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In The Matter Of:
SERC Medical Examining Board

Medical Examining Board

June 4, 2021

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

June 4, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:10 A.M.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Nicolai Lieders
Dr. J. Robert Galvin
Dr. Frank Gerratana

Also Present:

Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services
Unit
Annette Sadlowski, Disability Retirement Unit,
Retirement Services Division
Robert Helfand, Investigation & Recovery Unit,
Retirement Division
William Cassada, Investigation & Recovery Unit,
Retirement Division
Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose
Kallor, LLP.

Court Reporter: Theresa Bergstrand, CSR #406

1 (The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.)

2
3 MS. CIESLAK: I just turned the recording on.
4 Whoever is Chairing the meeting, we are ready to go when
5 you are.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders here, anyone here to Chair
7 the meeting?

8 DR. GALVIN: I volunteer Dr. Lieders, the famous
9 psychiatrist.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Can he hear me?

11 DR. GALVIN: Yeah, I can. It has to be a
12 psychiatrist, right?

13 DR. LIEDERS: Or, maybe Dr. Gerratana can hear me.

14 DR. GERRATANA: I also agree with the
15 recommendation that you be the Chairperson. Thanks for
16 --

17 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you, gentlemen. I am Dr.
18 Lieders. Meeting come to order. I am Dr. Lieders,
19 other members of the Medical Examining Board -- or
20 today, the June 4th, 2021 meeting is now in session. I
21 am Dr. Lieder. Other members of the Medical Examining
22 Board are Dr. Galvin and Dr. Gerratana. Present from
23 the Office of the State Controller Retirement Services
24 Division are staff members on the Retirement Services
25 Division, Colin Newman, Annette Sadlowski, Robert

1 Helfand and William Cassada. Also present is General
2 Counsel for the Retirement Commission, Cindy Cieslak.

3 The first test will be to amend the agenda. I make
4 a motion to remove Virgil Gardner from the agenda. Any
5 seconds?

6 DR. GALVIN: Second.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Is there discussion? No discussion.
8 All in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. Motion
9 passes.

10 So we will now go into Executive Session, which is
11 not open to the public. And we are going to be
12 discussing the cases. So I will make a motion for us to
13 go into Executive Session.

14 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Any discussion? All in favor say
16 aye. All opposed say nay. Motion passes. We are in
17 Executive Session. And I am going to ask the members
18 of, the staff members from the Retirement Services
19 Division, as well as General Counsel to participate in
20 the meeting. So without further adieu.

21
22 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.)

23
24 MS. CIESLAK: All right. The Medical Examining
25 Board is back in public session. Dr. Lieders, when you

1 are ready.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Okay. Just going to let people know
3 that the Board will be making determinations and voting
4 on those determinations, but I would like to remind
5 members that only the final vote will be given today,
6 and not the reasons for the vote. In some cases there
7 may not have been enough medical information to make a
8 determination or perhaps a Non-Service Connected
9 Disability is more likely than a Service-Connected
10 Disable. You may seek reconsideration of an initial
11 denial. You will receive the Board's written
12 determination within two to four weeks, which will
13 provide you with additional information.

14 To proceed to vote on the cases, I make a motion to
15 approve Gwyneth Arace-Topolski application for
16 Service-Connected Disability Retirement.

17 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
19 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
20 motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I will make a motion to deny Sharon
22 Belliveau's application for Service-Connected Disability
23 Retirement. However, the Board will look favorably upon
24 a Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Second, Gerratana.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
2 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
3 motion passes.

4 DR. LIEDERS: I will make a motion to deny Angella
5 Bentley's application for Non-Service Connected
6 Disability Retirement.

7 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
9 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table James
12 Conley's application for Service-Connected Disability
13 Retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Second, Gerratana.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
16 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Thomas
19 Defilippo application for Service-Connected Disability
20 Retirement.

21 DR. GALVIN: Second.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any
23 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
24 aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Valerie

1 Fazzino application for Non-Service Connected Disability
2 Retirement.

3 DR. GALVIN: Second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any
5 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
6 aye.

