

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

JULY 15, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:09 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman
Michael Bailey, Trustee
Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, 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
Angel Quiros, Trustee
Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
Timothy Ryor, Trustee

Absent

Karen Buffkin, Trustee

Also Present:

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

Also Present, continued:

Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
Steve Carbone, representing Vito Barbagallo
Vito Barbagallo

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:09 a.m.)

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4
5 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay, back to go. We will now
6 swear in our two new commissioners.

7 Would you please raise your right hands,
8 please? Do you swear or affirm to faithfully execute
9 the duties as the labor-appointed commissioner to the
10 State Employees Retirement Commission?

11 MR. DISETTE: I do.

12 MS. SIMONSON: Yes, I do.

13 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you very much.
14 Welcome aboard.

15 MR. DISETTE: Thank you.

16 MS. SIMONSON: Thank you.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: Do we have a quorum?

18 MR. CIESLAK: Good morning. This is Cindy
19 Cieslak. I do believe there is a quorum. And,
20 Chairman, if you would you like, I can announce who's
21 present.

22 MS. ADOMEIT: Yes, please do.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Okay, this is Cindy Cieslak.
24 Present we have Chairman Peter Adomeit; Trustee Angel
25 Quiros; Trustee Rebecca Simonsen; Trustee Robert

1 Coffey; Trustee Michael Carey; Trustee Carl Chisem;
2 Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller and Ex Officio
3 Member of the Retirement Commission; Claude Poulin,
4 Actuarial Trustee; Michael O'Brien, Trustee; Michael
5 Bailey, Trustee; John Flores, General Counsel to the
6 Treasurer's Office and Ex Officio Member to the
7 Retirement Commission; Trustee Karen Nolen; Trustee Sal
8 Luciano; Tim Ryor, Actuarial Trustee; John Disette,
9 Trustee; John Herrington, Retirement Services Division
10 Director; Colin Newman, Assistant Director of
11 Retirement Services Division; Ya Menon, General Counsel
12 from the Comptroller's Office; Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel
13 from Robinson & Cole; Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel from
14 Robinson & Cole; and I'm from Rose Kallor, General
15 Counsel to the Retirement Commission.

16 Is there anybody that I missed? All right.
17 That looks good. Thank you.

18 MR. SCIOTA: Mark Sciota.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, Mark Sciota, Municipal
20 Liaison. I'm so sorry.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you, Cindy.

22 The Chairman's Report will be brief and
23 repetitive and heartfelt. I'd like to acknowledge the
24 Division, and Marty Carlson, John Herrington for
25 keeping the ship afloat and moving us forward. I'm

1 just constantly surprised and amazed at what you've
2 been able to accomplish in the timeframe that we have.
3 So I do acknowledge that.

4 I'll turn it over to the Division Director
5 for his report.

6 MR. HERRINGTON: So I have the report. I've
7 circulated it. This is similar to reports that we've
8 made in past months. Our focus is throughout the rest
9 of this year eliminating all of our existing backlogs
10 so that we can free up any and all of our resources to
11 devote to the 2022 potential retirement surge. We are
12 also making efforts to provide as much information as
13 possible to the relevant populations.

14 So the issue that we worked on this month is
15 we've released a memo outlining the major highlights
16 with respect to potential changes in 2022 and provided
17 some context in terms of how potential retirees should
18 factor in those changes in making their decisions. We
19 continue to roll out our self-service tool to the
20 population. We've rolled it out to 78 percent of those
21 that are eligible. The last agencies that we're
22 rolling it out to would be higher education.

23 So we've rolled it out to Central Connecticut
24 State University. We're still working through the
25 other State universities, community colleges, UCONN,

1 and the Health Center. And for a host of these
2 students, those cases are slightly more complicated.
3 And so as you can see, over the past year, we've made
4 considerable efforts and had very large rollouts.
5 We've been rolling this out to agency by agency every
6 two weeks. It's going to slow down a little bit as we
7 work through these harder populations at the higher
8 education institutions. But we certainly are on track
9 to have all of those released by December of this year.

10 The benefit of that is that that gives the
11 entire population information on demand so that they
12 can make their decisions, but it also assists us
13 because those cases will have already had at least one
14 review and will be easier and quicker to audit when and
15 if any of those individuals actually submit retirement
16 paperwork.

