be heavy. Between
21 those two months, right now, there's another 1,500 out
22 there that we have intents for retirements. We would
23 expect that those numbers will continue to increase.
24 And if we don't receive a single intent, we still, for
25 the fiscal year of - the current fiscal year, we still

1 would have over 5,000 total retirements over that year,
2 which is slightly higher than what we projected when we
3 were coming up with the assumptions for the Actuarial
4 Valuation. So we do expect this to be a pretty
5 significant surge going forward.

6 Also, as we go through, June and July are
7 going to be a little bit more difficult in the sense
8 that April was kind of sandwiched between two
9 relatively light months. You know, we had 300
10 retirements in March, and it looks as though we have
11 just around 200 for May. So we were able to
12 concentrate, you know, our efforts on April for a
13 considerable period of time. We aren't necessarily
14 going to have that luxury in June because we expect
15 June to be heavy and July to be even heavier, and
16 they'll be back-to-back.

17 Also, one of the complications with the June
18 and July populations would be that that's when the
19 higher ed populations retire, and unfortunately, just
20 due to the nature of higher ed employment, there's a
21 larger proportion of those cases that don't kind of
22 lend themselves to the automatic processing through the
23 benefit calculator just due the nature of that
24 employment where they have, you know, secondary
25 positions, parttime lecturing, sabbatical leaves and

1 the like. So even if the number for June and July is
2 about where we are for April, or perhaps a little bit
3 lighter, it's still going to be a very difficult month.

4 But the Division is kind of laser focused on
5 getting through those numbers and we're doing a great
6 job. And we have a plan in place, and so long as
7 numbers are about where we stand, as difficult as it
8 may be, we're pretty confident that we'll be able to
9 get through the June and July surges as well. But up
10 to this point, I think that the Division has done a
11 great job at getting through a very large volume of
12 work.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, John. Any
14 questions or comments? Okay, hearing none, Marty
15 Carlson? You're on mute, Marty.

16 MS. CARLSON: In a moment, Yam has to give
17 some information too, but I just wanted to say first
18 that regarding Fae, I wanted to also personally express
19 my condolences to the folks on this call at OPM, in
20 particular, OLR, and in particular, Dave Krayeski, who
21 several months ago was pretty much thrown into - not
22 thrown into, but had to assume responsibility of the
23 negotiations that were very complicated for the SEBAC
24 agreement.

25 And also, I'd like to also recognize the

1 interaction very early on that Dave Kraveski had with
2 John Herrington, who went, you know, full tilt, as he
3 always does in emergencies, to make sure that the
4 records were correct for Fae, and that her family was
5 taken care of. This is sort of the second time in the
6 last two months that this has happened.

7 Every once in a while, during the course of a
8 year, we'll get, you know, an emergency call that, you
9 know, somebody's in trouble and needs help putting
10 together the paperwork. We lost our - I think I might
11 have mentioned, our 56-year-old, three-decade print
12 shop mail handler unexpectedly a couple of months ago,
13 and John did the same thing he is always willing to do,
14 and that's work nights and weekends to make sure that
15 the paperwork is in order for their families to be
16 taken care of.

17 So, on that note, I also just want to
18 underscore what John has reported on the over-one-
19 thousand retirements that were processed on time. It
20 is an extraordinary achievement for the Comptroller's
21 Office. For all those of you who remember the 15,000
22 finalization backlog, it proves that technology works,
23 for anyone who doubted that three years ago when all of
24 us were a little nervous about that. But it clearly
25 works, and we feel - John, nod your head if you feel

1 the same way - we feel well positioned to handle June
2 and July. That doesn't mean that it's not going to be
3 crazy, but we are in far better shape than we could
4 possibly have imagined even a year ago.

5 So kudos to the Retirement Division, the
6 Core-CT Division, and every division actually in the
7 Comptroller's Office who has their - has a finger on
8 this entire process.

9 So, Yam?

10 MS. MENON: Good morning. This will be
11 quick. This is the last time I can provide a verbal
12 reminder about your Office of State Ethics SFI filing
13 before the deadline. So again, the deadline is Monday,
14 May 2nd. There are several folks on the Commission that
15 still have to file. So this is just another
16 opportunity to remind you to please file by the
17 deadline. You have a little over a week to complete
18 it.

19 If you have any questions or if you're not
20 sure if you filed, please feel free to reach out to me
21 directly. And again, just as a reminder, it has to be
22 done electronically. That's it. Thank you.

