

STATE EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD  
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION  
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER

165 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106

PHONE: (860) 702-3480 | EMAIL: OSC.RSD@CT.GOV

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on April 20, 2023 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Mark Evans, Principal Investment Officer -Private Equity/Private Credit, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison

Absent

- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Elizabeth Gupta, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Margaret Haering, Retirement Services Division
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Charlotte Moller, Retirement Services Division
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor



**Call to Order**

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

**Division Director’s Report**

At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

**Division Director Report (04/20/2023)**

**I. Disability Retirements:**

**A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:** Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into August 2023.

- There are 86 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 19 New applications received for April 2023
    - 79 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through August 2023
    - 7 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	78	75	75	86								
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	96

**B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:** Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into July 2023.

- 68 Cases are Scheduled
- 14 Tabled Cases
  - 10 Scheduled
- 6 Reconsideration Cases
  - 1 Scheduled
- 94 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

**C. Investigations:** The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 6 investigation cases for August 2023.

**II. Normal Retirement Audits:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48	47									236
2022	356	268	337	1,137	277	723	1,436	46	52	101	50	30	4,813
Historical Average	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2,130

At 9:12 a.m., Ms. Menon made an announcement regarding Statements of Financial Interests.

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**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of the March 16, 2023 minutes.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of March 2023.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of March 2023.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
  - ii. Mr. Poulin abstained.
  - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor, with Mr. Poulin abstaining, to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.
5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.

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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services rendered.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services rendered.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services rendered.
7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2023.

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- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of March 2023.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of March 2023.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of March 2023.
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
  - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement approvals.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement approvals.
14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
  - i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals from the Medical Examining Board.
- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement approvals from the Medical Examining Board.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement approvals from the Medical Examining Board.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Denial from the Medical Examining Board.
- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement denials from the Medical Examining Board.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement denials from the Medical Examining Board.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Retirement Services Division Request to Discontinue the Disability Applications Due to the One Year Deadline Associated with the Right to Ask for a Reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board Denial.
- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Retirement Services Division Request to Discontinue the Disability Applications Due to the One Year Deadline Associated with the Right to Ask for a Reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board Denial.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Retirement Services Division Request to Discontinue the Disability Applications Due to the One Year Deadline Associated with the Right to Ask for a Reconsideration of the Medical Examining Board Denial.
18. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February March 2023.
- iv. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February March 2023.

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- v. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - vi. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period February March 2023.
19. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System – WCC Retirements.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System – WCC Retirements.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System- WCC Retirements.
20. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022.
- i. At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem approve the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022.
21. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2022.
- i. At 9:19 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem approve the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2022.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut PROBATE JUDGES’ AND EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND – Statement of Operations as of December 31, 2022.
22. Request Commission Approval of the Motion Passed Unanimously at the Investment Subcommittee Meeting Held April 3, 2023.

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- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Disette to approve the motion passed unanimously at the Investment Subcommittee Meeting Held April 3, 2023.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in to approve the motion passed unanimously at the Investment Subcommittee Meeting Held April 3, 2023.
23. CMERS SPD Discussion.
- i. At 9:21 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to amend the agenda to add to the discussion, SPDs for SERS Tier II, Tier IIA, Tier III, and Tier IV. All voted in favor.
  - ii. The trustees discussed SPDs for CMERS, SERS Tier II, Tier IIA, Tier III, and Tier IV.
  - iii. At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to accept the CMERS, SERS Tier II, Tier IIA, Tier III, and Tier IV SPDs.
  - iv. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - v. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the CMERS, SERS Tier II, Tier IIA, Tier III, and Tier IV SPDs.

**Executive Session – discussion and possible action**

1. Cynthia Dabbs-Lindenberger - written legal opinion.
2. Groton Housing Authority CMERS participation - written legal opinion.
3. Linda Savitsky appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Jacqueline Lawrence request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
5. Gayle Weinstein appeal – written legal opinion.
6. SERC v. Town of Ellington - pending litigation.
7. Linda Cicarella v. SERC - pending litigation.
8. David J. Dunn v. William Tong et al. - pending litigation.
9. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin - pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:25 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-9. Cindy Cieslak, Elizabeth Gupta, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Yamuna Menon, Colin Newman, and Michael Rose were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to enter executive session to discuss Items 1-9.

At 11:01 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to exit executive session. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

**Public Session**



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At 11:01 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the issuance of the drafted declaratory ruling regarding Ms. Dabbs-Lindenberger. All voted in favor.

At 11:02 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. Lawrence's request for reconsideration. All voted in favor.

At 11:02 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to grant Ms. Weinstein's request, limited to the specific facts of this matter and without setting any precedent.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Chisem to adjourn at 11:03 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division