17 As you can see, we continue to make
18 considerable progress with the reduction of our
19 disability backlog, and also our scheduling of
20 disability initial applications - the initial
21 applications, but we're at a point where just about
22 anyone that submits their application today, so long as
23 they have their medical records in order, will go
24 before the MEB in at least three months. In some
25 cases, if they submit a complete packet on day one,

1 they may be able to go, you know, much earlier than
2 that. So that's probably the greatest success with the
3 largest impact on, you know, our population, and we are
4 certainly on track there.

5 We also continue to work both internally and
6 externally on perfecting our plan in terms of assessing
7 what options we have for increasing our productivity
8 and/or servicing larger segments of the population in
9 connection with 2022, but also kind of broader beyond
10 that. So the consolidation of the DAS HR pod, the
11 pension and leaves pod, that continues to raise some
12 issues that we need to work through collectively.

13 We are teaming up with our retiree active in
14 payroll unit and also our health and benefits unit to
15 see what, if anything, we can do to assist there. One
16 of the things that has come to light is that it's
17 difficult for certain individuals to get information
18 that they historically would have received from their
19 agencies, and so we've created a webinar to address
20 that. And sometime in the August timeframe, we will be
21 conducting webinars with question-and-answer periods at
22 least, you know, once a month, depending on how this
23 works out, perhaps, you know, multiple times a month so
24 that there's another avenue for individuals to have
25 their questions answered.

1 But that's where we stand for July.

2 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. Before-

3 MS. CIESLAK: Chairman?

4 MR. ADOMEIT: I'm sorry.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Just for the record - Chairman,
6 this is Cindy Cieslak. I apologize for the
7 interruption. I just wanted to note that Trustee
8 Sandra Fae Brown Brewton has joined.

9 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you. And I should
10 announce my name when I talk. Peter Adomeit here.

11 I have a technical question. The Actuarial
12 Subcommittee met yesterday, and they voted to recommend
13 that we accept the Connecticut Probate Judges Valuation
14 Report. I don't believe that's now on the agenda. I
15 think we should amend the agenda to place it on the
16 agenda.

17 MR. POULIN: This is Claude Poulin.

18 Mr. Chairman, I move to add after Item 18 of
19 the agenda the following Item 19, Request Commission
20 Acceptance of the Probate Judges and the Employees of
21 the Retirement System Actuarial Report Prepared as of
22 12/31/2020.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you. Adomeit here.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
3 hand.

4 It's unanimous. Thank you very much.

5 Okay, Marty, do you have anything to report?

6 MR. HERRINGTON: Marty, you're on mute.

7 MS. CARLSON: And you know what? I'm going
8 to hold because Sal Luciano I think has his hand up
9 with a question for John Herrington.

10 MR. ADOMEIT: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see
11 it.

12 Sal?

13 MR. LUCIANO: Not so much a question, but I
14 want to thank John Herrington for doing all that
15 regarding allowing employees to get the information
16 regarding retirement. It seems like he's trying to do
17 it too because the DAS pod that is supposed to provide
18 the information, you just can't get an answer from
19 them. So unfortunately - that staff should be with you
20 guys. It should be with the Division. Instead
21 they're, at DAS, not doing much of anything as far as I
22 can tell from the complaints that I've been getting
23 from people who want to retire, but can't get any
24 information.

25 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Sal.

1 MS. CARLSON: I'm going to address what Sal
2 is saying. We are also concerned.

3 MR. ADOMEIT: This is Marty Carlson talking.

4 MS. CARLSON: I'm sorry. Marty Carlson here.
5 We've thought from day one that the
6 retirement pod at DAS is significantly under-resourced.
7 And as John said, what members could used to be able to
8 get in their HR department, in their agencies, it's not
9 easy for them to get it now.

10 I'm also concerned because - or John and I
11 were also concerned because one of the two lead members
12 of that pod over at DAS announced a retirement, I think
13 for October 1. So I have a call out to Nick Hermes,
14 and I think we have a meeting scheduled, John, on how
15 to help with that.

