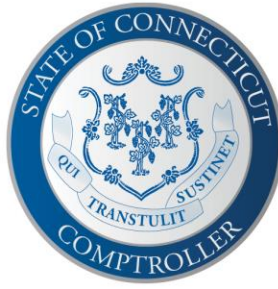


STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the State Employees Retirement Commission (the “Commission”) was held on January 20, 2022, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT; however, due to COVID-19, the meeting was held electronically via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:09 a.m. and the following members of the Commission were present:

- Peter Adomeit, Chairman
- Michael Carey, Trustee
- Martha Carlson, Deputy Comptroller, Ex Officio Member
- Carl Chisem, Trustee
- Robert D. Coffey, Trustee
- John Flores, General Counsel Office of the Treasurer, Ex Officio Member
- Karen Nolen, Trustee
- Michael O’Brien, Trustee
- Karen Buffkin, Trustee
- Claude Poulin, Trustee
- Sal Luciano, Trustee
- Angel Quiros, Trustee
- Mark Sciota, Municipal Liaison
- Rebecca Simonsen, Trustee
- Timothy Ryor, Trustee
- Michael Bailey, Trustee
- Sandra Fae Brown Brewton, Trustee

Absent

- John Disette, Trustee

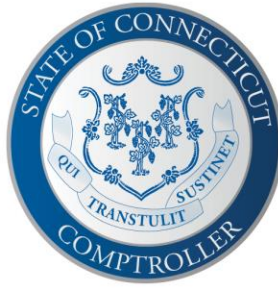
Also present were:

- Alisha Sullivan, Tax Counsel to the Commission, Robinson & Cole
- Michael Rose, General Counsel to the Commission, Rose Kallor
- Vicky Pilon, Paralegal, Rose Kallor
- John Herrington, Director, Retirement Services Division
- Yamuna Menon, General Counsel/Assistant State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
- Colin Newman, Assistant Director, Retirement Services Division
- John Garrett, Cavanaugh MacDonald

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Call to Order

Chairman Adomeit called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Ms. Pilon identified those in attendance.

Chairman's Report

At 9:10 a.m., the Chairman provided his report.

At 9:12 a.m. Claude Poulin made a Motion to Amend the Agenda to add the SERS Valuation prepared as of June 30, 2021 and the report of Actuary Judges, Family Support, Magistrates Compensation Commissioners Retirement System as of June 30, 2021.

Division Director's Report

At 9:13 a.m., Mr. Herrington provided the Division Director's Report.

Division Director Report (1/20/2022)

I. Disability Retirements:

A. Pending Disability Applications for the Initial Review by the Medical Examining Board: The Division is in the process of adding additional meetings for 2022 in attempt to reduce the wait period. Currently scheduling into February 2022.

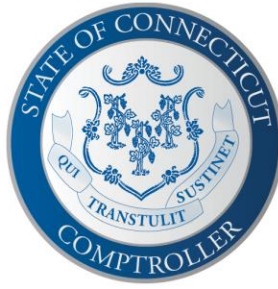
- There are 76 Disability Retirement Applications pending of which:
 - 18 New applications received for January 2022
 - 34 Applications have been scheduled for MEB hearings through February 2022
 - 42 Applications are awaiting additional medical documentation

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2022	76											
2021	114	107	103	117	125	90	89	85	77	79	99	71

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B. Twenty-Four Month Reviews:

131 Cases are due for a 24-month review (i.e. approved within the past 24 months)

- 3 Cases – are receiving SSD benefits (Expedited Approvals Process)
- 128 Cases – Retiree does not appear to be receiving SSD benefits.
 - 28 have retirement dates beyond 24 months old.
 - 12 have been scheduled for February 2022

C. Disability Files Processed:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2022	11											
2021	60	85	156	115	101	145	163	184	173	240	163	40

II. Normal Retirement Audits:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
2022	356												
2021	243	192	124	337	152	244	291	213	234	331	159	136	2656
2020	178	166	149	268	149	140	170	226	198	219	101	92	2056
2019	210	225	214	210	101	143	186	193	175	162	151	100	2070
2018	139	134	104	211	76	97	107	224	151	181	116	134	1674
2017	243	202	160	367	148	208	321	133	194	463	84	82	2605
2016	195	159	128	358	195	367	374	181	180	193	113	113	2556
2015	236	159	131	224	140	176	243	164	147	171	136	75	2002
2014	161	160	129	234	127	232	231	196	181	166	183	95	2095
2013	137	122	92	199	117	168	349	132	136	118	91	115	1776
2012	90	79	78	146	70	122	158	94	99	104	98	91	1229
2011	135	87	105	247	129	358	457	196	290	625	45	40	2714
10-Yr. Avg.	179	153	129	255	128	205	262	177	180	248	116	98	2130

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III. Projected 2022 Retirements:

<u>Projected Retirements</u>		
(As of January 19, 2022)		
D.O.R.	Number of Intents to Retire Received	Number of Retirement Applications Received
1/1/2022	327	356
2/1/2022	263	73
3/1/2022	243	3
4/1/2022	607	6
5/1/2022	62	
6/1/2022	149	
7/1/2022	80	
Totals:	1,769	405

At 9:17 a.m., Deputy Comptroller, Ms. Carlson, provided remarks regarding the transition of Natalie Braswell into the position of Comptroller due to the retirement of Kevin Lembo.

