

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
ACTUARIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

JANUARY 18, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 3:04 p.m.

Present:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman
Michael Bailey, Trustee
John Flores, General Counsel to the Treasurer's Office, Ex-
Officio Member of the Retirement Commission
Karen Nolen, Trustee
Claude Poulin, Actuarial Trustee
Timothy Ryor, Actuarial Trustee
John Herrington, Retirement Services Division Director
Jean Reid, Retirement Services Division
John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald
Ed Koebel, Cavanaugh Macdonald
Cindy Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 3:04 p.m.)

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5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. Peter
6 Adomeit here. This is the January 18th, 2023 meeting of
7 the State Employee Retirement Commission Actuarial
8 Subcommittee.

9 Cindy, do you have the attendance,
10 please?

11 MS. CIESLAK: Good afternoon. This is
12 Cindy Cieslak. Present today, we have Chairman Peter
13 Adomeit, Actuarial Trustee Tim Ryor, Trustee Karen
14 Nolen, Trustee Michael Bailey, Actuarial Trustee Claude
15 Poulin, and General Counsel from the Office of the
16 Treasurer and Ex Officio Member to the Retirement
17 Commission, John Flores. From the Retirement Services
18 Division, John Herrington and Jean Reid, and John
19 Garrett and Ed Koebel from Cavanaugh Macdonald, and
20 Cindy Cieslak from Rose Kallor, General Counsel.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, thank you.
22 The agenda, Item Number 1, CMERS Retirement System
23 Report—

24 MR. KOEBEL: Cindy, can you—

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: --as of June 30th,

1 2022.

2 Go ahead.

3 MR. KOEBEL: Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

4 Cindy, can you give me control so I can
5 share the reports? This is Eddie Koebel.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: You can screenshare
7 now using Zoom without having to be a cohost, I
8 believe.

9 MR. KOEBEL: Oh, really? Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah.

11 MR. KOEBEL: That's great.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Give it a-

13 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.
14 Yeah, the way I have the settings is I have to give
15 permission. That way, you know-

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Oh, I see, okay.

17 MS. CIESLAK: You should have permission
18 now.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: I can see why.

20 MR. GARRETT: We'll wait for that report.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Members of the public
22 trying to screenshare.

23 MR. GARRETT: Wait, we're members of the
24 public.

25 Well, Mr. Chairman, this is John Garrett.

1 It's a pleasure to be with you all today. We have a
2 lot of reports. Sorry to dump on you, but it's
3 typically that way in January. So the first one, of
4 course, is the MERS valuation, which Ed has
5 screenshared.

6 Ed, you might want to try and make that
7 bigger, if you can. I know some of the fonts in here
8 are ridiculously small anyway, but-

9 MR. KOEBEL: How's that?

10 MR. GARRETT: That looks pretty good,
11 yeah.

12 MR. KOEBEL: Okay.

13 MR. GARRETT: So if we slip over to Page
14 1, which is the comparative summary of the valuation
15 results this year to last year, this, of course, is
16 just MERS in total. This year was a pretty rough year
17 both asset-wise but also liability-wise. The market
18 value of assets, you can see drop from 3.35 billion
19 down to 3.0. Actuarial value, we have it going up a
20 little bit from the 3.154 billion to 3.260. So that
21 really was the market loss that - around pretty close
22 to nine-percent market loss for 2022, and that's pretty
23 similar to the results we see in all the other
24 Connecticut plans as well.

25 Unfunded liability is up \$200 million

1 from 924 up to 1,134. You see that in the middle of
2 the page. We have a declining amount of that present
3 value of remaining prior service amortization payments.

4 So just again to kind of point out the
5 difference between what we'll see here and what we see
6 in the GASB 67 reporting, here we carry the present
7 value of the remaining payments, and in the GASB
8 reporting, it's just the sum of the payments that are
9 outstanding. So here we see a little bit less of a
10 decline because, you know, there's still interest
11 accumulating on it, and all the payments that were made
12 were paying off a portion of that interest.

13 So we see a decline in the remaining
14 service payments. And again, this number is pretty
15 small compared to what it was back when Bridgeport had
16 some significant prior service costs they were
17 amortizing. So it's now just over seven million. So
18 what we do with that is we subtract that from the
19 unfunded liability we calculate purely from the
20 valuation results, which is just liabilities minus
21 actuarial value of assets. And we get a net unfunded
22 accrued liability, which is then spread across the
23 membership - the participating employers.

24 That cost is spread over 17 years, and,
25 you know, we probably ought to think about, you know,

1 just again, all the other systems, teachers, the State
2 employees, those larger systems, we have implemented a
3 layered approach. And that's something we might want
4 to talk about here toward the end of this presentation
5 about considering that just to kind of help spread some
6 of this increased cost over a longer period of time.

7 The funded ratio, the plan dropped about
8 3.1 percent from 77.39 to 74.2. Again, that's driven
9 by both the increased liability due to losses, but also
10 the slower growth in the assets than what we would have
11 expected.

12 These are the resulting rates. So, if
13 you remember, after the last experience study, because
14 of the increased costs, we implemented a five-year
15 phase-in to the rates, the ultimate rates. And, of
16 course, the worst experience that we could have, of
17 course, is in that last year of phase-in, where there's
18 no further spreading of cost increases, we have a loss
19 year. So we see a pretty dramatic increase in the
20 contribution rates for all the groups.

21 Social-security-covered general employees
22 goes from 17.55 to 20.14. General employees without
23 social security coverage, 21.6 roughly to 25.7. The
24 police and fire rates with social security goes from
25 23.1 to 26.12, and without social security, 24.8 to

1 30.7, so significant increases. The losses really hit
2 police and fire without social security, and actually
3 the general employee plans really pretty significantly.
4 Police and fire with social security is a pretty small
5 group, and so we don't see quite as much impact there
6 due to really the retirement experience.

7 So if we go on down to the market value,
8 Ed, let's see, it's kind of toward the end. And if
9 anybody has any questions along the way here - and
10 Claude, I appreciate you calling earlier. Claude found
11 a couple typos. You know, one thing we could bring up
12 too, which, John, I tried to call you, but I think you
13 were out of the office in a meeting, as you always are,
14 but the plan - or the report shows that we have about
15 four thousand - I think it's 4,065 terminated non-
16 vested employees.

17 And Claude brought up the point that if,
18 according to the statutes, that people remain in that
19 status and don't apply for a refund, that after 10
20 years, that could be forfeited. We looked at the data
21 we had. We don't have dates of turnover - or dates of
22 termination for everyone, but we did have some people,
23 a pretty small number - I think it was around 20.

24 Ed, is that right?

25 MR. KOEBEL: Just 20, yeah.

1 MR. GARRETT: There could be more and we
2 don't have dates of termination on everyone. But - so,
3 you know, that's something that is going to be - we'll
4 put that on the list of items, John, that, you know,
5 we're working on to clean up over time. I know you've
6 asked for the listing of the vested terminated
7 employees in SERS for that purpose too, and maybe we'll
8 add this to the list of items and prioritize it how you
9 desire.

10 MR. HERRINGTON: Yep.

11 MR. GARRETT: All right. So, yeah, if we
12 go down to the market value pieces, so again, you know,
13 we had a tough year. We see that the contributions
14 were up, which - as expected as we were phasing into
15 those higher rates. We see that the employer
16 contributions have gone up significantly, remember,
17 contributions to a lesser degree. We see the real
18 difference here is the difference in the earnings.
19 Twenty-one was a great year, of course. A 25, 26
20 percent kind of rate of return produced a lot of
21 investment earnings this year. We missed what we
22 expected to earn by about \$300 million.

23 And so that flows over - let's move over
24 to the actuarial value of assets, which I think is the
25 page before, yep. So how that flows in here is, you

1 know, we see a market total return there in the middle
2 of Page 5(a). We missed it by, you know, about 300
3 million. We're going to assume that we're going to get
4 the 219 that we expected, and then we, of course, move
5 that preliminary actuarial value, 20 percent, toward
6 market.

7 So that preliminary value is 3.3 billion,
8 and we move that 20 percent of the difference between
9 what we expect and what we got, which is \$63 million.
10 We move that towards the market value, which is lower,
11 so we drop it down to 3.26 billion.

12 So that results this year in roughly a
13 five-percent rate of return. We were expecting seven
14 percent here. So that miss turns out to be the \$63
15 million up in (7)(b), also defines the loss on the
16 actuarial value for the year too. So this year's a
17 miss of 63, but there's 252 million, 253 million of
18 losses still out there that we haven't recognized yet.
19 So yeah, we have a headwind in this plan that's likely
20 to be picking up more losses from the investment
21 experience.

22 So on Page 17 here, we're looking at
23 really the reconciliation of the UAL and then the
24 definition of what the gains and losses by sources are.
25 And you can see that investment return, again that

1 \$63.1-million loss. We had a slight gain on post-
2 retirement mortality again. You know, when an actuary
3 misses a plan this size by that amount, we're doing
4 high-fives. So post-retirement mortality, although
5 these gains are declining, I think, as a trend, we
6 could say there's - it does show that this next
7 experience study, we're probably going to be tightening
8 up mortality a little bit.

9 Cost-of-living adjustments were pretty
10 hard hit on all the plans, but MERS was no different.
11 A \$75.7-million loss due to, you know, the cost-of-
12 living adjustments that are really defined as a percent
13 of CPI change.

14 Salary increases, this is the second year
15 in a row that we saw a pretty sizable increase, over
16 five percent on average salaries of the active members.
17 That represents a \$16.3-million loss. All the other
18 stuff, which is really retirement experience, and
19 primarily this loss is defined by more retirements than
20 expected, and then turnover to a lesser degree. And
21 that results in a \$67.4-million loss.

22 New entrants, which is not really a loss,
23 this is people who came into the plan halfway or
24 partway through the year between '21 and '22, and this
25 represents their liability that accumulated in that

1 fractional year since they entered the plan.

2 So that net result is a drop of \$225
3 million, which adds that amount to the UAL. So we see
4 up top there that we reconcile the UAL. We were
5 expecting the UAL to drop down to 910. With that loss,
6 it pushes it back up to 1.135. So that's kind of the
7 story. A big loss year. Five-and-a-half percent of
8 liability is a big loss, you know, a pretty significant
9 part of that investment experience. But still the COLA
10 on top of the demographic losses for the year,
11 primarily retirements, that is a much larger loss than
12 one would anticipate.

13 So that's kind of the story for the
14 valuation. I think you all are probably getting numb
15 from hearing bad news from the actuary.

16 MR. RYOR: This is Tim Ryor. Just - I
17 don't know if you have any insight into the retirement.
18 I mean, I know with SERS, it was kind of expected
19 because there was this big wave, and we took a guess
20 and it was expected to be some variants, but I guess I
21 was a little surprised at the size of that. You know,
22 we had all the other - you know, the COLA, we knew
23 about. Well, pay raises, I think maybe we suspected.
24 But the retirement being such a big number on top of
25 all that other pain was a little bit of a surprise.

1 I don't know if you - do you have any
2 insight into that and if that will like reverse itself
3 over time and we just - anything you can offer would be
4 (inaudible).

5 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, well - go ahead, Ed.

6 MR. KOEBEL: Well, I'll just charge on
7 and you can fill in. But just looking at - here's a
8 look at the number of retirees over the last two - you
9 know, over - by year of retirement. So you can see in
10 2021, we had 534 retirements in that calendar year,
11 almost more than a hundred of the prior year. And in
12 the first six months of 2022, we had almost 250.

13 So just a lot more than what we kind of
14 anticipated, what the assumptions anticipate happening.
15 So-

16 MR. GARRETT: And-

17 MR. KOEBEL: What John said, it's a
18 windfall of a bunch of things, but yeah-

19 MR. GARRETT: Yeah.

20 MR. KOEBEL: --there were just more
21 retirements than what we had assumed.

22 MR. GARRETT: You know, and there's some
23 compounding there too in that when there's more
24 retirements, we've had two years of pay increases, so
25 final average earnings are going up. So, you know, the

1 size of the loss when people retire earlier getting
2 larger benefits is kind of exaggerated.

3 But, Tim, to your point, it is somewhat
4 self-correcting, right, because now, these people are
5 not there eligible to retire. So, you know, the hope
6 is that, you know, this slows down. I will say too,
7 don't we have this by police and fire versus general
8 employees, or is this just in total?

9 MR. KOEBEL: We just have this in total
10 for now.

11 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

12 MR. KOEBEL: We have it by split; we just
13 show it in total.

14 MR. GARRETT: When I was remembering the
15 split, I think it was police and fire that were really
16 - you know, had more of an impact than the general
17 employees. So again, you know, the police and fire go
18 out at 20 years unreduced. So that, you know, is a
19 pretty significant number of police and fire that have
20 at least 20 years of service. I think we have an aged
21 service chart down below.

22 Police and fire with social security,
23 let's see. No, you know, we only break that out by
24 age; don't we?

25 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah.

1 MR. GARRETT: No, no, let me see. Here's
2 police and fire without social security. So of the -
3 this is without social security. So this is the
4 biggest group of police and fire: 1,611 actives. Ed,
5 this is on Page 37, yeah.

6 MR. KOEBEL: Yep (inaudible).

7 MR. GARRETT: So you see there, of the
8 1,611 actives, if we count up the columns that are over
9 20, so that's 216 plus that's 292. So, you know, we're
10 talking about 348 members have over 20 years of service
11 in this valuation, which, you know, that's pretty much
12 a fifth of the population is - really over a fifth of
13 the population is eligible to go again this upcoming
14 year.

15 Now, you know, I mean, the reality is
16 that not a lot of people can afford to retire after 20
17 years of service, but, you know, that's still kind of
18 another source of a headwind that we're going to have
19 is that we do have, you know, higher service, more
20 people eligible to retire under that 20-and-out for
21 police and fire.

22 And then I think that's probably the
23 highest one. We look at - the one before, police and
24 fire with social security, again, this is a pretty
25 small group. There's, what, 65 - 77 out of the 485

1 have 20 or more years of service at the valuation date,
2 so not quite as heavy. But, I mean, general employees
3 without social security, of course, they can't go at 20
4 years of service. So, you know, we see that there's,
5 what, 235 that are over 25 years of service, and
6 general employees without social security, which is the
7 smaller of the two groups of general employees, and
8 general employees with social security - I'm sorry,
9 with - yeah, with the social security, you know, again,
10 about 130, looks like 239 - 339 out of 5,149. If I had
11 my shoes off, I would have got that number right right
12 away.