16 That being said, as all of you know, if
17 everything goes south, you know, for 2022, the calls
18 and the stories are not going to be about the pod at
19 DAS; they're going to be about the Retirement Division
20 of the Comptroller's Office. So I've set up - John and
21 I have set up, you know, I don't know what to call it,
22 a SWAT team or a project team of everyone on deck at
23 the Comptroller's Office to strategize how we're going
24 to handle the uptick. We're actually hoping that folks
25 don't all decide to retire on July 1 of '22. That may

1 be in January they start.

2 We had a big month last month, I think of
3 over 350 or so retirees.

4 MR. HERRINGTON: Two-ninety-one.

5 MS. CARLSON: Two-ninety-one. I'm sorry.

6 And we're kind of hoping that that ticks up as we go
7 along because we will be better able to handle that.
8 But that is a concern.

9 And then I don't - you know, to give that pod
10 the benefit of the doubt, they are really qualified and
11 really smart and really trying. I just don't think
12 that they can handle the volume. And to Sal's point of
13 they should be with us, that's a conversation somebody
14 could have, I guess. But the number that are at DAS
15 now handling what they are required to handle would
16 probably quadruple if it came to us because that's how
17 under-resourced they are.

18 So I just want to like put that out there.
19 It's not a matter of, oh, let's plop the people on the
20 pod over in the Comptroller's Office and we'll be able
21 to handle it. We would not be able to handle it.

22 Second to that, on a more positive note, I
23 would like to say for those of you who have been on the
24 Commission for a long time, you will remember the
25 number of audits that have come through on the

1 retirement division that have had 13, 14, 15 findings.
2 And I actually asked for a virtual standing ovation for
3 John Herrington at a Division Director's meeting the
4 other day because the draft has come through with only
5 four - four of which we don't necessarily agree with
6 anyway, and we'll figure that out - but the
7 extraordinary work that John has done, and not
8 necessarily because the auditors are yelling at us
9 about it.

10 It's just the Division is on a daily basis
11 improving services and accountability and transparency,
12 and it's been quite frankly led by John Herrington
13 since he's been here. So I just want to point that out
14 to everybody.

15 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Marty.

16 MS. CARLSON: Go ahead.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: John, they're talking about
18 you. Congratulations.

19 Okay. We can now move into new matters.

20 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve the minutes.

21 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

22 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or raise
23 your hand.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

25 MR. ADOMEIT: All opposed, say nay or raise

1 your hand. The ayes have it.

2 Sal?

3 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Item 2, The
4 Chairman's expenses.

5 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

11 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Item 2, with
12 Claude abstaining.

13 MR. ADOMEIT: Be Item Number 3.

14 MR. LUCIANO: I'm sorry. Number 3.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

21 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to move Item 4 with Tim
22 abstaining.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or raise
25 your hand.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

4 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to accept Items 5 and 6,
5 Invoices from-

6 MR. ADOMEIT: If we don't have a 6 - the 6
7 has not been provided to - for us, I don't think.

8 Cindy? I have no record of receiving your
9 invoices.

10 MS. CIESLAK: I had hoped that you would have
11 gotten them yesterday, but if you did not, then we can
12 hold off until the next meeting.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to accept Item 5 only
14 then.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

16 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? All in favor,
17 say aye or raise your hand.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

21 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Items 7 and
22 8.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

4 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Item 9,
5 disability for the month of June 2021.

6 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

12 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Items 10 and
13 11, the municipal retirement and municipal disability
14 retirement.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

21 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Item 12, the
22 municipal disability retirement denials.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

4 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to accept Items 13 and
5 14, recommendations from the Medical Examining Board.

6 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

12 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to approve Items 15 and
13 16, the approval of probate judge system and expenses.

14 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

20 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to accept State of
21 Connecticut Retirement Plans and Alternative
22 Retirements Plans in Tier IV, Statement of Investment
23 Policy.

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 MR. ADOMEIT: Any discussion? Hearing none,

1 all in favor, say aye or raise your hand.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

5 MR. LUCIANO: The next item is a request
6 received from Vito Barbagallo that the Commission
7 review and reconsider its 2020 denial of his request to
8 purchase his periods of prior military service rendered
9 between November 5th, 1975 and March 1st, 1999. He has
10 an appearance via Zoom, I believe.

11 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

12 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. It's on the agenda, so
13 we're going to - is he here?

