

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

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on March 16, 2023 in the 3rd 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
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent

- John Disette, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Elizabeth Doyon, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- 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 9:03 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Chairman's Report

At 9:05 a.m., the Chairman provided his report. The Chairman commended the work of the Division.

At 9:05 a.m., Ms. Downes discussed the Office of the State Comptroller's engagement with CMERS participating municipalities regarding the plan.

Division Director's Report

At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (03/16/2023)

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 75 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 6 New applications received for March 2023
 - 61 Applications have been scheduled for MEB meetings through August 2023
 - 14 Applications are awaiting review and scheduling by Unit

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2023	78	75	75									
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.

- 94 Cases are Scheduled
- 17 Tabled Cases
- 8 Reconsideration Cases
- 92 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48										189
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 9:10 a.m., Ms. Menon made an announcement regarding Statements of Financial Interests.

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of the February 16, 2023 minutes.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the February 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 February 16, 2023 minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
 - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses.
 - ii. Mr. Ryor 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. Ryor abstaining, 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 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for the Month of February 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 Retroactive Retirements for the Month of February 2023.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of February 2023.
 - i. At 9:14 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of February 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 February 2023.
14. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.
15. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.



- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.
- iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the continued entitlement tabled and denials.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Approvals.
 - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement 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 approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement approvals.
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 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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 January - February 2023.
 - iv. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period January - February 2023.
 - 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 January – February 2023.
19. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.



- 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 System.

20. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.

- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut Judges, Family Support Magistrates and Compensation Commissioners Retirement System.
- 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.

21. Request Commission Acceptance of the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on February 28, 2023.

- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on February 28, 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 accept the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting held on February 28, 2023.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. Cynthia Dabbs-Lindenberger - written legal opinion.
2. Groton Housing Authority CMERS participation - written legal opinion.
3. SERC v. Town of Ellington - pending litigation.
4. Linda Cicarella v. SERC - pending litigation.
5. David J. Dunn v. William Tong et al. - pending litigation.
6. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimberlin - pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:18 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-6. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Elizabeth Doyon, 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 1-6.

At 9:33 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano 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.

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Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:34 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division