



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on January 18, 2024. 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
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Krayeski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

- 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
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 (01/18/2024)

I. Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into July 2024.

- There are 76 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 10 New Applications Received for January 2024
 - 74 Applications are Scheduled
 - 2 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	69
2024	76											

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

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into May 2024.

- 52 Cases are Scheduled
- 5 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 1 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 89 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

C. Investigations: The Disability Retirement Unit scheduled 0 investigation cases.



II. Normal Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Totals
2024	111													
2023	81	60	48	47	50	63	100	75	79	67	66	68		804
Historical Average	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98		2,130

New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from December 21, 2023.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from December 21, 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 December 21, 2023.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for December 2023.
 - i. At 9:07 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for December 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 December 2023.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for December 2023.
 - i. At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for December 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 December 2023.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for December 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 December 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 December 2023.

5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for December 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 December 2023.
- 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 for December 2023.

6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for December 2023.

- i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for December 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 December 2023.

7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for December 2023.

- i. At 9:09 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for December 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 December 2023.

8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for December 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 December 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 December 2023.

9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for December 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 December 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 December 2023.

10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for December 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 December 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 December 2023.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for December 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 December 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 December 2023.
12. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement Approvals for the month of December 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement approvals for the month of December 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 recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement approvals for the month of December 2023.
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement Tabled/Denials for the month of December 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement tabled/denials for the month of December 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 recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Disability Entitlement tabled/denials for the month of December 2023.



14. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations December 2023.
 - i. At 9:10 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the request of the RSD to discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations for December 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 request of the RSD to discontinue disability applications due to the 1-year limitations for December 2023.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for December 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 December 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 December 2023.
16. Request received from Kristofer Kelso that the Commission review and reconsider its August 17, 2023, denial of his request to make a new retirement plan election to the Teachers Retirement System.
 - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to review and reconsider Mr. Kelso's request.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There was discussion concerning Mr. Kelso's request to table his request until February 2024.
 - iii. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey withdrew his motion and moved to table Mr. Kelso's request to the February meeting. Mr. Luciano seconded Mr. Bailey's motion.
 - iv. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - v. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to table Mr. Kelso's request to the February meeting.

Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. UC ARP 401(a) grandfathering – written legal opinion.
2. Mark Waters appeal – written legal opinion.
3. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.
4. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.

At 9:13 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 1-4. Cindy Cieslak, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session



on Items 1-4. 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 1-4. At 9:33 a.m., Robert Helfand joined the meeting and was invited into executive session.

At 9:42 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.

Public Session

At 9:43 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to direct the Division to collect the amounts required to correct any errors as a result of agency application of IRC 401(a)(17). Mr. Luciano and Ms. Buffkin abstained from the vote. The motion passed with the remainder of the trustees voting in favor.

At 9:44 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Waters' appeal. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division