13 So it's a good point, Tim. We do have -
14 so this year, later this year, we'll be presenting our
15 experience study for MERS. These are all things that
16 we're going to have to, you know, adjust for. I don't
17 know if - you know, this is one of those things that if
18 we're missing - I know last time we did the experience
19 study, we tightened up retirement assumptions; we
20 increased them. I think, on average, we probably have
21 still missed them. You know, how much of that is
22 COVID-related and how much of that is the craziness of
23 the world, and how much of that do we want to reflect
24 in the next set of assumptions is kind of going to be a
25 part of a judgment call, which, you know, we are happy

1 to use you and Claude as resources with that to help us
2 kind of come up with that reasoning.

3 So, you know, as with the SERS experience
4 study, our plan would be to get our preliminary
5 information together, set up some discussions with
6 interested parties, you and Claude in particular, and
7 then, you know, use that to kind of look at some
8 alternatives to assumption sets.

9 MR. RYOR: Are you seeing that same stuff
10 in other plans, not necessarily state plans?

11 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, you know, these last
12 couple years have been typically higher incidence of
13 retirement and a lower incidence of turnover as what we
14 typically see. So it has been different. Strength and
15 weakness, typically when people are going out earlier
16 for retirement, you know, there is some provisional
17 (inaudible) like SERS, where, you know, COLA was going
18 to change so people had incentive to kind of go out en
19 masse.

20 But, you know, we're not seeing an en
21 masse retirement. It's really about a 15-percent
22 increase above what the trend has been. But, you know,
23 when it occurs, and you have more people utilizing a
24 20-and-out, then, you know, it gets expensive. When
25 they're first eligible for a 20-year retirement, police

1 and fire, that is the most - you know, it pretty much
2 is the most expensive benefit the plan is going to pay;
3 right? If they wait a couple years, actually there's -
4 you know, it's not increasing as fast as what it did
5 when it got up to age - or 20 years of service.

6 So it kind of peaks its rate of increase
7 right at first eligibility. And since these guys are
8 so young typically when they're eligible - you know,
9 they're typically in their 50's, early 50's, that the
10 mortality rates for them waiting isn't really, you
11 know, declining the present value of the benefit
12 they're going to earn.

13 So the reduction in the benefit for
14 somebody waiting from, you know, 52 years to 53 years,
15 because they deferred that benefit they're going to get
16 at 52, well, you know, rates of mortality at 52 are
17 pretty minor nowadays. So we're not really seeing much
18 offset in the present value of benefits by people
19 deferring their retirement as much as what we would
20 have years ago with higher rates of mortality.

21 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, so, John, I'm not
22 certain if this is the right time for this, but what
23 would happen-

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: It's John Herrington
25 talking.

1 MR. HERRINGTON: Yep, sorry. Yeah. What
2 would happen if we doubled or quadrupled the number of
3 police and fire participants in the plan? And I say
4 that because there is a bill that's been introduced
5 that would require all towns and cities with police or
6 fire departments to either offer a plan that offers
7 benefits equivalent to MERS or join MERS.

8 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, well, that would be
9 fantastic, especially if all those people are, you
10 know, like junior high school crossing guards. The
11 younger, the better.

12 MR. HERRINGTON: Right.

13 MR. GARRETT: So is this a reaction to
14 the Trumbull news, that they're covered, you know,
15 police and fire, in a defined contribution plan and it
16 has fallen well short of needs?

17 MR. HERRINGTON: I think that that's one
18 of the factors. I don't know all of the factors, but
19 yes. So that's out there. And so there's another one
20 that I think we'll discuss after the meeting--

21 MR. GARRETT: Yeah.

22 MR. HERRINGTON: --that I don't think
23 impacts this. But I was just wondering what your
24 thoughts would be on that.

25 MR. GARRETT: Well, and Ed pulled up a

1 pertinent table here. So, Ed, you want to say
2 something about what you're seeing here with the, you
3 know-

4 MR. KOEBEL: So this breaks down the
5 number of employers that currently are in this plan.
6 So there's 23, you know, municipalities covering police
7 and fire with social security and then another 19
8 without. So, yeah, I mean, if you double this and get
9 those contributions coming in, you know, that's pretty
10 powerful in the funding aspect of things.

11 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, and this really - I
12 mean, when you look at this age/service, those right
13 two columns, so the total age and service for police
14 and fire with social security, I mean, they're hired at
15 31 years of age on average, which, I mean, for me,
16 experience nationally, I think that's a little bit
17 higher than we would have expected. Typically late
18 20's is an age that police and fire go to work. And
19 it's 29, 28 in police and fire without social security.

20 So, you know, I would say the most near-
21 term threat or source of - you know, other than
22 investment return, which, of course, is always going to
23 be there, but what keeps us up with this plan is the
24 richness of the COLAs. You know, it's a very, very
25 nice COLA that these members get. You know, we're

1 paying nearly a five-percent COLA last year - I think
2 it was five-percent COLAs for the majority.

3 So, you know, yeah, I mean, CPI was, you
4 know, seven, eight percent, but to get five percent
5 from a pension plan, which, you know, our assumption is
6 about two-and-a-half percent. So it was twice what our
7 assumption was for the COLA for this year. That's, you
8 know - that's going to be another thing that we're
9 going to look at. And hopefully, you know, we'll have
10 some information to determine whether or not, you know,
11 this transient increase in CPI is a little less
12 transient than what was thought of.

13 It's certainly coming down, but again,
14 that's another source of a pretty material liability,
15 you know, what we're holding for future COLAs that, you
16 know, we would hate to zig when we should zag. So, you
17 know, if we say, oh, well, CPI is now running over five
18 percent; we increase that assumption; certainly it
19 pumps up the liabilities hugely. But the reality is
20 that, you know, maybe we do get back to that Fed-
21 targeted two-and-a-half percent rate.

22 So, I mean, there certainly needs
23 something. We're going to be spending COLA losses, you
24 know, until we get back down to a CPI of - let's see,
25 60 percent, I think the CPI has to be around four

1 percent for our - a little over four percent for our
2 assumption to be right on the group that gets paid 60
3 percent of the CPI. So, I mean, there's certainly some
4 room in there. You know, we don't have to have CPI
5 down to two percent for the plan to start enjoying some
6 gains due to COLA, but there is going to probably be
7 another year, maybe longer, that CPI remains above
8 four, and therefore, we're going to be getting some
9 losses due to COLA.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
11 questions?

12 MR. POULIN: This is Claude. I have - I
13 guess it's a question and a comment, in general. On
14 Page 5, we show the average age at retirement. And
15 what surprises me is that, in general, the trend toward
16 earlier retirement - or earlier retirement has been
17 reversed or is supposed to have been reversed in recent
18 years. And I'm surprised that the average age for
19 general employees, not police and fire, but for both
20 with social security and without social security, it's
21 under age 60 on average, and that social security is
22 not available before age 62, of course, except for
23 disability.

24 So I am surprised that if we look at both
25 these numbers, all these categories, people are still

1 retiring early. So that I thought that since there is
2 - people say that, in general, in our society, people
3 are afraid of not getting post-employment - I mean,
4 post-retirement employment, and it's still under age
5 60. Is there any comment - do you have any comment on
6 that or is it-

7 MR. GARRETT: Well, I mean, Claude-

8 MR. POULIN: --just Connecticut because
9 of the richness, if you will, of the benefit, or is it
10 a general phenomenon throughout the country?

