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In The Matter Of:
SERC Medical Examining Board

Medical Examining Board

July 2, 2021

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

July 2, 2021 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:05 A.M.

Present:

Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chairperson
Dr. J. Robert Galvin
Dr. Richard Blum

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Court Reporter: Theresa Bergstrand, CSR #406

1 (The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.)

2
3 DR. ROSENBERG: So I am Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, and
4 call this meeting to order. This is the June 4th, 2021
5 meeting of the Medical Examination Board. It is now in
6 session. I am Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Chairperson.
7 Present is myself, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, Dr. J. Robert
8 Galvin and Dr. Richard Blum. Present from the Office of
9 the State Controller is Retirement Service Divisions
10 staff members Colin Newman, Annette Sadlowski, Robert
11 Helfand and William Cassada. General Counsel for the
12 Retirement Commission, we have Robin Kallor substituting
13 for Cindy Cieslak.

14 I motion to amend the agenda, is there a second?

15 DR. GALVIN: Second. Okay. And --

16 MR. NEWMAN: Rosenberg, you might want to specify
17 which amendment it is that you are moving for.

18 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. So I move to amend that
19 we remove Laurie Bernier and Julia Davis from the
20 schedule for today's meeting, from the agenda. Is that
21 seconded?

22 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

23 DR. ROSENBERG: Thank you. All in favor say aye.
24 All opposed say no. And that agenda is, that motion is
25 passed.

1 So the Medical Examination Board is in, going into
2 Executive Session. And I make a motion to go into
3 Executive Session. Is that seconded?

4 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: And that is for the purpose of
6 discussing individual member disability health issues,
7 and as Chairman I request that members of the Retirement
8 Services Division and counsel be allowed to remain.

9 MS. KALLOR: One second, we didn't vote. Just vote
10 on going into Executive Session. I think the motion had
11 been seconded. And who seconded the motion? I am
12 sorry. If you could just make sure you say your name.

13 DR. GALVIN: Galvin.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: So all in favor of going into
15 Executive Session say aye. Any opposed say nay. We are
16 going into -- so it is approved that we will go into
17 executive session.

18 So that, this is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg and we have
19 entered Executive Session.

20 MS. KALLOR: Just announce who is going in.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: So, so, this is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg
22 and Dr. J. Robert Galvin and Dr. Richard Blum are
23 present for the Medical Examination Board. And we have
24 asked and invited from the Office of State Controller
25 Retirement Services Division staff members to remain in

1 session with us, and that is Colin Newman, Annette
2 Sadlowski, Robert Helfand and William Cassada. And for
3 the General Counsel for the Retirement Commission, Robin
4 Kallor is present in Cindy Cieslak's absence.

5
6 (Whereupon a recess was taken.)

7
8 MS. KALLOR: The members of the public have been
9 let in.

10 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg. The
11 Board will be making determinations and voting on those
12 determinations. We would like to remind members that
13 only the final vote will be given today and not the
14 reasons for the vote. In some instances there may not
15 have been enough medical information to make a
16 determination, perhaps a Nonservice-Connected Disability
17 is more likely than a Service-Connected Disability, more
18 likely a Service-Connected Disability. You may seek
19 reconsideration of an initial denial. You will receive
20 the Board's written determination within two to four
21 weeks, which will provide you with that additional
22 information.

23 Attorney Kallor, shall I go through the individuals
24 one by one?

25 MS. KALLOR: Yes, and then just please make sure

1 everybody who is peaking announces themselves, because
2 now we are being recorded and in public session.

3 DR. ROSENBERG: All right. This is Dr. Ralph
4 Rosenberg, and I motion to approve Tammy Bailey for a
5 Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any second?

6 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

7 DR. ROSENBERG: So that passes.

8 MS. KALLOR: Wait, we have to vote.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: Oh, I am sorry. I thought
10 everybody just did.

11 MS. KALLOR: I think there was a second. There was
12 a second by Dr. Blum and now --

13 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. All opposed
14 say no. Measure passes.

15 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion to approve Steven
16 Bielinski, the Third for service, for Service-Connected
17 Disability. Any seconds?

18 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Any opposed
20 say no. Motion passes.

21 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, make the motion Gene Boutot
22 be approved for a Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
23 seconds?

24 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: All approved say yes. All opposed

1 say no. Measure passes.

2 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Raul Carranza
3 be denied Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

4 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

5 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. All opposed
6 say no. Measure passes.

7 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Michelle
8 Costello be denied Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
9 seconds?