23 MS. CARLSON: Yam, can you explain what the
24 consequences are for not filing?

25 MS. MENON: Yes. The Citizens Ethics

1 Advisory Board can decide to pursue a legal process
2 where the end result is monetary fines and penalties.
3 It could be a maximum of up to 10,000 in total. So
4 there could be charges assessed if these filings are
5 not completed on time.

6 MS. CARLSON: And, Yam, could we also resend
7 the link to the-

8 MS. MENON: Yes, absolutely.

9 MS. CARLSON: --to those who have not filed?

10 MS. MENON: Yes. So anybody who has not
11 filed will get the email reminders. If you have
12 completed it, you should be set and you shouldn't be
13 getting them. But anyone who has not yet completed,
14 you're going to get those reminders until the 2nd, and
15 it will include the link. So I'll make sure that goes
16 out.

17 MS. CARLSON: And does anyone on the call not
18 believe that they received any link from Ethics to fill
19 that form out? Just making sure we have the correct
20 email addresses for everyone. Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

22 MS. MENON: All right. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Yam. Thank
24 you, Marty.

25 Okay, moving onto new matters, the Chair will

1 recognize Sal Luciano.

2 MR. LUCIANO: Before I start, just a
3 personal point of privilege. My heart is really heavy
4 and saddened with the loss of Fae Brown-Brewton. I
5 have known her for 30 years. She's - for somebody who
6 was on the other side, she was just a very worthy
7 adversary. She was very fair and tough, and her
8 personality was such that she was always just so
9 stable, so even keeled. And I'm just kind of
10 devastated. I never expected this. And she will be
11 greatly missed.

12 I'd like to move approval of the minutes of
13 March.

14 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
19 your hand. It's unanimous; the ayes have it.

20 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
21 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission's
22 Chairman's per diem expenses, with the Chairman, of
23 course, abstaining.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing

1 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

5 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request approval of
6 the State Employees Retirement Commission's Union
7 Trustee per diem and travel expenses, with Claude
8 abstaining.

9 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

13 MR. POULIN: I abstain.

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

16 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
17 approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission's
18 Management Trustee per diem expenses, with Tim
19 abstaining.

20 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

1 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
2 acceptance of Items 5 and 6.

3 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

9 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
10 approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement
11 System service retirements for the month of March.

12 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

18 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
19 approval - motion to approve the Connecticut State
20 Employees Retirement System voluntary pending
21 retirements for the month of March.

22 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

3 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to move approval of
4 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System
5 disabilities retirements for the month of March.

6 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

12 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
13 approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement
14 System retroactive retirements for the month of March.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

21 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to move to approve the
22 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System municipal
23 employees retirement for the month of March.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing

1 none, all in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

5 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to move approval of
6 the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System
7 municipal employees disability retirements for March.

8 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

14 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to move acceptance of
15 the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for
16 the continued entitlement approvals that are attached.

17 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

23 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to request Commission
24 approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and
25 Employees Retirement System.

1 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
6 your hand. The ayes have it.

7 MR. LUCIANO: Move approval of the Probate
8 Judges and Employees Retirement Fund personnel expenses
9 for the pay period February 25th through March 10th,
10 attached.

11 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

17 MR. LUCIANO: Item Number 16 is a request
18 received from Patrick Butler that the Commission
19 consider whether tolling of time limit is appropriate
20 as it relates to his application for non-service-
21 connected disability retirement. My understanding is
22 he's supposed to appear in this meeting in Zoom.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes. Cindy Cieslak.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I'm sorry.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Chairman, before we hear this
2 matter, just for the record and for Attorney
3 Zimmerlin's benefit, I wanted to announce that a few
4 trustees arrived during the proceedings. So Carl
5 Chisem, Trustee; Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee; and John
6 Flores, General Counsel to the Office of the Treasurer
7 and Ex Officio Member of the Retirement Commission are
8 all present.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. I have a -
10 obviously, there is a file in this matter, and the file
11 reflects there are actually several issues in this
12 case. One is whether the two years to apply for
13 disability retirement means you can't get it, or
14 whether we should waive it for what appears to be
15 mental illness. But the second issue is the withdrawal
16 of hazardous duty contributions, which the Division
17 used as the reason for - not to grant the disability
18 retirement.

19 The Division's position is that forfeits
20 eligibility for receiving a disability pension. And
21 it's not really an issue because (inaudible). The
22 record reflects that the gentleman is eligible for
23 voluntary retirement benefits.

24 So with those statements, the Chair would
25 recognize Attorney Russell Zimmerlin.

1 MR. ZIMBERLIN: Yes. Good morning. Patrick
2 Butler is actually sitting right next to me. So we're
3 requesting to toll the time in which to file a claim
4 for disability retirement. In support of this claim
5 for tolling, Patrick has submitted his personnel file,
6 which included performance reports showing he was a
7 good worker, he was effective and professional.

8 Patrick was promoted from a temporary
9 position to a permanent position in 2007. However
10 around 2010, Patrick began mental health treatment. He
11 was initially treated at Bristol Hospital and treatment
12 was transferred to Wheeler Clinic, where it continued.
13 Patrick has had numerous suicide attempts and his
14 increased symptomatology eventually resulted in the
15 termination of his job in 2017.

16 Kelly Katara, who currently treats Patrick,
17 noted that he has only been partially responsive to
18 treatment. Patrick applied for and was granted social
19 security disability retirement on his initial
20 application with the onset date of October 30th, 2016,
21 and that's prior to his agency termination date of June
22 6th, 2017. During the two years following his
23 severance-from-service date, Butler did not have the
24 mental ability to apply for disability retirement, and
25 he was only helped to - he was only able to complete

1 the application process with the help of his mom and
2 our office.

3 And if there's any questions for me or
4 Patrick, please feel free to ask.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Attorney Zimmerman,
6 could you also address the problem in whether his
7 withdrawal - I'm sorry, withdrawal of hazardous duty
8 contributions means that he forfeits eligibility for
9 disability pension?

10 MR. ZIMMERLIN: I think we were under the
11 thought process that you could withdraw just those
12 hazardous duty contributions, but stay in the SERS
13 program, because he needs 20 years for hazardous duty.
14 On that, withdrawal of contributions never went
15 through, where he's still in the SERS program.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right, thank you.
17 Does that conclude your statement?

18 MR. ZIMMERLIN: I'm sorry?

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, have you concluded
20 your statement?

21 MR. ZIMMERLIN: Oh, yes. Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. I thought so, but I
23 didn't want to cut you off (inaudible). Okay, thank
24 you.

25 Does anybody on the Commission have any

1 questions?

2 MR. CAREY: Mr. Chairman?

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes, recognize Michael
4 Carey.

5 MR. CAREY: Thank you. I just wanted to
6 clarify something that Attorney Zimmerman said
7 regarding the withdrawal. Mr. Zimmerman, are you
8 asserting that the withdrawal itself never occurred,
9 that he was never reimbursed or received the hazardous
10 duty portion of his retirement contributions in
11 response to the document that he filed on April 23rd of
12 2019?

13 MR. ZIMMERLIN: Correct, he never received
14 any money for that.

15 MR. CAREY: No money at all?

16 MR. ZIMMERLIN: No. We thought we could just
17 receive the hazardous duty contributions that were in
18 excess of the SERS contributions, but we were told that
19 was wrong, kind of stopped pursuing that. We kept him
20 in the SERS program, but we didn't receive any money as
21 a refund of contributions, or he did not.

22 So that application was filed, and then, I
23 guess, withdrawn.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Mr. Carey (inaudible).

25 MR. CAREY: I certainly, at some point, would

1 like to hear from the Division about - to confirm that
2 status, but I don't have any other questions at this
3 point, no. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: It sounds to me like we
5 would want to put it under advisement and maybe further
6 research and come back and revisit the issue.

7 Are there any other questions or comments?

8 MR. CAREY: Yes, sir. I'm sorry. I do have
9 another question, if you don't mind.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Go ahead, Mr. Carey.

11 MR. CAREY: I'm interested in knowing - so
12 that date that that document was filed, April 23rd of
13 2019, I know that we may need to do some follow-up on
14 the status of that request. But the request itself was
15 filed during the period of time during which your
16 client, Attorney Zimmerman, is asserting that he was
17 not able to do things. So how do we rectify the fact
18 that he filed that document in April of 2019, but was
19 not able to file for the disability retirement itself?

20 MR. ZIMBERLIN: I have not even been provided
21 with that - I'd have to see that document.

22 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, we can send it to
23 you, Attorney Zimmerman. All right.