11 MR. GARRETT: Well, I would say this is a
12 plan design. In fact, general employees with social
13 security - people retire before social security
14 retirement age are actually getting a larger - right,
15 they get covered for the period of time with a higher
16 benefit until they start receiving their social
17 security benefits. So, I think, the plan design is
18 kind of almost in its - you know, for people to go
19 ahead and leave prior to being eligible for social
20 security instead of one that would, you know, be more
21 of a disincentive for that action.

22 But police and fire, we're always going
23 to see these kind of ages. I mean, it's shocking - you
24 know, it's shocking to see, but again, remember that
25 they're eligible at 20 years of service, so that kind

1 of fits with what we see for a lot of people on average
2 retirement. In fact, I would say most of these people
3 are retiring with over 20 years of service.

4 The police and fire without social
5 security, again, that's just - so that's the benefit
6 you get in the general - I'm sorry. The two coverage
7 plans with social security, right, they provide an
8 increased benefit until you're eligible for social
9 security, but that increased benefit is exactly what's
10 being provided by the two coverage groups that have no
11 social security. So, you know, there is an incentive.
12 There's really no penalties significant. And, you
13 know, to be honest with you, with COLA rates at the
14 rate that they are, I mean, they're probably getting
15 larger pay raises - larger compensation increases with
16 COLA as a retiree than they are in many years as an
17 active.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
19 questions from anyone? Okay, hearing none, let's move
20 on. Number 2, GASB Number 67.

21 MR. GARRETT: This is the MERS GASB 67
22 report. So this really is the accounting. So 67 is
23 the accounting requirements for the plan. And then
24 those are then compiled into the county requirements
25 for the employer and GASB 68. So for MERS, we don't do

1 the GASB 68 because it's such a complex thing with all
2 the participating employers. We usually get that to
3 you out in April.

4 So - but this is the 67, which will be
5 the basis for the work that we're going to do in 68.
6 And it really is a parallel to the valuation, and we
7 see that the total pension liability is exactly what we
8 measure in the MERS valuations, 4.4 billion in
9 liability. The fiduciary net position is slightly
10 different.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Excuse me, John. May
12 I interrupt?

13 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Are you on MERS or
15 the-

16 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir, we're on the MERS
17 67 report.

18 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay, got it. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. GARRETT: So the real difference here
21 is the fiduciary net position. And it's simply - it's
22 really a pretty minor difference in that we carry a
23 receivable for those future payments on the initial
24 liability. As plans come into MERS, they get to spread
25 their past service costs over a 30-year period of time.

1 Those payments, we carry as a present value of those
2 payments, which measures exactly what that remaining
3 liability is in the valuation, so it's a nice match
4 there. But in the accounting, they carried the
5 receivable for those payments as just the sum of the
6 future payments.

7 So it's a little bit higher. It's about
8 12 million instead of the seven million that we had in
9 the valuation as the present value. The sum of the
10 payments is about 12 million. So we're going to see
11 that assets are a little bit larger than the market
12 value that we measured in the valuation.

13 So the net pension liability, 1.3. As
14 you know, in the - you know, that results in a funded
15 ratio that takes it down a little bit below 70 percent,
16 68.7 percent. The pension - or let's see. The roll-
17 forward of the TPL - and this is a point that also
18 Claude mentioned to us, and we actually had to kind of
19 standardize all our reporting. It's not shown in this
20 one, but the final version is coming out later. We'll
21 have it set this way.

22 So you see that, you know, we're kind of
23 coming up with a couple different expected TPL's, Item
24 (d) and Item (f). So what we're doing here is we're
25 saying that, you know, the expected TPL in (d) - the

1 gain/loss for the year is really a difference between
2 the actual and the expected. So we're going to call
3 (f) - Item (f) is going to be called the actual TPL.
4 And then we add to that the measure of any changes and
5 assumptions that year. And so we're going to call Item
6 (h), instead of it also being called actual TPL, we're
7 going to call that final TPL.

8 So that's going to be standard on all the
9 reports. We actually had a different version in SERS;
10 the Judges had it different too. So we standardized
11 that terminology so that we go from Item (d) that's
12 expected, Item (f) is actual, and Item (h) will be the
13 final TPL. So that way, we can, you know, show how we
14 roll forward from last year to the ending point of this
15 year.

16 And so with that, once again, this is
17 really a document that sets forth the measures that are
18 then going to be used in GASB 68, which is probably,
19 you know, the more serious work in that that's going to
20 be the basis for all the participating employers'
21 disclosures and their financial statements for yearend
22 being 6/30/22.

23 So without questions on the GASB 68
24 report, we'll move on.

25 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

1 MR. KOEBEL: Mr. Chairman, what is next
2 on your list?

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Well, I have GASB 67
4 for—

5 MR. KOEBEL: For SERS or Judges?

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: For SERS, the
7 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System.

8 MR. KOEBEL: Okay, we've got - I'll bring
9 that one up. Hold on.

10 MR. GARRETT: All right. And, Ed, jump
11 in whenever you want to. I'm sure (inaudible).

12 MR. KOEBEL: You want to take a break,
13 John?

14 MR. GARRETT: Sure, sure. I mean, you
15 guys would probably appreciate a break from a southern
16 accent for a little while; right?

17 MR. KOEBEL: Oh, stop. We love it.

18 All right, so this is the Connecticut
19 State Employees Retirement System GASB 67. We went
20 through the valuation report last month with you. So,
21 again, as we did for MERS, this is just the accounting
22 part of this. So it's very similar. Liability, I'll
23 skip down to the headcount. So this is as of June 30th
24 of 2022. We take the same data that we used for the
25 funding valuation and we use the same liability. The

1 accrued liability gets used for the accounting purpose.
2 We call it the total pension liability. That's the
3 \$40.6 billion.

4 The fiduciary net position here is a
5 little bit different again, and it counts the entire
6 receivable that was contributed after the valuation
7 date of the \$3.2 billion that came in after, again, the
8 valuation date. So that fiduciary net position, and
9 this will be on the State's ACFR, is \$18.6 billion. So
10 that's what we compare to the liabilities. So we have
11 a net pension liability of about \$22 billion, and a
12 funded ratio of about 45, almost 46 percent. So again,
13 this is - that 40.6 matches the valuation that we
14 prepared last month for you all.

15 The rest of this kind of, like John said,
16 just goes through all of our assumptions and what we
17 assume. We do a little bit of sensitivity around the
18 numbers, plus and minus one percent around there, what
19 would the net pension liability be there. And like
20 John went through, this is where we'll finalize that
21 language here, making sure we call this actual, and
22 then making sure we call this down here final. But
23 same process, same roll-forward process that we use for
24 each of the plans.

25 So that is it for 67 for SERS.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Are there any
2 questions? All right, hearing none, let's move on to
3 68, Number 3 on the agenda.

4 MR. KOEBEL: Okay. So this is, again,
5 the State Employees Retirement System 68. So this is
6 for all of the employers that are in this plan, and we
7 use the measurement data of June 30th of 2022, but they
8 actually have a reporting date of a year later. So
9 this will go onto all of the employers that issue their
10 own financial reports.