14 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak. He has
15 not joined yet. For the record, I will indicate that
16 the invite got sent to both Mr. Barbagallo and his
17 attorney. I received an email back indicating that it
18 could not be sent to the email address he had provided
19 for himself. And so I sent a follow-up email to his
20 attorney advising him of such and asking for his
21 attorney to confirm that he received the invite in my
22 second email, and I have not yet heard back from Mr.
23 Barbagallo's attorney.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: All right.

25 MR. LUCIANO: I think we can be flexible and

1 if at some point when we're on, we could - if he wants
2 to show up, we can hear his concerns. Hopefully, it
3 will be new information.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: All right. Well, he has
5 submitted the new information, and it is on our packet.
6 I wrote down the number. I don't have it in front of
7 me. But it's in your packet. It's Exhibit L to his
8 documentation, which constitutes the new evidence.

9 Okay. Shall we move on, Sal?

10 MR. LUCIANO: Sure. A request that the
11 Commission accept the Probate Actuarial Report dated
12 12/31/2021.

13 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

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

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

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

19 MR. LUCIANO: I'd like to move - since we've
20 finished the items on general business, I'd like to
21 move that we go into executive session for purposes to
22 discuss the update to public meeting requirements,
23 written legal opinion-

24 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

25 MR. LUCIANO: --with the usual suspects

1 allowed to attend.

2 MR. ADOMEIT: Cindy, can you read them off,
3 please?

4 MS. CIESLAK: All right. This is Cindy
5 Cieslak. For the record, Michael Rose joined us, and
6 so the individuals that I believe your motion includes
7 would be Michael Rose; Bruce Barth; Alisha Sullivan;
8 myself, Cindy Cieslak; John Herrington; Colin Newman;
9 and Ya Menon.

10 MR. LUCIANO: Yes, because they have
11 information pertinent to what we need to hear. So
12 thank you, Cindy.

13 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Chairman, would you like to
15 call the vote?

16 MR. ADOMEIT: Yes. All in favor, say aye-

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

20 (The Board was in executive session from 9:29
21 a.m. to 10:01 a.m.)

22 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.

23 MR. LUCIANO: Let's invite him in.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: We're back in-

25 MS. CIESLAK: Give me one minute.

1 MS. BROWN BREWTON: And Sal made a motion.
2 This is Fae. I'll second that motion.

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

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

6 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
7 hand. The ayes have it.

8 Okay.

9 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.

10 MR. ADOMEIT: Go ahead.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Oh, no, Peter, you go ahead. I
12 just wanted to let you know that Mr. Carbone and Mr.
13 Barbagallo appear to have connected to the audio and
14 should be all set.

15 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Mr. Carbone, Mr.
16 Barbagallo, good morning.

17 This is a Zoom hearing. It's not
18 adversarial. The Commission had previously denied your
19 client's request. You submitted additional
20 information, new facts, which allowed us to put you on
21 for a hearing to determine whether your new facts are
22 sufficient to reverse the earlier decision.

23 And my understanding is you have an Exhibit
24 L, which you presented to us, which is Page - I think
25 it's Page 109, but I don't have it written down, but

1 it's in your packet. So if you could address yourself
2 to that, we'd appreciate it.

3 So please proceed.

4 MS. NOLEN: Steve, you're muted.

5 MR. ADOMEIT: You're muted. We can't hear
6 you. There you go. Thank you.

7 MS. NOLEN: Still can't hear.

8 MR. ADOMEIT: Still can't hear you. Still
9 can't hear you.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Carbone, this is Cindy
11 Cieslak. I'm an attorney for the Retirement
12 Commission. The information I sent you also had a
13 phone number on it. Well, it had several phone
14 numbers, but if you choose one, dial in and enter the
15 meeting passcode, the meeting ID and the meeting
16 passcode, you can then talk with your phone. It might
17 require you to go off of the video just so we don't
18 have two audios interfering because my understanding is
19 you can hear what we're saying. But that way, we'll be
20 able to hear you.

21 All right. I see you're calling from a phone
22 here. I'm going to let you in. It might require you
23 to at least mute your computer speakers so we don't get
24 feedback, but then you should be able to keep your
25 camera on if you mute your computer speakers.

