

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2023 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:02 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Frank Gerretana
Dr. Poleak So
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
Cindy M. Cieslak, Rose Kallor LLP

TRANSCRIPTIONIST: Karin A. Empson

1 (Proceedings commenced at 9:02 a.m.)

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5 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed
6 when you're ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. I'm Dr. Rudich.
8 The October 6th, 2023 meeting of the Medical Examining
9 Board is now in session. With me are also Dr. Poleak
10 So and Dr. Frank Gerratana. We have staff members from
11 the Retirement Services Division; we have Robert
12 Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo. We
13 also have General Counsel for the Retirement Commission
14 and Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

15 I am going to make a motion that we go into
16 executive session, but I request that members of the
17 Retirement Services Division and counsel be allowed to
18 remain. Is there a second?

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

20 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
21 favor, say aye. Aye.

22 DR. SO: Aye.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
25 Motion passes. We are now going to meet as a group to

1 discuss each case separately. And after we're finished
2 discussing the cases, we will call individually any
3 members who are with us today to ask questions
4 specifically. At the end of our discussions, we will
5 get together as a group again and vote in public.

6 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. This is
7 Cindy Cieslak. So I'm going to place everyone back in
8 the waiting room. As Dr. Rudich said, they're going to
9 discuss your medical information in private. And then
10 anyone who is on reconsideration will be invited in to
11 make a statement. And then everyone will be invited in
12 once we reenter public session so that you can hear the
13 decision today.

14 But bear with me because I'm going to place
15 each of you individually into the waiting room and that
16 takes a minute. And for the individuals who haven't
17 been to these meetings before, sometimes the meetings
18 can run long. So if you're in the waiting room for an
19 hour, hour and a half, that's not abnormal.

20 (The board was in executive session from 9:03
21 a.m. until 12:06 p.m.)

22 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, you can proceed
23 when you're ready.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The board will be making
25 determinations and voting on those determinations, but

1 would like to remind members that only the final vote
2 will be given today and not the reasons for the vote.
3 In some instances, there may not have been enough
4 medical information to make a determination, or perhaps
5 a non-service-connected disability is more likely than
6 a service-connected disability, and it will be stated.

7 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
8 denial. You will receive the board's written
9 determination within two to four weeks, which will
10 provide you with that additional information.

11 I make a motion to deny the service-connected
12 disability retirement of James Borrico, but approve
13 non-service-connected disability.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
16 favor, say aye. Aye, Rudich.

17 DR. SO: Aye, Dr. So.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Aye, Gerratana.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

20 Motion passes.

21 I make a motion to deny the application for
22 service-connected disability retirement of Sean
23 Crawford.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in

1 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana (inaudible).

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

5 I make a motion to approve the service-
6 connected disability retirement of Angel Cruz.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
9 favor, say aye. Aye, Rudich.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

13 I make a motion to approve the non-service-
14 connected disability retirement on reconsideration of
15 Charlene Darby.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
18 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. SO: So, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any nay? Motion passes.

22 I make a motion to deny the application for
23 service-connected disability retirement Taloria Eason.

24 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in

1 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

2 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

3 DR. SO: So, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

5 Motion passes.

6 I make a motion to approve the non-service-
7 connected disability retirement of Anthony Fago.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
10 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

12 DR. SO: So, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

14 Motion passes.

15 I make a motion to approve the non-service-
16 connected disability retirement of Jonathan Garow.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
19 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

23 Motion passes.

24 I make a motion to deny the non-service-
25 connected disability retirement of Robert Hohman.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
3 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

5 DR. SO: So, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

7 I make a motion to deny the service-connected
8 disability retirement of Michael King.

9 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
11 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

12 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

13 DR. SO: So, aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

15 Motion passes.

16 I make a motion to approve the non-service-
17 connected disability retirement of Arthur Kureczka.

18 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
20 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

21 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

22 DR. SO: So, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

24 Motion passes.

25 I make a motion to deny the service-connected

1 disability retirement of Kwasi McCall. Is there a
2 second?

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
5 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

7 DR. SO: So, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
9 Motion passes.

10 I make a motion to approve the service-
11 connected disability retirement of Stephanie Middleton
12 on reconsideration.

13 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

14 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
15 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

17 DR. SO: So, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
19 Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny the application for
21 non-service-connected disability retirement on
22 reconsideration of Colen Moore.

23 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
25 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

2 DR. SO: So, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

4 Motion passes.

5 I make a motion to approve the service-
6 connected disability retirement of Robert Mullin.

7 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
9 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

13 Motion passes.

14 I make a motion to deny the non-service-
15 connected disability retirement of Daniel Padro.

16 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
18 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

19 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

20 DR. SO: So, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

22 The motion passes.

23 I make a motion to deny the service-connected
24 disability retirement on reconsideration of Lisa Penna.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
2 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

3 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

4 DR. SO: So, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

6 I make a motion to deny the non-service-
7 connected disability retirement of Michelina Poremba.

8 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
10 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

11 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

12 DR. SO: So, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
14 Motion passes.

15 I make a motion to approve the service-
16 connected disability retirement of Jessica Silano.

17 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
19 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

20 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

21 DR. SO: So, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.
23 Motion passes.

24 I make a motion to deny the service-connected
25 disability retirement of Melissa Smith.

1 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
3 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

4 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

5 DR. SO: So, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

7 Motion passes.

8 I make a motion to change to non-service-
9 connected disability retirement the application of Sean
10 Sullivan and Michael Vogt. Is there a second?

11 DR. GERRATANA: Yeah, Gerratana, second.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
13 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

14 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

15 DR. SO: So, aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: And all opposed, say
17 nay. Motion passes.

18 I make a motion to rescind the previous
19 denial of the application of Rophy Homicil, but approve
20 continued entitlement pursuant to the Memorandum of
21 Understanding; again Rophy Homicil. Is there a second?

22 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
24 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

25 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

1 DR. SO: So, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

3 Motion passes.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: I make a motion to
5 adjourn the meeting. Is there a second?

6 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, second. And
7 thanks to the Chairperson.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Anytime. Any
9 discussion? All in favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

10 DR. GERRATANA: Gerratana, aye.

11 DR. SO: So, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: All opposed, say nay.

13 Motion passes.

14 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, everyone.

15 (Adjourned at 12:16 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, Medical Examining Board meeting
held electronically via Zoom, conducted at 9:02 a.m. on
October 6, 2023.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

10/19/2023

Date