11 John Garrett, do you have a couple of
12 those employers that do that?

13 MR. GARRETT: So it's like Connecticut
14 Housing Finance Authority. There's the lottery.
15 There's some airports. So there's about seven
16 component units for which we provide GASB allocations
17 to them as if they're in a cost-sharing plan, when
18 actually, you know, we know that SERS is a single-
19 employer plan, but their accountants want them to be
20 treated as if they're in a cost-sharing plan. So we
21 have to break out their allocations of the net pension
22 liability, the differed inflows and outflows, and the
23 pension expense. So we'll be doing that later this
24 month.

25 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah, so all of this stuff

1 is kind of shown in aggregate, or in collective, we
2 call it, the accounting side of things. But here's the
3 pension expense. A lot of the same information that
4 was in 67 is in this report as well.

5 But we have the pension expense and any
6 differed outflows and inflows that we're kind of
7 covering on an accounting basis over a number of years.
8 We kind of defer them over the average future expected
9 lifetime of members of this plan, which you'll see
10 later on in the report, is - where is that - I think -
11 here we go - is about five years. So a little bit less
12 than the amortization period we use for funding, but on
13 an accounting basis, we use about five years, which is
14 the weighted average years of future service for all
15 members of the plan.

16 So that's how we developed this. So if
17 you love accounting numbers, this is the report for
18 you. We've got a lot of tables here for actual
19 experience. So you can see all of the experience
20 losses that SERS has experienced over the years from
21 our valuations. They're kind of amortized and
22 recognized in the pension expense over that five years
23 roughly. Each year is different, but that's basically
24 what it is.

25 We've had some assumption changes over

1 the past few years as well. And then all of the
2 investment experience that we see, and we've had
3 losses; we've had some years of gains. Those are
4 amortized or recognized over a five-year period.

5 So I think that's pretty much it. Again,
6 the rest is just kind of different - same numbers in
7 various looking tables.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

9 MR. KOEBEL: So if you love numbers, this
10 is the report for you.

11 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thank you, Ed.

12 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any questions or
14 comments? Okay, hearing none, we'll go on Item Number
15 4, GASB 67, Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and
16 Compensation Commissioners.

17 MR. KOEBEL: All right. Just quickly, on
18 the Judges 67, I'll just go to the Page 3 - or 2;
19 again, we've presented this valuation last month.
20 Total pension liability is about \$503 million. This is
21 a little bit better funded than SERS. We're at 55
22 percent, a fiduciary net position of \$276 million. So
23 our net pension liability is \$226 million.

24 Again, we'll fix this language back here
25 on the roll-forward.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

2 MR. KOEBEL: But basically the same
3 liability as you saw in the valuation last month, just
4 the accounting numbers.

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Any questions or
6 comments on 4, GASB 67? Okay, hearing none, let's go
7 to Item Number 5, GASB 67, Judges, Family Support
8 Magistrates, Compensation Commissioners, et cetera.

9 MR. KOEBEL: Okay, all right. Again,
10 I'll just go to Page 2 - 3 here. This is the summary
11 of all of the GASB numbers. Again, measurement data is
12 2022, but the reporting date for any employers, this
13 plan, though it is a single-employer plan as well, is
14 as of June 30th of 2023.

15 You know, one thing that we don't really
16 talk about on the GASB side of things - I've kind of
17 mentioned here - is we do a test at the beginning just
18 to make sure that the long-term expected rate of return
19 can be used for all of the years of service as we -
20 when we value the liabilities. So we actually do a
21 test. We call it the single equivalent interest rate
22 or solvency test to make sure that the plan is not
23 being depleted.

24 And if you see an N/A here in your GASB
25 68 reports, that's a good thing. That means that we

1 don't - the fiduciary net position is not being
2 depleted with future benefit payments. So we're able
3 to use the long-term rate of return, the 6.9. So just
4 a little bit of extra information there for you for
5 this one. But basically, same numbers you saw in 67
6 with the pension expense, deferred outflows and inflows
7 as well.

8 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. John and Ed,
9 are you able to give us a final report so we can bring
10 it to the Commission tomorrow?

11 MR. GARRETT: We will have all of these
12 that you all accept in the Subcommittee, we'll have
13 them all sent as finals before the end of the day.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right.

15 MR. GARRETT: If I could, Mr. Chairman -
16 this is John Garrett - I forgot to - you know, in the
17 MERS valuation, Ed, you know, we were going to actually
18 have a little bit of a conversation about that idea of
19 the amortization methodology.

20 When we look at - if we look at the rates
21 here, pretty significant increase in rates. So what we
22 do in SERS' case, each year's gain or loss, so the
23 difference between expected unfunded liabilities and
24 the actual unfunded liabilities, is spread over its own
25 25-year base. So that has actually that layered

1 approach; actually has some stability to it. It's
2 comforting that you have one base that has 17 years
3 left to pay off because you have a date-definite,
4 right, that we expect that the UAL will be zero.

5 The problem with this, as we continue to
6 march down the road, that amortization period gets
7 smaller and smaller. And, you know, market values are
8 going to expect to be higher. So therefore, market
9 gains and losses are going to be much larger. And as
10 those larger components fall into the UAL and we have
11 shorter periods of time to fund them, we're going to
12 see a lot of volatility in employer contribution rates.

13 So, you know, what we did in SERS' case
14 was we went to that 25-year layered approach. We also
15 did that in Connecticut teachers. This is the third-
16 largest plan in the State. We were just saying that if
17 we adopted that for this valuation, it would maybe
18 soften some of these contribution increases due to
19 recognizing the \$225-million loss over 17 years. So,
20 you know, we'd almost increase by a third - or by 50
21 percent the period of time we can amortize that loss.

22 So that doesn't mean we're just, you
23 know, forgetting that loss; we're going to spread it
24 over a longer period of time. I mean, that's
25 mechanically what we're doing, but the idea is that we

1 should have a base at some point in the future that has
2 a gain to it, at which time, the actuaries, we can kind
3 of manipulate those gain and loss bases to offset each
4 other, and then eliminate them from the amortization
5 schedule entirely, which kind of, you know - kind of
6 makes things a little more stable over a longer period
7 of time.

8 So again, I mean, we were hoping that we
9 could have a discussion on whether or not the
10 Subcommittee is considering any changes this year.
11 Again, I will remind you that we have an experience
12 study coming up. You know, the problem with waiting
13 for the experience study is this \$225-million loss
14 being spread over 17 years has the impact that we're
15 seeing here in these rates. And if we push it off and
16 pick it up with the experience study, it's not - well,
17 you know, I don't know if we could - we actually could
18 if you want us to. We could retroactively apply that,
19 if need be, in a future valuation.

20 So again, I just wanted to open that up
21 for a conversation.

22 MR. KOEBEL: And, John, I'll add, just to
23 kind of give some perspective around what this would
24 do, and all four of these would be different. But, for
25 instance, for the general with social security, if you

1 took the loss for that group and amortized it, not over
2 - the loss for this year and not amortized it over 17
3 years, but amortized it over a 25-year period, you're
4 not reducing the 20.14 all that much. But you are
5 reducing it somewhat. And on - they're all - again,
6 they're all different, but you're looking at a 40 to 80
7 basis point lowering of all of these contribution
8 requirements by doing that.