10 DR. BLUM: Second.

11 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor see aye. All opposed
12 say no. Measure passes.

13 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Sonnie Council
14 be denied Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

15 DR. BLUM: Second.

16 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Measure
17 passes.

18 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Denise Davis be
19 approved for Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

20 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. All opposed
22 say no.

23 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Matthew Diaz be
24 approved for Service-Connected Disability --

25 MS. KALLOR: Just to go back to Denise Davis.

1 Motion passes. Just wanted to catch you on that.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: Motion passes. Thank you.

3 So, yes, Denise Davis, motion passes for
4 Service-Connected Disability.

5 For Matthew Diaz, I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, approval
6 for Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

7 DR. BLUM: Second.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
9 passes.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that David Harris be
11 approved for Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
12 seconds?

13 DR. GALVIN: Second.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say I. Motion passes.

15 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Robert Ives, be
16 approved for Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
17 seconds?

18 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
20 passes.

21 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Thomas Kuzara
22 be approved for Service-Connected Disability. Any
23 seconds?

24 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

25 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. All opposed

1 say no. Motion passes.

2 DR. GALVIN: Excuse me, did we do both Julia and
3 Denise Davis?

4 DR. ROSENBERG: No, Julia Davis was taken off the
5 agenda.

6 DR. GALVIN: Oh, that is off. I have got an old
7 spreadsheet. Okay.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I may be
9 repeating that, but I'll do it again just to make sure.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Thomas Kuzara
11 be accepted for Service-Connected Disability. Any
12 seconds?

13 DR. BLUM: Second, Galvin.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
15 passes.

16 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that James McGraw be
17 accepted for Service-Connected Disability. Any second?

18 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
20 passes.

21 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that George Miller
22 be granted Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any second?

23 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
25 passes.

1 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Cindy Miller be
2 denied service-connected Disability. Any seconds?

3 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

4 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
5 passes.

6 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Ana Mina be
7 denied Service-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

8 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

9 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
10 passes.

11 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Levonne
12 Perez-Sutton be tabled for Service-Connected Disability.
13 Any seconds?

14 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

15 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
16 passes.

17 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Anthony
18 Rodriguez-Jimenez be approved for Service-Connected
19 Disability. Any seconds?

20 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

21 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
22 passes.

23 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Juan Sanchez be
24 approved for Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
25 seconds?

1 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

2 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
3 passes.

4 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Paul Schipritt
5 be tabled for Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any
6 seconds?

7 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second.

8 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
9 passes.

10 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Patsy Stohmal
11 be approved for Service-Connected Disability. Any
12 seconds?

13 DR. BLUM: Second, Blum.

14 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
15 passes.

16 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Helen Wilson be
17 denied Nonservice-Connected Disability. Any seconds?

18 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

19 DR. ROSENBERG: All if favor say aye. Motion
20 passes.

21 I, Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, motion that Yvette Zeno be
22 denied nonservice-connected Disability. Any seconds?

23 DR. GALVIN: Second, Galvin.

24 DR. ROSENBERG: All in favor say aye. Motion
25 passes.

1 MS. KALLOR: Any other discussions?

2 DR. GALVIN: Let me just make sure, Schipritt is
3 tabled, right?

4 DR. ROSENBERG: Schipritt was tabled.

5 DR. GALVIN: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. KALLOR: Okay. Is there, if there is no
7 further discussion, Chair, do you want to --

8 DR. ROSENBERG: Do I adjourn or are you inviting
9 them back in to hear the decision?

10 MS. KALLOR: Everyone has been in. So now you take
11 a motion to adjourn.

12 DR. ROSENBERG: This is Dr. Ralph Rosenberg, I
13 motion to adjourn this meeting of the Medical Exam
14 Board. Any seconds?

15 DR. GALVIN: Galvin, second. And I'll need Dr.
16 Rosenberg's e-mail.

17 MS. KALLOR: After we adjourn.

18 DR. GALVIN: Okay.

19 MS. KALLOR: Okay. Anybody vote, can we vote on
20 the motion to adjourn?

21 DR. GALVIN: So what is your e-mail --

22 DR. ROSENBERG: Is everybody else off that should
23 be off?

24 MS. KALLOR: Not yet. Motion passes, right. And
25 then --

1 DR. ROSENBERG: Motion passes.
2

3 (The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.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 9:05 a.m., on July 2, 2021.

WITNESS my hand this 20th day of July, 2021.

Theresa Bergstrand

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