7 DR. GERRATANA: I abstain from voting having had
8 previous professional contact with the patient.

9 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. Dr. Gerratana is abstaining
10 from this. Dr. Lieders, I believe you were an aye. Dr.
11 Galvin, were you an aye?

12 DR. GALVIN: Yes, aye.

13 MS. CIESLAK: Okay. The motion passes two to zero.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table Barbara
15 Gallo's application for Non-Service Connected Disability
16 Retirement.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
19 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
20 motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Evelyn
22 Good's application for Non-Service Connected Disability
23 Retirement.

24 DR. GALVIN: Second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any

1 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
2 aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to table Irma
4 Goyco-Burnham application for Service-Connected
5 Disability Retirement.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
8 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
9 motion passes.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Sherwyn
11 Haynes application for Non-Service Connected Disability
12 Retirement.

13 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
15 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Tanya
18 Hinds application for Service-Connected Disability
19 Retirement. However, the, I should say, that the
20 Medical Examining Board would look favorably up a
21 Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement.

22 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

23 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
24 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
25 motion passes.

1 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
2 Jennifer Hunter application for Non-Service Connected
3 Disability Retirement.

4 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
6 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
7 motion passes.

8 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
9 Jennifer Hurta's application for Non-Service Connected
10 Disability Retirement.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

12 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
13 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
14 motion passes.

15 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to table Okema
16 Ivester's application for Non-Service Connected
17 Disability Retirement.

18 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

19 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
20 none, all in favor say aye. All opposed say nay. The
21 motion passes.

22 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Robert
23 Lawson's application for Service-Connected Disability
24 Retirement.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
2 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
3 motion passes.

4 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Mylinh
5 Le-Jones application for Non-Service Connected
6 Disability Retirement.

7 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

8 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
9 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
10 motion passes.

11 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Jeffrey
12 Luciano's application for Non-Service Connected
13 Disability Retirement.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
16 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
17 motion passes.

18 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to deny Chris
19 McManus application for Service-Connected Disability
20 Retirement.

21 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

22 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
23 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
24 motion passes.

25 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Timothy

1 O'Neill's request to change his application for
2 Service-Connected to Non-Service Connected.

3 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
5 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
6 motion passes.

7 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Theresa
8 Palmieri's application for Non-Service Connected
9 Disability Retirement.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

11 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
12 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
13 motion passes.

14 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Richard
15 Persson's application for Service-Connected Disability
16 Retirement.

17 DR. GALVIN: Second.

18 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any
19 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
20 aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

21 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve James
22 Rizzio's application for Non-Service Connected
23 Disability Retirement.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being

1 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
2 motion passes.

3 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Leslie
4 Santiago's application for Non-Service Connected
5 Disability Retirement.

6 DR. GALVIN: Second.

7 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any
8 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
9 aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

10 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve
11 Patricia Stickney's application for Non-Service
12 Connected Disability Retirement.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
15 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
16 motion passes.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I'll make a motion to approve Jay
18 Valentin's application for Service-Connected Disability
19 Retirement.

20 DR. GALVIN: Second.

21 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Any
22 further discussion? There being none, all in favor say
23 aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion passes.

24 DR. LIEDERS: I make a motion to approve Robin
25 Vallerand's application for Non-Service Connected

1 Disability Retirement.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

3 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
4 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
5 motion passes.

6 DR. LIEDERS: And finally, make a motion to deny
7 Barbara Walker application for Non-Service Connected
8 Disability Retirement.

9 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

10 MS. CIESLAK: Any further discussion? There being
11 none, all in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The
12 motion passes.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Okay. I'll make a motion to adjourn
14 today's meeting.

15 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

16 MS. CIESLAK: All in favor say aye. We are
17 adjourned.

18
19 (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Theresa Bergstrand, CSR, a Notary Public for the State of Connecticut, 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, convening at 9:10 a.m., on June 4, 2021.

WITNESS my hand this 14th day of July, 2021.



Theresa Bergstrand, CSR
My Commission Expires 3/31/2026