9 So it would help a little bit on some of
10 these. And, John Herrington, I don't know if the
11 pressure from some of the municipalities on these
12 growing employer rates and how they've become over the
13 past few years, but that might help them (inaudible)
14 fiscal year.

15 MR. GARRETT: Ed, this is John Garrett.
16 I bet if John hadn't heard from them by now, he's going
17 to hear from them next year.

18 MR. HERRINGTON: Right.

19 MR. RYOR: This is Tim Ryor. So what
20 you're proposing is not a fresh start of the entire
21 amortization, but so the-

22 MR. KOEBEL: (Inaudible)

23 MR. GARRETT: So we still have-

24 MR. RYOR: So basically the unfunded that
25 is not related to the current year loss stays at 17.

1 MR. KOEBEL: That's right.

2 MR. RYOR: And then going for - on a
3 prospective basis, all new gains and losses. So this
4 year, it will be a new 25-year base; next year, if
5 there's gains, those gains will be over a 25-year.

6 MR. KOEBEL: Right.

7 MR. RYOR: But there will be a 25 - 24
8 year, there will be a trailing payment from-

9 MR. GARRETT: Right.

10 MR. RYOR: So over the next 25 years,
11 you'll develop this schedule of payments.

12 MR. GARRETT: Which, again, is really
13 another tool for the Commission to use. Because then -
14 you know, again, the actuary can recommend - or
15 actually, you know, you or Claude actually are
16 actuaries that could recommend combining some of the
17 bases that might exist at a future point in time just
18 to eliminate - you know, they're kind of a net
19 negative, or a net neutral to the system. But we
20 eliminate that possible corner in, you know, a dip down
21 and then a rise back up in rates or vice versa that
22 might occur in the future when those pieces are being,
23 you know, completely settled down the road.

24 But, yeah, that's exactly right. So
25 there would be \$910 million, which is what the expected

1 UAL was at the end of '22. There'd be \$910 million
2 being amortized over 17 years, and then the other \$226
3 million would be spread over 25. And, again, as you
4 said, next year, there'd be a new base for whatever
5 occurs next year.

6 And, again, we're going to adopt probably
7 new assumptions, from the look of it. I mean, there
8 could be certainly some tidying of mortality, certainly
9 tidying of retirements, and payroll growth might - or
10 salary increases might also be another source of
11 another increase in liability for these plans. So
12 you're already going to have that methodology
13 established to where whatever that impact of the
14 experience study next year, that would be spread over
15 its own 25-year base as well.

16 So just something to think about. I know
17 there was always pushback about lengthening the
18 amortization period in MERS because, you know, I think
19 there was a real need to get this plan at a higher
20 funded status. But, you know, I think the need for
21 adding some stability in the contribution rates might
22 actually outtrump that need to hurry up and get funded.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

24 MR. POULIN: When Ed mentioned - this is
25 Claude. When Ed mentioned that if we were to go from

1 17 years to 25 years, the 20.14 percent, the with-
2 social-security of June 30th, '24, would probably come
3 down to 19.64, does this assume that the past bases
4 would be combined or it would be individual?

5 MR. GARRETT: So there would be a new
6 individual base. So, again, you know, for each plan,
7 we have an original base that existed at June 30, 2022.
8 And then we have the new experience that occurred as of
9 June 30, 2022 in its own 25-year base. So, again, it
10 would be a pretty minor portion of it, less probably
11 around a quarter, and most of the UAL would be in the
12 new 25-year base, and a majority of it would be in that
13 original base moving to a 17-year amortization period.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
15 questions or comments?

16 MR. BAILEY: Just one. Michael Bailey
17 here. Excuse me. But - so we've done this on the two
18 larger plans; this is the third plan (inaudible)?

19 MR. GARRETT: So SERS in 2019, I think,
20 with the last experience study, SERS adopted a 25-year
21 layered approach for amortization, which is exactly
22 what we're talking about here.

23 MR. BAILEY: Yeah.

24 MR. GARRETT: Teachers adopted it around
25 the same time, 2018, 2019. So, yeah, that - and

1 honestly, I mean, it's getting more and more prevalence
2 around the country as well, the layered approach. You
3 know, it's clean to have one base so you can see what
4 day you're going to have the UAL expected to be paid
5 off. But the problem is it gets more and more
6 difficult to get to a hundred percent funded. The
7 closer you get to that zero-year amortization period
8 because the volatility of the assets cause really
9 significant spikes up and down in the employer rates.

10 MR. BAILEY: Thanks.

11 MR. KOEBEL: This is Ed Koebel. I
12 brought up the SERS valuation report that we went over
13 last month. Can you all see that here?

14 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, so that shows the
15 layers.

16 MR. KOEBEL: So this has the layered
17 approach that we started back in 2018 for SERS.

18 MR. RYOR: For SERS, are they all level
19 dollar though now?

20 MR. KOEBEL: They are.

21 MR. GARRETT: They all have the intent at
22 level dollar for SERS, right.

23 MR. RYOR: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Anything
25 further?

1 Claude, tomorrow at the Commission
2 meeting, will you make a motion to accept these
3 reports, please, to amend the agenda to accept the
4 reports?

5 MR. KOEBEL: Mr. Chairman, this is Ed
6 Koebel. I don't know if - I guess it wasn't on the
7 agenda, but we did have one more report completed. If
8 you guys have time, we could go through one more, the
9 Police and Fire Survivors' Benefits Fund.

10 MR. POULIN: This is Claude. And also, I
11 think we have the MERS GASB 67.

12 MR. KOEBEL: Well, we - this is Ed
13 Koebel. We did that one earlier.

14 MR. POULIN: We did?

15 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah.

16 MR. POULIN: Okay. Because we - it's not
17 on the agenda. We have seven reports and five items on
18 the agenda. So I was wondering whether we should amend
19 the agenda to add the additional two.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, which are you
21 talking about, Claude?

22 MR. POULIN: Well, the Policemen and
23 Firemen Survivors' Benefits Fund is one of them. And I
24 thought that the MERS GASB 67 was not on the agenda.

25 MR. GARRETT: You're correct. I went

1 into it right after the MERS valuation, but the agenda
2 item, I think, was for SERS GASB 67.

3 MR. POULIN: That's right. We have the
4 SERS GASB 67, SERS GASB 68, but we also received MERS
5 GASB 67, and the Survivor - Policemen and Firemen
6 Survivors' Benefit Fund. So these are the two reports
7 that are not on the agenda. Should the agenda be
8 amended or-

9 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes, why don't we have
10 a motion to amend the agenda, please, Claude?

11 MR. POULIN: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I move
12 to amend the agenda to add, after Item 6, the following
13 Item 7: Discussion of the MERS GASB 67 Report Prepared
14 June 30th, 2022, and the following Item 8: Discussion of
15 Policemen and Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund Actuarial
16 Valuation Report Prepared as of June 30th, 2022.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Is there a
18 second, please?

19 MR. BAILEY: Bailey, second.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor,
21 say aye or raise your hand.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: It's unanimous. The
25 ayes have it. Okay.

1 MR. KOEBEL: All right. Again, this is
2 Ed Koebel. This is the Connecticut Policemen and
3 Firemen Survivors' Benefit Fund. So this is a fund
4 that is just for the - again, what is says, the
5 survivors of deceased policemen and firemen that are in
6 the municipal group. So the municipalities elect
7 whether they wanted to be a part of this plan. Most of
8 the employers that are in this plan are also in MERS,
9 except for the town of Milford. They've covered their
10 participants here, but not in MERS. So that's the only
11 difference.

12 So it's a much smaller group of folks.
13 But here on Page 1, we've got about 653 active members
14 that are covered in here. And again, they can die in
15 active service or retiree service - or status and their
16 beneficiary will receive benefits. So in the middle of
17 this table is the annuitant members. So these are the
18 folks that are currently receiving a benefit from this
19 plan. So it's about a little over 100 folks receiving
20 about \$1.5 million in allowances.

21 The bank account or the trust fund market
22 value has about - almost about \$45 million to pay those
23 benefits. Liabilities are just over \$60 million. So
24 the funded ratio is about 72-and-a-half percent. So
25 actually, this plan actually had an increase in their

1 funded ratio. So it's nice to see at least one plan is
2 heading in the right direction.

3 MR. GARRETT: Yep.

4 MR. KOEBEL: We do this valuation because
5 it's - you know, it's a survivor benefit fund; it's-

6 MR. GARRETT: It's really an OPEB, yeah.

7 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah, it's more of an OPEB
8 benefit. So we actually use a different cost method to
9 do it. We use a frozen initial liability where we just
10 calculate one normal - we call it the normal
11 contribution rate. So we come up with one rate.

12 We don't have an unfunded to this plan,
13 so we're calculating that contribution rate to be paid
14 in this next fiscal year to be about 1.3 percent of
15 payroll. You can see, last year, it was about 1.34
16 percent. Active members contribute about one percent.
17 So it's almost an equal sharing of membership and what
18 the employers are putting in as well.

19 Just to give you a little bit more
20 background, here's the liabilities on Page 4, \$63
21 million, again \$45 million in assets. The members are
22 contributing one percent in this, so this is how we
23 develop that 1.3 percent of the future employer normal
24 cost divided by the present value of future salaries.
25 So again, different - a little bit different cost

1 method than what we use for the other plans. But it
2 comes out to a reasonable contribution.

3 These are the different municipalities
4 that cover their employees in this plan. You can see
5 from Derby all the way down to Seymour police, 653
6 active members. And this is an estimate of what their
7 contributions would be for this plan.

8 So these folks also, just like MERS, they
9 get a letter sent to them for their contributions for
10 the next fiscal year that we do usually in February
11 when we send the MERS letters out to all the
12 municipalities. They get a separate letter showing
13 these amounts as well.

14 MR. FLORES: Ed, this is John Flores.

15 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah.

16 MR. FLORES: Is the Middlefield police no
17 longer participating, or just they don't have anyone
18 that fell in that category?

19 MR. KOEBEL: That's a great question,
20 John. They don't have anybody covered in this plan
21 anymore, yet they do have two retirees. If you look
22 back in the back here, they do have two retirees that
23 are still eligible for benefits, so that's why we
24 continue to show them in this plan.

25 MR. FLORES: Got it.

1 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah. But they don't have
2 any annuitants, so I'm not sure the history of when
3 they stopped being a part of this, but we've always
4 kept their retirees in this plan.

5 MR. FLORES: Thank you.

6 MR. KOEBEL: Yeah, no problem.

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
8 questions or comments on this one?

9 Okay, now, what is the other item we need
10 to discuss besides the one in executive session? Have
11 we done it yet?

12 MR. KOEBEL: Nothing from our end, Mr.
13 Chairman. This is Ed.

14 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

15 MR. RYOR: This is Tim Ryor. Do we need
16 to resolve your recommendation to consider changing -
17 either decide to table it, decide to do something, to
18 decide to not do something?

19 MR. GARRETT: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is
20 John Garrett. Tim, yeah, if you want to effect that
21 change, I think it would make the most sense for us to
22 incorporate it in the MERS valuation now. If you want
23 to defer it until next valuation or with the experience
24 study, we could add that to the methodologies that
25 we're going to be looking at adopting with the

1 experience study that'll be later this year to be
2 adopted prior to us doing the '23 valuation.

3 So, you know, as you all like it. I
4 think it would be more effective as far as it'll give
5 some break to current employers on the increases that
6 we're going to see due to the \$225-million loss getting
7 picked up. But, you know, it's not a night-and-day
8 difference. It's an ugly valuation with or without the
9 25-year layered approach.

10 I think long-term though, you know, this
11 is something that we're going to want to discuss even
12 more. Let's fast-forward eight years and you have a
13 nine-year amortization period, and say you suffered the
14 same nine-percent loss in the market. That's going to
15 be pretty unaffordable, you know, unless we've had a
16 lot of gains between now and then. It's going to be a
17 pretty big spike in costs at that point.

18 You know, a nine-percent loss in the
19 market doesn't sound horrible, but when we're expecting
20 to get seven, we're missing it by 16 percent of assets.
21 So it's a large number. And, you know, the assets
22 trend up, so those dollar amounts are going to get
23 larger and larger and larger over time, and probably
24 outpacing the growth in salaries for the participating
25 employers.

1 So, yeah, I mean, my recommendation, if
2 you want to think about doing it, I think this would be
3 a good valuation to implement it in, and then it would
4 give a little bit of relief to these employers.
5 However, again, it's going to be an ugly valuation, and
6 it's something that could be considered as a
7 methodology change with the experience study in the
8 next year.

9 MS. NOLEN: John, this is Karen Nolen.
10 If we did decide to do this change, would we still be
11 able to have the final valuation to vote on in front of
12 the full committee tomorrow?

13 MR. GARRETT: Yeah, I don't know. Ed,
14 what do you think?

15 MR. KOEBEL: Can I answer that? No.
16 This is Ed. No, Karen, we wouldn't be able to get that
17 done. And I wouldn't - I would recommend us sharing
18 these results with this committee before it goes to the
19 Commission anyway. Like, I threw out numbers, 40 basis
20 points to 80 basis points, but I'd rather - we'd rather
21 show you these results first at the next month's
22 Commission meeting, if that would work, or we could
23 have something in between.

24 MS. NOLEN: Okay. Well, the - Karen
25 Nolen again. Then, I guess, my next question is for

1 John Herrington. If this does get delayed and say for
2 next month, until next month, is that going to impact
3 your timeframes?

4 MR. HERRINGTON: Yeah, right. So, I
5 mean, I think it would impact the expectation of the
6 towns when they receive the rates. They would tend to
7 expect those in the beginning of February. So if we're
8 going to delay it and give them slightly better news,
9 that's good. If we're going to delay it and it's still
10 going to be the same, yeah, no. I don't know.

11 My life is easier if we delay it a month
12 and give them better news.

13 MR. GARRETT: And, Mr. Chairman, this is
14 John Garrett. And, Karen, if memory serves me, I
15 believe we have actually done the MERS valuation, there
16 has been a year that it was a delayed into February,
17 and we had a pretty compressed timeframe to produce
18 those letters for the employers, which I know we
19 produce them, but you guys give it a pretty thorough
20 review before you send them out. So, I mean, yeah,
21 something we can probably get done pretty quickly after
22 the Commission has adopted one valuation or the other.

23 I'm saying that it probably would be late
24 February at the best that those letters would be
25 probably available to go out.

