

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS

January 14, 2021

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 8:45 a.m. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway and by videoconference as allowed under Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7(e)) and Executive Order 2020-7, as amended and reissued by Executive Orders 2020-33, 2020-44, and 2021-1.

Committee Members Present:

Marvin Becker, Chairperson
David Morris, Vice-Chairperson
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Jeff Houch, Assistant to the Executive Secretary
James Stivers, General Counsel
Eric Glaub, Manager, Claims Division
Aaron Evans, Attorney, Sorling Northrup
Jessica Blood, Recording Secretary
Adria Childs, Claimant

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the December 10, 2020, meeting of the Executive Committee were presented by Chairman Becker for approval. Copies of the minutes were previously emailed to Committee members for review. There being no additions or corrections, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Morris and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims Report

The Routine Claims Report for December 2020 was presented. Following review and discussion, the Routine Claims Report for December 2020, as prepared by staff, was received by the Executive Committee.

New Business

Adria Childs – Appeal for Survivor Contribution Refund – Personal Hearing via Videoconference – 9:00am

Adria Childs retired August 1, 2020. At the time that Ms. Childs filed with the System a retirement application requesting a survivor contribution refund on November 10, 2020, she indicated on her application that she was divorced and had one dependent child. Under subsection (c) of Section 14-130 of the Illinois Pension Code [40 ILCS 5/14-130(c)], a member no longer in service who is unmarried and does not have an eligible survivor's annuity beneficiary on the date of application therefor is entitled to a refund of contributions for widow's annuity or survivor's annuity purposes, or both, as the case may be, without interest.

Ms. Childs requested a personal appeal via teleconference to receive the survivor contribution refund after retirement. At the hearing, Ms. Childs admitted that her child was unmarried, under age 22, and a full-time student at the time she filed her application for a survivor contribution refund.

After hearing Ms. Childs present her case, the Committee decided to refer the case to outside counsel for a recommendation.

Anthony Milone – Appeal for Survivor Contribution Refund

Anthony Milone retired August 1, 2020. On his retirement application, he listed his marital status as single with no dependents, but he marked that he did not want to receive the survivor contribution refund. Under subsection (c) of Section 14-130 of the Illinois Pension Code [40 ILCS 5/14-130(c)], a member no longer in service who is unmarried and does not have an eligible survivor's annuity beneficiary on the date of application therefor is entitled to a refund of contributions for widow's annuity or survivors annuity purposes, or both, as the case may be, without interest.

Mr. Milone is appealing to receive the survivor contribution refund after retirement.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to approve Mr. Milone's request. The motion was seconded by Chairman Becker, and all were in favor.

Anthony Jordan – Appeal of Disability Benefit Overpayment Repayment Terms

Anthony Jordan was approved for an occupational disability benefit effective September 1, 2018.

In October 2020, SERS received notification that Tristar underestimated Mr. Jordan's Average Weekly Wage, which also resulted in an underestimated TTD rate. Tristar recalculated Mr. Jordan's TTD rate and the amount of the underpayment of his Worker's Compensation benefits. The underestimation in his TTD rate has created an overpayment by SERS for the period of September 1, 2018 through March 25, 2020. The overpayment due is in accordance with Section 14-129 of the Illinois Pension Code [40 ILCS 5/14-129].

SERS sent Mr. Jordan a letter on October 5, 2020 to explain the calculation of the

overpayment and the amount due. A repayment letter was sent on December 6, 2020.

Mr. Jordan is an active state employee. If the Overpayment Section deducted half of the gross of Mr. Jordan's monthly pay and applied it to the overpayment owed to SERS, the balance would be repaid in 9 months. Mr. Jordan is requesting a reduced payment amount of \$50.00 per pay (\$100.00 per month), which will repay the balance in 113 months (9 years, 4 months).

After reviewing the information submitted and some discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Becker to deny Mr. Jordan's request but offer a repayment plan to repay the overpayment in 60 months (5 years). The motion was seconded by Executive Secretary Blair, and all were in favor.

Herschel Roberts – Staff Direction for Nonoccupational Disability Benefit Claim

Herschel Roberts is a current employee of the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). Due to increasing issues at work, the agency suggested that Mr. Roberts be evaluated. The agency noted difficulties in performing a job that he once performed well.

Dr. Jennah Siwak in Metamora, Illinois has diagnosed Mr. Roberts with chronic dementia and has noted that his neuropsychological impairment is progressive. Dr. Siwak states Mr. Roberts is no longer able to perform the duties of his job and is considered permanently disabled.

Per CMS personnel rules, the agency is unable to grant Mr. Roberts a medical leave of absence because his condition is considered permanent. Therefore, the Disability Section is seeking direction to waive the requirement for a medical leave of absence from the agency so he can apply for a nonoccupational disability benefit since he was declared permanently disabled.

After discussing the facts presented, a motion was made by Chairman Becker to direct staff to waive the requirement for a medical leave of absence from the agency so Mr. Roberts can apply for a nonoccupational disability benefit. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Morris, and all were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Morris and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for February 10, 2021, in the Springfield office.

Marvin Becker, Chairman

David Morris, Vice-Chairperson

Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary