

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

AUGUST 27, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:07 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
Dr. Sheldon Nova
Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
Annette Sadlowski, Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor, LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:07 a.m.)

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5 DR. RUDICH: The August 27, 2021 meeting of
6 the Medical Examining Board is now in session. I'm Dr.
7 Lynn Rudich, Chairperson. With us, we have Dr. Sheldon
8 Nova, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. Present from the Office of
9 State Comptroller Retirement Services Division are
10 Colin Newman, Annette Sadlowski, Robert Helfand and
11 William Cassada. Also with us is General Counsel for
12 the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

13 I'm going to make a motion to go into
14 executive session, but I request the members of the
15 Retirement Services Division and Counsel Cieslak be
16 allowed to remain.

17 Is there a second?

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

19 DR. RUDICH: Any discussion? All in favor,
20 say aye.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 DR. RUDICH: All opposed, say nay. Motion
23 passes.

24 (The Board was in executive session from 9:08
25 a.m. to 10:34 a.m.)

1 DR. RUDICH: The Board will be making
2 determinations and voting on those determinations, but
3 I would like to remind members that only a final vote
4 will be given today, and not the reasons for the vote.
5 In some instances, there may not have been enough
6 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps
7 a non-service-connected disability is more likely than
8 a non-service - I mean, a service-connected disability.

9 (Inaudible) initial denial, you may seek
10 reconsideration. Written determinations should be
11 received within two to four weeks, which will give
12 additional information.

13 This is Rudich. I make a motion to approve
14 the application for non-service-connected disability
15 retirement of Joy Babcock.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. I second.

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

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

22 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to approve the
23 non-service-connected disability retirement of Sharon
24 Belliveau. Is there a second?

25 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

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

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

6 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
7 to deny the application for service-connected
8 disability retirement of Margaret Cardona. Is there a
9 second?

10 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. Second.

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

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

16 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
17 to deny the application for service-connected
18 disability retirement of Talicia Clarke.

19 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova. I approve.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. There is a second
21 by Dr. Nova. Any further discussion? There being
22 none, all in favor, say aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, nay.

1 MS. CIESLAK: All right. So because this is
2 not unanimous, we're going to take a rollcall vote.

3 This is Cindy Cieslak.

4 Dr. Rudich, how do you vote on this motion?

5 DR. RUDICH: I deny.

6 MS. CIESLAK: You vote in favor of the motion
7 to deny? Thank you.

8 DR. RUDICH: I mean, yes.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova, how do you vote?

10 DR. NOVA: Deny.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova votes in favor to
12 deny.

13 Dr. Rosenberg, how do you vote?

14 DR. ROSENBERG: I vote in favor of approval.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. So, you vote against the
16 motion to deny. So, the motion to deny passes two to
17 one.

18 Dr. Rudich, do you move-

19 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion - yeah. Did
20 somebody want to make a motion about Claudio?

21 DR. ROSENBERG: You didn't present the name
22 yet.

23 DR. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, this is Cindy
24 Cieslak. I think because Dr. Rudich is likely to not
25 vote the same way that the majority may vote, she

1 doesn't feel comfortable making the motion.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Oh, okay.

3 MS. CIESLAK: She's asking for another doctor
4 to make the motion regarding Jorge Claudio's
5 application for service-connected disability.

6 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. I didn't realize
7 that. Thank you.

8 DR. NOVA: I make the motion for approval of
9 Jorge Claudio.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Nova.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. I second.

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

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

16 DR. RUDICH: Nay.

17 MS. CIESLAK: All right. Because it is not
18 unanimous, I will take a rollcall vote.

19 Dr. Nova, how do you vote regarding the
20 motion to approve Mr. Claudio for service-connected
21 disability?

22 DR. NOVA: I agree.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Okay.

24 DR. NOVA: Approve.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rosenberg, how do you vote

1 regarding approving Jorge Claudio's application for
2 service-connected disability?

3 DR. ROSENBERG: I vote to approve.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. And Dr. Rudich, how
5 do you vote regarding the motion to approve Jorge
6 Claudio's application for service-connected-

7 DR. RUDICH: I vote nay.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. The motion passes two to
9 one.

10 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to deny the
11 application for service-connected disability retirement
12 of Carlos Gonzalez, but the Board to look favorably on
13 non-service-connected disability retirement.

