

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION
MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD MEETING

MARCH 1, 2024 MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
CONVENED AT 9:02 a.m.

Present (via Zoom):

Dr. Nikolai Lieders
Dr. Lynn Rudich
Dr. Eric Shore
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Helena Bartolomeo, Retirement Services Division
William Cassada, Retirement Services Division
Cindy 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. The March 1st,
8 2024 meeting of the Medical Examining Board is now in
9 session. My name is Dr. Lynn Rudich, Chairperson. We
10 also have Dr. Nikolai Lieders and Dr. Eric Shore.
11 Present from the Office of State Comptroller,
12 Retirement Services Division, are staff members Robert
13 Helfand, William Cassada, and Helena Bartolomeo. We
14 also have General Counsel for the Retirement Commission
15 and the Medical Examining Board, Cindy Cieslak.

16 I make a motion to go into executive session.

17 DR. LIEDERS: I second it.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

24 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich, can you clarify who
25 is invited into executive session with your motion?

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. All right, sure.
2 I'm inviting with my motion the members of the
3 Retirement Services Division and counsel, Cindy
4 Cieslak.

5 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, Dr. Rudich. This is
6 Cindy Cieslak. Those applicants and members of the
7 public here, we are going into executive session
8 because the doctors are going to be discussing your
9 medical information. And so we don't do this in a
10 recorded public fashion.

11 Those who are on reconsideration will be
12 invited in to make a statement. After the doctors have
13 discussed all of the applications today, we will
14 reenter public session and everyone will be invited
15 back in, at which point, you'll be able to hear the
16 decisions today. Generally, this does take a couple of
17 hours, so I'm going to place you in the waiting room.
18 Stay in there as long as you can, and once we reenter
19 public session, you'll be invited back in just like
20 this. Thank you.

21 (The Board was in executive session from 9:03
22 a.m. until 1:20 p.m.)

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

1 MS. CIESLAK: Hello. We are entering public
2 session. I am going to probably mute - we have a lot
3 of people here today. I'm probably going to mute all
4 of those individuals who are observing.

5 Dr. Rudich, you can proceed when you are
6 ready.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. The Board will be
8 making determinations and voting on those
9 determinations, but would like to remind members that
10 only the final vote will be given today and not the
11 reasons for the vote. In some instances, there may not
12 have been enough medical information to make that
13 determination, or perhaps a non-service-connected
14 disability is more likely than a service-connected
15 disability.

16 You may seek reconsideration of an initial
17 denial. You will receive the Board's written
18 determination within two to four weeks, which will
19 provide you with additional information.

20 Okay. I make a motion to table the
21 application, non-service-connected application, for
22 Kathleen Belanger.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Second.

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

1 DR. LIEDERS: Aye.

2 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Rudich? This is Cindy
3 Cieslak. I'll just note for the record that Dr.
4 Lieders made the second, and unless it's noted
5 otherwise, I believe Dr. Lieders will be seconding the
6 motions.

7 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Okay. Thank you.

8 DR. LIEDERS: So what do you mean by that?
9 Do I have to say second every time? Or you're assuming
10 that-

11 MS. CIESLAK: Dr. Lieders, this is Cindy
12 Cieslak. I - so for - when we have virtual meetings,
13 we have to identify who is speaking. And so
14 preferably, you should say, Dr. Lieders, second.

15 DR. LIEDERS: Okay.

16 MS. CIESLAK: But in case you forget to say
17 your name, I was just noting for the record that you
18 will be seconding the motions. That way, it's clear
19 for the record.

20 So with that, a motion has been made by Dr.
21 Rudich and seconded by Dr. Lieders to table the non-
22 service-connected application for Kathleen Belanger.

23 And, Dr. Rudich, you can call the motion.

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

1 DR. LIEDERS: Aye. Lieders, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 I make a motion to approve the application
5 for non-service-connected disability retirement of
6 Michael Clements.

7 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

11 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

13 I make a motion to deny the application for
14 service-connected disability retirement of Aaron
15 Faccento.

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

22 I make a motion to deny the application for
23 non-service-connected disability retirement of Leonard
24 Fowler.

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

4 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

5 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

6 I make a motion to deny the application - I'm
7 sorry. Did we - we just did Fowler; correct?

8 DR. LIEDERS: We did Fowler, correct.

9 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Yeah, okay.

10 I make a motion to deny the application for
11 service-connected disability retirement of Ricardo
12 Harris.

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

17 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

18 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

19 I make a motion to approve the application
20 for non-service-connected disability retirement of
21 Kristen Heyward-Miller.

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

25 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

1 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

3 I make a motion to deny the application for
4 service-connected disability retirement of Michael
5 King, but the Board would look favorably on an
6 application for non-service-connected disability
7 retirement.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, second.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

14 I make a motion to approve the application
15 for non-service-connected disability retirement of
16 Carrie Levesque.

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

20 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

21 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

23 I make a motion to approve the application
24 for non-service-connected disability retirement of Kim
25 Milia.

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

4 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

5 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

7 I make a motion to approve the application
8 for service-connected disability retirement of Glenn
9 Morron.

10 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

13 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

14 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

16 I make a motion to approve the application
17 for non-service-connected disability retirement of
18 Yvonne Muniz.

19 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

22 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

23 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

25 I make a motion to approve the application

1 for service-connected disability retirement of Scott
2 Owens.

3 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

6 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

7 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

9 I make a motion to approve the application
10 for service-connected disability retirement of Luis
11 Paulino.

12 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

15 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

16 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

18 I make a motion to approve the application
19 for non-service-connected disability retirement of
20 Rachelle Perusse.

21 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

25 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

2 I make a motion to approve the application
3 for service-connected disability retirement of Thomas
4 Quinlan.

5 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

6 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in
7 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

9 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

11 I make a motion to deny the application for
12 non-service-connected disability retirement of Brigitta
13 Rainey.

14 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

17 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

18 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

20 I make a motion to deny the application for
21 service-connected disability retirement of Deborah
22 Stefaniak, but the Board approve the application for
23 non-service-connected disability retirement.

24 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

25 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Any discussion? All in

1 favor, say aye. Rudich, aye.

2 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

3 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

5 I make a motion to approve the application
6 for service-connected disability retirement of Sean
7 Sullivan.

8 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

11 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

12 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

14 I make a motion to deny the application for
15 service-connected disability retirement of Kellye Wood.

16 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

19 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

20 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: The motion passes.

22 I make a motion to adjourn this meeting.

23 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders seconds the motion.

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

1 DR. LIEDERS: Lieders, aye.

2 DR. SHORE: Shore, aye.

3 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Motion passes.

4 MS. CIESLAK: Thank you, everyone. I hope
5 everyone has a nice weekend.

6 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you. Likewise.

7 DR. SHORE: (Inaudible)

8 CHAIRPERSON RUDICH: Thank you.

9 DR. LIEDERS: Thank you.

10 (Adjourned at 1:31 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
March 1, 2024.

Karin A. Empson

Karin A. Empson

03/15/2024

Date