1 MR. KOEBEL: And, John, this is Ed
2 Koebel. Karen, last year, we did do it in the February
3 Commission meeting, and the letters went out March 6th
4 last year. So we would, of course, aim to get them out
5 earlier than that.

6 MS. NOLEN: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. POULIN: This is Claude. Would this
8 mean that next month's meeting, we would vote the new
9 valuation for MERS and new GASB 67 and new GASB 68?

10 MR. GARRETT: That wouldn't - so the
11 amortization of the valuation UAL does not affect GASB
12 67 or 68. It will affect a future expected
13 contribution, but that's not - I mean, that's not
14 included in the report yet. If it is, it would be -
15 yeah, I don't really think it's going to change
16 anything in 67 or 68.

17 MR. KOEBEL: That's right.

18 MR. POULIN: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: So what's the gameplan
20 then? Karen? Where do we come out on this now?

21 MS. NOLEN: I guess we need to take a
22 vote.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Do you want to
24 make the motion, please?

25 MS. NOLEN: Okay. I make a motion that

1 we - well, that we switch to a 25-year layered
2 approach, amortization approach, for the MERS
3 valuation.

4 MR. GARRETT: And, Mr. Chairman and
5 Karen, I apologize to jump in, but I think all you need
6 to do is defer the decision for the MERS report. When
7 we revisit next month, we'll have the new version and
8 the old version, and you can adopt whichever one you
9 all prefer at that point, and then you go forward.

10 MS. NOLEN: Okay. So then we wouldn't
11 need a vote right now?

12 MR. GARRETT: No, really you just need to
13 not have the MERS valuation on the agenda for-

14 MS. NOLEN: To table it. Okay. I make a
15 motion to table the MERS valuation until next month.
16 Sorry. Take away my old-

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Table MERS for
18 next month.

19 MR. RYOR: Tim Ryor. I'll second that.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
21 discussion? And hearing none, all in favor, raise your
22 hand or say aye. It's unanimous. The ayes have it.

23 MR. GARRETT: Well, we'll work that up.
24 We'll send a draft out and that version with the 25-
25 year layered approach. We're only going to see one new

1 base. It's going to be one 25-year base, and the rest
2 of it is going to be spread over 17 years.

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay.

4 MR. GARRETT: So we'll have that out as
5 soon as we can in advance of the next meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. We have
7 another item on the agenda for executive session.

8 MR. HERRINGTON: Right, and that would be
9 the RSP's.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: The RSP's.

11 MR. HERRINGTON: Right.

12 MR. KOEBEL: Okay, we are out.

13 MR. GARRETT: So thank you all very, very
14 much.

15 MR. KOEBEL: Thank you, guys.

16 MR. KOEBEL: Take care.

17 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yeah, take care.

18 Okay.

19 MR. BAILEY: We need a motion.

20 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: We need a motion to go
21 into executive session, please.

22 MR. BAILEY: Yes, so moved.

23 MS. NOLEN: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor,
25 say aye or raise your hand. It's unanimous.

1 We are now in executive session.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy
3 Cieslak. Mr. Chairman, are you inviting anyone in,
4 such as John Herrington or myself?

5 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Yes, of course.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you. And we no
7 longer - just for the record, we no longer have Jean
8 Reid on the meeting.

9 (The Subcommittee was in executive
10 session from 4:12 p.m. until 4:17 p.m.)

11 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.
12 We're back in public session. I wanted to add that
13 while we were in executive session, Jean Reid from the
14 Retirement Services Division, was invited into
15 executive session.

16 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Thank you,
17 Cindy.

18 Now, is there anything else standing
19 between us and adjournment? Claude?

20 MR. POULIN: I do have a housekeeping
21 section question. Usually, when we - at the Actuarial
22 Subcommittee meetings, we do accept the recommendation
23 of the actuary, and then the following morning, we
24 submit it to the Commission. Now, we have not accepted
25 the actuarial reports. Is that a big deal? We could -

1 or tomorrow morning will suffice to add the add-on to
2 the agenda?

3 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Well, it'd be easy to
4 make a motion to accept, I suppose.

5 MR. POULIN: Now, would that be in one
6 motion?

7 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Do we have enough
8 members of the committee here? Yeah, we do.

9 MR. POULIN: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. So why don't
11 you make that motion to accept the recommended-

12 MR. POULIN: So there will be seven -
13 this is Claude. There will be seven different motions,
14 or one motion encompassing everything?

15 MS. CIESLAK: Mr. Chairman, this is Cindy
16 Cieslak. You can make the motion however you deem most
17 appropriate. It's probably most efficient to have it
18 all in one motion. My only question I have for the
19 Subcommittee is, I believe the MERS reports were
20 tabled. And so I think it would be all the reports
21 that aren't MERS.

22 MR. POULIN: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I move
23 to accept the SERS GASB 67 Report Prepared as of June
24 30th, 2022, and the SERS GASB 68 Report Prepared as of
25 June 30th, '22, Measurement Date for June 30th, 2023

1 Reporting Date; the MERS Actuarial Valuation Report
2 Prepared as of June 30th, 2022; the GASB 67 Report for
3 the Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and
4 Compensation Commissioners Retirement System Prepared
5 as of June 30th, 2022; the GASB 68 Report for the
6 Judges, Magistrates, and Compensation Commissioners
7 Retirement System Prepared as of June 30th, 2022,
8 Measurement Date for June 30th, 2023 Reporting Date; and
9 the GASB - and the Policemen, Firemen Survivors'
10 Benefits Fund Actuarial Valuation Report Prepared as of
11 June 30th, 2022.

12 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right. Is there
13 any further discussion - is there a second?

14 MS. NOLEN: Discussion. Didn't - I
15 thought I heard Claude mention MERS, and I thought we
16 were tabling all MERS until next month.

17 MR. POULIN: All MERS? I thought it was
18 just the - oh, yep. Yep, you're right. So I amend the
19 motion to remove the MERS Actuarial Valuation Report
20 Prepared as of June 30th, 2022.

21 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Thanks, Karen.

22 MR. BAILEY: Yes, I'll second that.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: All right, now we have
24 it.

25 MR. BAILEY: I'll second that.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Any further
2 discussion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye or
3 raise your hand. Yeah, it's unanimous.

4 MS. REID: Hi, this is Jean Reid. I'm
5 wondering, is there any motion on the Retirement System
6 for MERS valuation?

7 MS. NOLEN: You may have missed that. We
8 are tabling MERS until next month.

9 MS. REID: Okay. Yeah, sorry, I was
10 having some connection issues. So was there a motion
11 to table it until next month?

12 MS. NOLEN: Yes.

13 MS. REID: Okay.

14 MS. CIESLAK: This is Cindy Cieslak.
15 Jean, if you want to connect with me, I do have notes
16 of like who made the motion and when it happened and
17 everything.

18 MS. REID: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Anything
20 further? Now, is it appropriate to ask for an
21 adjournment?

22 MR. BAILEY: So moved.

23 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. Mike Bailey
24 moved.

25 MR. RYOR: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN ADOMEIT: Okay. All in favor,
2 say aye or raise your hand. Opposed - no, it's
3 unanimous. Okay, we made it through. Congratulations.
4 Tough assignment.

5 (Adjourned at 4:22 p.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, Actuary Subcommittee meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 3:04 p.m. on
January 18, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

02/17/2023

Date