

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 November 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
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Kraveski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

Absent were:

- John Disette, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Robert Helfand, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel & Assistant Comptroller
- Colin Newman, Retirement Services Division
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division
- Christina Darling
- Russell Zimmerman, representing Ms. Darling



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (11/16/2023)

I. Disability Retirements:

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

- There are 71 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 13 New Applications Received for November 2023
 - 46 Applications are Scheduled
 - 25 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	88	92	93	90	80	79	71	
2022	76	89	90	111	120	127	146	149	149	129	122	96

- In addition, the number of tabled cases and re-consideration cases are as follows:
 - 14 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 18 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

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

- 67 Cases are Scheduled (30 Cases are SSD Approvals)
- 0 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 3 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 99 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

II. Normal Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2023	81	60	48	47	50	63	100	75	79	67	66		736
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

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New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from October 19, 2023.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from October 19, 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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from October 19, 2023.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for October 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 October 2023.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for October 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 State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for October 2023.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 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 for October 2023.
 - 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 for October 2023.
5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 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 for October 2023.
 - ii. Mr. Ryor abstained.
 - iii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.

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- 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 for October 2023.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for October 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 invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for October 2023.
7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for October 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 invoices from Rose Kallor for October 2023.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for October 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 October 2023.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for October 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 Voluntary Pending Retirements for October 2023.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for October 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 Disability Retirements for October 2023.

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11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for October 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 October 2023.

12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre Retirement Deaths for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre Retirement Deaths for October 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 Deaths for October 2023.

13. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for October 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 October 2023.

14. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Disability Retirement Tabled and/or Denials from the Medical Examining Board for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for October 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System disability retirement tabled and/or denials from the Medical Examining Board for October 2023.

15. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System approved disability retirement from the Medical Examining Board for October 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System approved disability retirement from the Medical Examining Board for October 2023.



16. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. Due to the 1-Year Limitations for November 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve that the RSD discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations period for November 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 that the RSD discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations period for November 2023.

17. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for October 2023.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for October 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 Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for October 2023.

18. Request received from Christina Darling that the Commission review and reconsider its October 20, 2022 denial of her request to transfer from ARP to SERS Tier IIA and purchase her prior state service.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to address Ms. Darling's request.
 - 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 address Ms. Silva's request.
 - iv. Ms. Darling presented her request, with assistance by Attorney Zimmerman. The trustees asked question of Ms. Darling and Attorney Zimmerman.
 - v. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to table the matter for further review by legal counsel. All voted in favor.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. Latoya Maia appeal – written legal opinion.
2. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.
3. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.

At 9:17 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 1-3. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, Colin Newman, Michael Rose, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-3. 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 1-3.

At 9:27 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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Public Session

At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Ms. Maia's appeal because the Commission cannot substitute its judgment for that of the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:28 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division