

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 21, 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
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, 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
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee

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
- Ed Koebel, Cavanaugh MacDonald
- Larry Langer, Cavanaugh MacDonald
- Virginia McGarrity, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Yamuna Menon, Assistant Comptroller and General Counsel
- Ben Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division



Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified those in attendance.

Division Director’s Report

At 9:08 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director’s Report.

Division Director Report (11/21/2024)

I. SERS Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:

Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into April 2025.

- There are 16 New Applications Received for November 2024.
 - There are 87 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 63 Applications are Scheduled
 - 4 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
 - 5 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 15 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

	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	79	74	75	75	94	97	87	85	79	87	

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews: Currently the Disability Retirement Unit is scheduling into July 2025.

- 72 Cases are Scheduled
- 2 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
- 2 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date
- 93 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

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II. MERS Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board:

- There are 12 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 6 Applications are Scheduled
 - 1 Applications are Awaiting Review and Scheduling by Unit
 - 3 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
 - 2 Reconsideration Cases Pending Due Date

B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

- 12 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

III. Normal SERS Retirements:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2024	111	87	98	96	83	125	121	136	132	111	103		1203
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

At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Ryor moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to amend the agenda to include the following as Items 20 and 21:

- Request Commission acceptance of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of June 30, 2024.
- Request Commission acceptance of the Municipal Employees Retirement System update of optional actuarial factors.

All voted in favor.

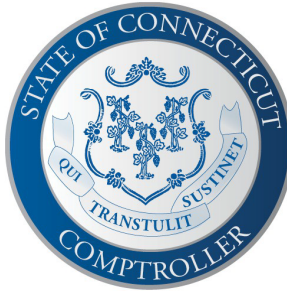
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the October 2024 meeting.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the October 2024 meeting.
 - 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 approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from the October 2024 meeting.
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:16 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Ms. Buffkin 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 2024.
 - 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 2024.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.

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6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:17 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matter Services for October 2024.
 - 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 Matter Services for October 2024.

7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.

8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.

9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:18 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for October 2024.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Chisem noted the November dates on the agenda they received. Thereafter, the Chairman called for a vote.
 - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for October 2024.

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10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Retroactive Retirements for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for October 2024.
 - 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 October 2024.
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.
13. Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by Medical Examining Board for Investigation Meeting Results tabled and denials October 2024.
 - i. At 9:20 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Investigation Meeting results tabled and denials for October 2024.
 - 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 recommendation by the Medical Examining Board for Investigation Meeting results tabled and denials for October 2024.

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14. Request Commission Approval of Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled/Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board October 2024.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled/Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board October 2024.
 - 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System Tabled/Denied Disability Retirement from the Medical Examining Board October 2024.

15. Request Commission Approval of the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for October 2024.
 - 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 RSD to Discontinue Disability Apps. 1-Year Limitations for October 2024.

16. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for October 2024.
 - i. At 9:21 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees' Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for October 2024.
 - 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 2024.

17. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on October 23, 2024.
 - i. At 9:22 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on October 23, 2024.
 - 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 recommendations from the Overpayments and Regulations Subcommittee meeting held on October 23, 2024.

18. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on November 6, 2024.

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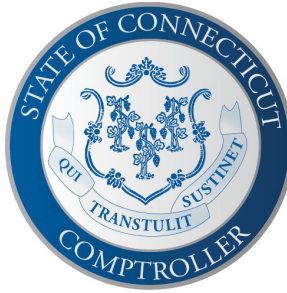
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- i. At 9:22 a.m., Ms. Buffkin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on November 6, 2024.
 - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
 - iv. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the recommendations from the Purchase of Service and Related Matters Subcommittee meeting held on November 6, 2024.
19. Request received from Kwaku Antwi that the Commission review and reconsider its July 16, 2020 denial of his request to permit his late application to purchase retirement credit for prior military service beyond the one-year deadline associated with such purchase.
- i. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Antwi presented information to the Commission and answered the trustees questions.
 - ii. At 9:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to refer the matter to the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee meeting. All voted in favor.
20. Request Commission Acceptance of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of June 30, 2024.
- i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of June 30, 2024.
 - 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 Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Report of the Actuary on the Valuation Prepared as of June 30, 2024.
21. Request Commission Acceptance of the Municipal Employees Retirement System update of optional actuarial factors.
- i. At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the Municipal Employees Retirement System update of optional actuarial factors.
 - 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 Municipal Employees Retirement System update of optional actuarial factors.

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Executive Session – discussion and possible action

1. Roderick Porter petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
2. Joseph Treusch request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
3. Town of Redding CMERS participation – written legal opinion.
4. Patrick Butler v. SERC pending litigation.
5. SERC v. Ellington – pending litigation.

At 9:29 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-5. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Virginia McGarrity, Yamuna Menon, and Benjamin Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-5 because they may give opinions or factual background with respect to the topics at issue. 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 1-5.

At 9:51 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin 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 9:51 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to refer Mr. Treusch's matter to the Subcommittee on Overpayments and Regulations, and further, that Mr. Treusch's benefit should not be suspended while pending before the Subcommittee. All voted in favor.

At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement reached with the Town of Redding. All voted in favor.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Ms. Buffkin to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division