1 Can you hear us through the phone?

2 MR. CARBONE: I can.

3 MS. CIESLAK: And we can hear you now.

4 MR. CARBONE: Okay. Thank you. So the
5 packet you're referring to, I don't actually have that
6 packet with those exhibit numbers outlined in front of
7 us. (Inaudible)

8 MR. ADOMEIT: Mr. Carbone, it's a letter
9 dated June 28th, 2021-

10 MR. CARBONE: Thank you.

11 MR. ADOMEIT: --to Mr. Newman from your
12 client.

13 MR. CARBONE: Yes, sir. So this letter was
14 sent in on behalf of Mr. Barbagallo. It outlines that
15 he had applied for the retirement credits for that
16 military service previously, that he had a change of
17 address in June or July of 2005. And he did notify his
18 agency, the Department of Corrections, of that change
19 of address timely, yet in researching the matter for
20 this appeal, he discovered that the agency's change of
21 address did not go into effect until January of 2006,
22 and that's why it was submitted as some rationale as to
23 why Mr. Barbagallo, who has consistently claimed he had
24 not received correspondence from the Comptroller's
25 Office with regard to how much credit he can purchase

1 and what the purchase of that would have been.

2 Is that accurate, Vito?

3 MR. BARBAGALLO: (Inaudible)

4 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you.

5 Anybody on the Commission have any questions
6 of Mister - Attorney Carbone?

7 Okay. Hearing none-

8 MR. CARBONE: Well, we thank you for your
9 time. And I apologize for the delayed connection here.

10 MR. ADOMEIT: You don't need to, and this is
11 a minor delay. I can relate to you horror stories that
12 will turn your hair on fire. Thank you very much.

13 MR. CARBONE: Thank you.

14 MR. ADOMEIT: How does the Commission wish to
15 proceed?

16 MR. NEWMAN: This is Colin. Can I just give
17 you some information? So even though he's - they've
18 indicated that, you know, he had a change of address
19 and it wasn't acted upon by the agency until a few
20 months after he had submitted it, we actually - the
21 invoice and letter regarding his active duty periods
22 that was sent from us actually was sent in 2012.

23 And it was sent certified. There was no
24 indication that it was returned unsigned or
25 undelivered. And the fact of the matter is the invoice

1 was never responded to, neither was the letter, which
2 the letter - and the purpose of the letter was us
3 asking for additional information regarding the small
4 periods of active-duty service that he had while he was
5 in the National Guard.

6 So, like I said, I know they brought up, you
7 know, the 2005, 2006 dates, but the fact of the matter
8 is that the invoice was sent in 2012. And the reason
9 why it was sent later was because of the fact that the
10 periods of time that he was requesting, at the time,
11 they were ineligible. But because this also can change
12 in the - you know, with federal law with respect to the
13 dates that were now considered eligible, in - I think
14 that was around 2006, 2007, somewhere around there, his
15 invoice - when his invoice was sent along with the
16 letter, it was because the dates were now eligible for
17 retirement credit.

18 But, you know, the bottom line is that he
19 never responded to the invoice and he never responded
20 to the letter, which was sent in 2012. And so
21 basically, his file was closed because of the no
22 response, and it was in the letter basically saying
23 there's no response. That is considered a permanent
24 forfeiture of the ability to make the purchase.

25 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Mr. Newman.

1 Mr. Carbone, do you want to respond to that,
2 please?

3 MR. CARBONE: So I do have Mr. Barbagallo who
4 is still expressing he had not received that
5 information.

6 Do we know what address was used for that
7 correspondence?

8 MR. NEWMAN: One-seventy-four South
9 Washington Street in Plainville.

10 MR. CARBONE: Yeah. Yeah, that is his
11 current address.

12 MR. BARBAGALLO: My address (inaudible).

13 MR. CARBONE: And it would have been
14 certified. He doesn't recall receiving that.

15 MR. BARBAGALLO: No.

16 MR. CARBONE: And at that time, he had been
17 going through this process already and trying to
18 acquire this information as well. And he had been
19 consistent in trying to track this down since at least
20 2015.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: Mr. Newman, do we have any
22 evidence about other - it was signed and returned?

23 MR. NEWMAN: I don't believe we have the -
24 whether or not that was actually signed and returned.
25 I don't recall seeing that.

1 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. NEWMAN: That's usually the end of
3 (inaudible) communication.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: All right. Are there any
5 further questions from members of the Commission?