24 MR. NEWMAN: This is Colin Newman from the
25 Division. I just want to state for the record that our

1 records reflect that that check, a refund check of the
2 contributions, was issued on June 14th, 2019.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Mr. Newman.

4 MR. ZIMBERLIN: Was that - do you know if it
5 was cashed? I'm just not aware of that.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: We will have to do our
7 research on that, Attorney Zimmerman.

8 Are there any further questions or comments?
9 Obviously, we need more information, and so we should
10 probably postpone the decision today and find out
11 additional information.

12 If anyone is on board with that, I'd
13 entertain a motion to that effect.

14 MR. LUCIANO: So moved.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Moved by Luciano, seconded
17 by Bailey.

18 All in favor, say aye, or raise your hand.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

22 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Zimmerman.

23 MR. ZIMBERLIN: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Nice to see you.

25 Okay.

1 MR. LUCIANO: That would conclude the regular
2 order of business.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes.

4 MR. LUCIANO: And so before - I would like to
5 make a motion that we go into executive session for the
6 purpose of discussing the status of virtual remote
7 meetings, written legal opinion.

8 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye, or
10 raise your hand.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

14 MS. CIESLAK: Trustee Luciano, does your
15 motion include an invitation to Yam Menon, Michael
16 Rose, John Herrington, Colin Newman, Bruce Barth,
17 Alisha Sullivan, and myself to be invited into
18 executive session?

19 MR. LUCIANO: It does because they may have
20 information that will help us.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cindy, for the record,
22 Bruce, I don't think, is on the call anymore.

23 MS. CIESLAK: You are accurate. Yep, I don't
24 see him anymore either. Thank you.

25 (The Commission was in executive session from

1 9:31 a.m. until 10:02 a.m.)

2 MR. LUCIANO: --back recording. I'd like to
3 make a motion that we deny the Linda Cicarella appeal.

4 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (No audible response)

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

10 MR. LUCIANO: Is there anything else pending?

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: No, we're down to
12 adjournment.

13 MR. HERRINGTON: I guess I have one question
14 in terms of what is the best way to proceed on Patrick
15 Butler's case and the factual issue regarding the
16 refund of the retirement contributions.

17 MR. LUCIANO: I think there's two points.
18 One is to follow up to see if the check was cashed
19 because I think that finishes everything. Or - and
20 two, if it wasn't cashed, then I think Mike Rose -
21 Michael Carey made a really good point; you know, he's
22 so out of it, he can't do anything, and yet, here he is
23 asking for his money back. And so I think if it wasn't
24 cashed, then we're still there in terms of making a
25 decision on this issue.

1 MR. HERRINGTON: And our records indicate
2 that it was cashed, and also in cashing it, that the
3 refund application requires acknowledgment of a
4 statement that the receipt of a refund would prevent a
5 member from filing for disability. So that is all
6 information that we have now and that we can provide,
7 you know, to the Commission at the end of the day. So
8 that's just what I was wondering is what's the best way
9 to proceed forward with that.

10 MR. LUCIANO: We didn't know that when we-

11 MR. HERRINGTON: Right.

12 MR. LUCIANO: --when we made the motion
13 (inaudible) table. We didn't know that he had cashed
14 it.

15 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah.

16 MR. LUCIANO: I think that - you know, that -
17 I feel sorry for the guy; I'm sorry he's suicidal; but
18 he's forgetful too, I guess. Either that, or his
19 credibility leaves much to be desired.

20 MR. HERRINGTON: But I guess it sounds that
21 the best thing would be, since it's tabled, just for us
22 to provide those additional documents and for us to
23 deal with it next month. Yep, gotcha.

24 MR. NEWMAN: And I just want to say for the
25 record - this is Colin - that Attorney Zimmerman's

1 statement regarding his membership in SERS, yes, he
2 refunded his hazardous duty contributions, but yes, he
3 is still a vested member and eligible for a future
4 benefit because he did have 10 years of service. So he
5 will be eligible for a benefit, but it will be down the
6 road, a regular, not a hazardous duty benefit.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Colin.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Thank you, Colin.

9 MR. NEWMAN: Yeah.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye, or
13 raise your hand.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay, or raise
16 your hand. Obviously, the ayes have it. Thank you all
17 very much.

18 MR. LUCIANO: Thank you.

19 (Adjourned at 10:05 a.m.)
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 9:05 a.m. on April 21, 2022.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

05/11/2022

Date