14 Is there a second?

15 DR. NOVA: I second.

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

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: Nay.

22 MS. CIESLAK: All right. It's not unanimous,
23 so we're going to take the rollcall vote.

24 The motion is to deny Mr. Gonzalez'
25 application for service-connected disability, but look

1 favorable on a non-service application.

2 Dr. Rudich, how do you vote?

3 DR. RUDICH: Approve the motion.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova, how do you vote?

5 DR. NOVA: I approve.

6 MS. CIESLAK: And, Dr. Rosenberg, how do you
7 vote?

8 DR. ROSENBERG: I vote to deny.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. The motion passes two to
10 one.

11 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
12 to approve the application for non-service-connected
13 disability retirement of Tanya Hinds. Is there a
14 second?

15 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Rosenberg. I second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. Further discussion?
17 There being none, all in favor, say aye.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

21 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to approve the
22 application for non-service-connected disability
23 retirement of Jason Massai.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There

1 being none, all in favor, say aye.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

5 DR. RUDICH: Rudich. I make a motion to deny
6 the application of Michael McCargo.

7 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, aye.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Nova seconded the motion.
9 Any further discussion? There being none, all in
10 favor, say aye.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

14 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to deny the
15 application for service-connected disability retirement
16 of Rowan Monington.

17 DR. ROSENBERG: Rosenberg, second.

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

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

23 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
24 to approve the application for non-service-connected
25 disability retirement of Patrick O'Brien.

1 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

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

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

7 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
8 to deny the application for service-connected
9 disability retirement of Rudy Recinos.

10 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

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

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

16 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
17 to approve the application for service-connected
18 disability retirement of Jorge Rivera.

19 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, aye.

20 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
21 Nova. Any further discussion? There being none, all
22 in favor, say aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

1 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to approve the
2 application for service-connected disability - to
3 approve the application for non-service-connected
4 disability retirement of Arcena Roget-Privott.

5 Is there a second?

6 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

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

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

12 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I'm going to
13 ask for somebody else to make a motion on Kevin Trosky.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg.
15 I make a motion to approve the service-connected
16 disability for Kevin Trosky.

17 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, second.

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

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed, say nay.

22 DR. RUDICH: Nay.

23 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The vote is not
24 unanimous, so there will be a rollcall vote.

25 Dr. Nova, how do you vote on the motion to

1 approve Mr. Trosky's service-connected disability?

2 DR. NOVA: I approve.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. Dr. Rosenberg, how
4 do you vote on the motion to approve Mr. Trosky's
5 service-connected disability?

6 DR. ROSENBERG: I approve.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, how do you vote on
8 the motion to approve Mr. Trosky's service-connected
9 disability?

10 DR. RUDICH: Nay.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. The motion passes two to
12 one.

13 DR. RUDICH: This is Rudich. I make a motion
14 to approve the non-service-connected disability
15 retirement of Keith White.

16 DR. NOVA: Dr. Nova, I approve.

17 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you for the second, Dr.
18 Nova.

19 This is Cindy Cieslak. I just want one
20 clarification for the record because I believe my audio
21 cut out.

22 Dr. Rudich, is your motion to approve non-
23 service-connected disability?

24 DR. RUDICH: Non-service.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Non-service, okay.

1 DR. RUDICH: (Inaudible)

2 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. All right. Any
3 further discussion? There being none, all in favor,
4 say aye.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

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

8 DR. RUDICH: I make a motion to adjourn this
9 meeting of the Medical Examining Board.

10 DR. ROSENBERG: It's Rosenberg. Second.

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

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Any opposed? Nobody is
14 opposed. We are adjourned. Thank you.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: Thanks, everybody.

16 (Adjourned at 10:46 a.m.)

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I, Karin A. Empson, do hereby
certify that the preceding pages are an accurate
transcription of the Connecticut State Employees
Retirement Commission, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:07 a.m. on
August 27, 2021.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

09/27/2021

Date