6 Okay, hearing none, how does the Commission
7 wish to proceed? Do you want to take the matter under
8 advisement? Do you want to discuss it now? I'll be
9 guided by what the Commission wants to do.

10 MS. BROWN BREWTON: Mr. Chairman, this is Fae
11 Brown Brewton. And inasmuch as we have no signed
12 receipt either showing that the delivery attempt, the
13 certified mail delivery attempt, failed or Mr.
14 Barbagallo refused to accept delivery, my
15 recommendation would be that a motion be made to grant
16 his request.

17 MR. ADOMEIT: Are you making that motion now?

18 MR. CHISEM: (Inaudible) second.

19 MR. ADOMEIT: Okay, who seconded, please?

20 MR. CHISEM: Carl.

21 MS. BROWN BREWTON: Yes, I'm making said
22 motion, Mr. Chair. This is Fae.

23 MR. ADOMEIT: All right. Thank you.
24 Seconded by Carl Chisem. Is there any further
25 discussion?

1 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion,
2 signify by saying aye or raise your hand.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

4 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your
5 hand.

6 It's unanimous. Thank you very much.

7 Mr. Carbone, we have granted your request.

8 MR. CARBONE: Thank you, sir. I thank you.
9 Mr. Barbagallo thanks you and the entire committee. I
10 appreciate your time. It's an important job and we
11 appreciate it. Thank you.

12 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you very much.

13 All right. Back to executive session then?
14 We need a motion to get on back to the regular agenda
15 at this point.

16 Sal? Sal, we need a motion to get back to
17 the regular agenda, please.

18 MR. LUCIANO: I apologize. My internet
19 kicked out for a second. So just give me a second to
20 get back.

21 MR. ADOMEIT: Sure.

22 MR. LUCIANO: And screen scroll down
23 whatever, however many hundreds of pages.

24 Okay, motion to come out on - ah, I'm sorry.
25 Motion to go back into executive session.

1 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

2 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye.

3 MR. LUCIANO: For the process—

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (No audible
5 responses)

6 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay. The ayes have
7 it.

8 MR. LUCIANO: It's Faranja (phonetic).

9 MR. ADOMEIT: All right.

10 MS. CIESLAK: For the record, this is Cindy
11 Cieslak. Those being invited into executive session
12 include Bruce Barth, Alisha Sullivan, John Herrington,
13 Colin Newman, Ya Menon, and myself, Cindy Cieslak.

14 MR. LUCIANO: Yes, thank you.

15 (The Board was in executive session from
16 10:15 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.)

17 MR. LUCIANO: --on record.

18 MR. ADOMEIT: Sal.

19 MR. LUCIANO: So there was at least no—

20 MR. ADOMEIT: This is Sal Luciano speaking.
21 Go ahead, Sal.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Sal Luciano speaking. There
23 was agreement by the Commission that we continue to
24 meet by Zoom and reevaluate in three months, following
25 all of the policies that we need to follow.

1 MR. ADOMEIT: Yeah, that was the consensus.
2 Okay, thank you. Okay.

3 MR. LUCIANO: And I believe a meeting (sic)
4 to adjourn is in order.

5 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

6 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor say aye.

7 MR. CAREY: Hold on, hold on, hold on.

8 MR. ADOMEIT: Oh.

9 MR. CAREY: Hold on, hold on.

10 MR. ADOMEIT: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. CAREY: Do we - I don't know. We might
12 need to or want to have a vote in the Latham matter.
13 So toward that end, I would move that the Commission
14 deny Mr. Latham's appeal.

15 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

16 MR. ADOMEIT: Thank you, Michael.

17 Two thank-you's. Any discussion? Hearing
18 none, all in favor, say aye.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

20 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay. The ayes have
21 it.

22 MR. LUCIANO: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

24 MR. ADOMEIT: All in favor, say aye or raise
25 your hand.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MR. ADOMEIT: Opposed, nay or raise your

3 hand. The ayes have it.

4 Excellent meeting, folks. Thank you so much.

5 MR. LUCIANO: Thank you.

6 MR. CAREY: Take care, everybody.

7 (Adjourned at 10:41 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 meeting held electronically via
Zoom, conducted at 9:09 a.m. on July 15, 2021.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

09/10/2021

Date