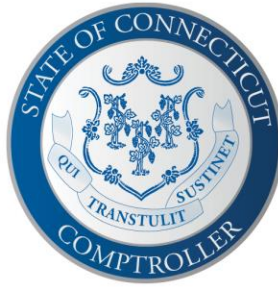
New Matters

1. Request Commission Approval of December 16, 2021 Minutes. At 9:38 am Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the December 16, 2021 Minutes.
2. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses. At 9:38 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the State Employees Retirement Commission Chairman's Per Diem Expenses.
3. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Union Trustee Claude Poulin Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement. At 9:39 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey (Mr. Poulin abstained), to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion.

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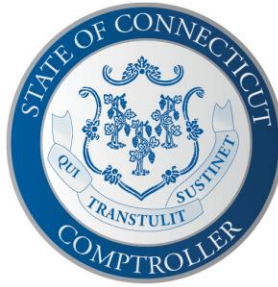
There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Claude Poulin Per Diem and Travel Expenses Reimbursement.

4. Request Commission Approval of the State Employees Retirement Commission Management Trustee Timothy A. Ryor Per Diem Expenses. At 9:39 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey (Mr. Ryor abstained), to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Mr. Ryor Per Diem Expenses.
5. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoice from Robinson and Cole for Federal Tax Matters rendered for the month of December. At 9:39 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the invoice from Robinson and Cole.
6. Request Commission Acceptance of Invoices from Rose Kallor rendered for the month of December. At 9:40 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the invoice from Rose Kallor.
7. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2021. At 9:40 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the State Employees Retirement System Disability Retirements for the Month of April 2021.
8. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of December 2021. At 9:41 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Service Retirements for the Month of December 2021.
9. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of December 2021. At 9:42 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Voluntary Pending Retirements for the Month of December 2021.
10. Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of December 2021. At 9:42 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Connecticut State Employees System Disability Retirements for the Month of December 2021.

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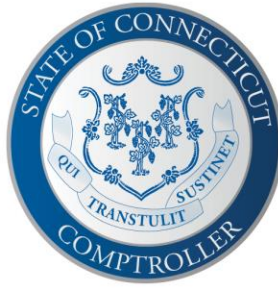
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- 11.** Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of December 2021. At 9:42 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Connecticut State Employees Retirement System Municipal Employees Retirements for the Month of December 2021.
- 12.** Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals. At 9:43 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Approvals.
- 13.** Request Commission Acceptance of the Recommendations by the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials. At 9:43 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Medical Examining Board for the Continued Entitlement Tabled and Denials.
- 14.** Request Commission Approval of the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System. At 9:43 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Connecticut Probate Judges and Employees Retirement System.
- 15.** Request Commission Approval of the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period November 5, 2021 through December 16, 2021. At 9:43 a.m. Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to approve. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Probate Judges and Employees Retirement Fund Personnel Expenses for the Pay Period November 5, 2021 through December 16, 2021.
- 16.** At 9:44 a.m. Claude Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to accept the report of the Actuary on the SERS Valuation prepared as of June 30, 2021. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the report of the Actuary on the SERS Valuation prepared as of June 30, 2021.
- 17.** At 9:45 a.m. Claude Poulin moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to accept the report of Actuary Judges, Family Support, Magistrates Compensation Commissioners Retirement System as of June 30, 2021. Chairman asked if there was any discussion. There being no discussion he called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the report of the Actuary Judges, Family Support, Magistrates Compensation Commissioners Retirement System as of June 30, 2021.

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Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Ronald Johnson v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation- send letter to CHRO.
2. Paul Cicarella appeal – written legal opinion – remand back to MEB; letter sent 12/20/21.
3. Catherine Crandle v. SERC – pending litigation.
4. Jaishree Duggal – Request for Reconsideration – written legal opinion – denied.
5. Cora Hayes – Petition for Declaratory Ruling – written legal opinion – send standard letter.
6. Todd Krasinsky – Request for Declaratory Ruling – written legal opinion.
7. Douglas Latham – Request for Declaratory Ruling – written legal opinion.
8. William Kenney – Appeal – written legal opinion.
9. FOI appeal by Attorney Russell Zimmerlin – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 9:45 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purposes of discussing Items 1-9 on the Agenda. Attorney Sullivan, Attorney Rose, John Herrington, and Attorney Menon, were invited by the Commission to stay for executive session. 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 1-9.

At 10:25 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey 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 10:26 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to deny Ms. Hayes request for relief for a declaratory ruling. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to deny of Ms. Hayes' request.

At 10:26 a.m., Mr. Coffey moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, to deny Mr. Krasinsky's request for a declaratory ruling. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to deny of Mr. Krasinsky's request.

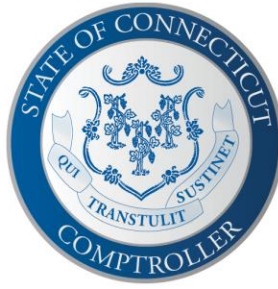
At 10:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey, to table Mr. Latham's request for a declaratory ruling for further review. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to table Mr. Latham's request.

At 10:27 a.m., Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey, to remand Mr. Kenney's appeal back to MEB for further review. There being no discussion, the Chairman called for a vote. The Commission voted unanimously to remand Mr. Kenney's appeal back to MEB.

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Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Mr. Luciano moved, seconded by Mr. Coffey to adjourn at 10:28 a.m. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Peter Adomeit, Chairman

Prepared by John Herrington
Director Retirement Services Division