

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 March 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:

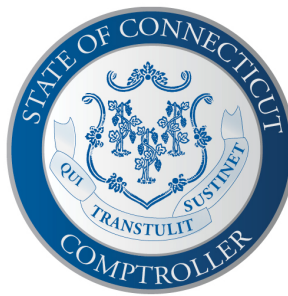
- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- John Disette, Trustee
- Tara Downes, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Brian Hill, Trustee
- David Kraveski, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Ted Wright, Chief Investment Officer, Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member

Absent were:

- Angel Quiros, Trustee

Also present were:

- Bruce Barth, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Cindy Cieslak, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh Macdonald
- 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
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- 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.

At 9:06 a.m., Mr. Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to amend the agenda to include the following items as Item 19:

- Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut State Employees’ Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2023 Measurement Date for June 30, 2024 Reporting Date.

All voted in favor.

At 9:08 a.m., Attorney Menon provided an update regarding the Statements of Financial Interest.

**Division Director’s Report**

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

**Division Director Report (02/15/2024)**

**I. Disability Retirements:**

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

- There are 79 initial Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
  - 12 New Applications Received for February 2024
    - 79 Applications are Scheduled
    - 0 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	<b>79</b>										

- In addition, the number of tabled cases and re-consideration cases are as follows:
  - 9 Tabled Cases Pending Due Date
  - 15 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
- 98 Cases are Awaiting Due Date for 24-Month Review

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

**II. Normal SERS Retirements:**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2024	111	87	<b>98</b>										<b>296</b>
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

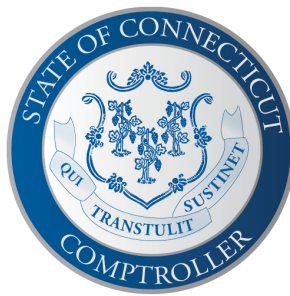
**New Matters**

1. Request Commission Approval of SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from February 15, 2024.
  - i. At 9:11 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from February 15, 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 SERC minutes w/ Directors Report from February 15, 2024.
  
2. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut SERS Expenses for February 2024.
  - i. At 9:12 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut SERS Expenses for February 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 February 2024.
  
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for February 2024.
  - 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 for February 2024.

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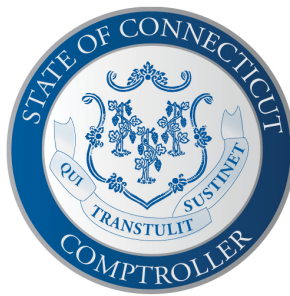
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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses for February 2024.
4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin's Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement for February 2024.
    - 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 for February 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 February 2024.
  5. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor's Per Diem Expenses for February 2024.
    - 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 for February 2024.
    - 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 February 2024.
  6. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters services for February 2024.
    - 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 for February 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 Matters services for February 2024.
  7. Request Commission Acceptance of the Invoices from Rose Kallor for February 2024.
    - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the invoices from Rose Kallor for February 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 February 2024.
  8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for February 2024.

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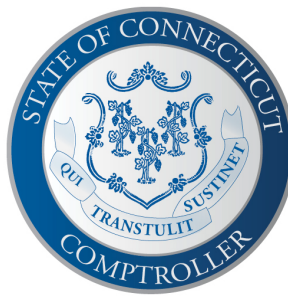
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- i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for February 2024.
  - ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for February 2024.
  
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for February 2024.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Voluntary Pending Retirements for February 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 February 2024.
  
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for February 2024.
  - i. At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for February 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 Disability Retirements for February 2024.
  
11. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Pre-Retirement Death Benefits for February 2024.
  - 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 February 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 February 2024.
  
12. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for February 2024.
  - 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 February 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 February 2024.
  
13. Request Commission Approval of the Municipal Employees Retirement System Approved Disability Retirements from the Medical Examining Board February 2024.
  - i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System approved disability retirements from the Medical Examining Board February 2024.

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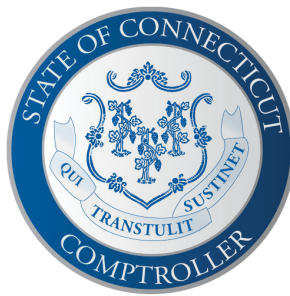
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- ii. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote.
  - iii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to approve the Municipal Employees Retirement System approved disability retirements from the Medical Examining Board February 2024.
14. Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for February 2024.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for February 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 February 2024.
15. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund: Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023.
- i. At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund: Balance Sheet as of December 31, 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: Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023.
16. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund: Statement of Operations ending December 31, 2023.
- i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the Probate Judges' and Employees' Retirement Fund: Statement of Operations ending December 31, 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: Statement of Operations ending December 31, 2023.
17. Request Commission Approval of the Recommendation from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on February 22, 2024.
- i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to approve the recommendation from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on February 22, 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 recommendation from the Subcommittee on Purchase of Service and Related Matters meeting held on February 22, 2024.
18. 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.

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- i. At 9:17 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to review the request received from Mr. Kelso and hear the matter.
  - 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 Luciano to review the request received from Mr. Kelso and hear the matter.
  - iv. Mr. Kelso presented his request.
  - v. At 9:23 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to move Mr. Kelso's request to executive session for discussion of a written legal opinion.
  - vi. Prior to a vote on the motion, Attorney Cieslak inquired further from Mr. Kelso. Following that discussion, the Chairman called for a vote.
  - vii. The Commission voted unanimously in favor to move Mr. Kelso's matter to executive session.
19. Request Commission Acceptance of the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut State Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2023 Measurement Date for June 30, 2024 Reporting Date.
- i. At 9:16 a.m., Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Luciano to accept the GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut State Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2023 Measurement Date for June 30, 2024 Reporting Date.
  - 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 GASB Statement No. 68 Report for the Connecticut State Employees' Retirement System Prepared as of June 30, 2023 Measurement Date for June 30, 2024 Reporting Date.

**Executive Session – discussion and possible action**

1. CMERS DROP Plan – written legal opinion.
2. Patrick Butler petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
3. Christopher Matherne appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Linda Cicarella v. SERC – pending litigation.
5. SERC v. Town of Ellington – pending litigation.
6. Rose Kallor contract – personnel matter.
7. Request for Proposals for Tax Counsel – personnel matter.
8. Kristofer Kelso – written legal opinion.

At 9:27 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 1-8. Robert Helfand, John Herrington, Yamuna Menon, and Ben Sedrowski were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session on Items 1-8. Bruce Barth, Cindy Cieslak, Virginia McGarrity, and Michael Rose stayed for executive session on Items 1 through 5 and Item 8. 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 1-8.

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At 10:24 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 10:24 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey that the Commission table Mr. Kelso's request until next month for additional information. All voted in favor.

At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded to issue the declaratory ruling on Mr. Butler's petition for declaratory ruling today. All voted in favor.

At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to deny Mr. Matherne's appeal. All voted in favor.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Peter Adomeit, Chairman

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Prepared by John Herrington  
Director Retirement Services Division