

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
August 11, 2016

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway.

Committee Members:

Loren Iglarsh, Chairperson
David Morris, Vice Chairperson
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

Steve Bochenek, SERS Attorney
Jeff Houch, Assistant Executive Secretary
Kathy Yemm, Claims Manager
Don Williams, Supervisor, Disability Section
Kerry Walker, Disability Section
Cory Mitchelle, Pension and Death Section
Jennifer Staley, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the July 14, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee were presented by Chairman Iglarsh for approval. Copies of the minutes were previously mailed to Committee members for review. There being no additions or corrections, on motion by Executive Secretary Blair and seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris, and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of July, 2016 was presented. Following review and discussion, the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of July, 2016, as prepared by staff, was reviewed and received by the Executive Committee.

Old Business

Cynthia Hogueisson Cronk – 1/2 time ceasing date

Upon checking the half time ceasing tickler (60 days prior to the ceasing date) it was discovered the system generated an incorrect ceasing date as January 9, 2016. The correct half time ceasing date was April 30, 2015.

Ms. Cronk's benefits were stopped November 1, 2015. This has created an overpayment of \$18,247.50.

During the course of Ms. Cronk's disability she was sent an income verification letter that gave a ceasing date of October 31, 2016.

Ms. Cronk appeared before the April 2016 Executive Committee to appeal the overpayment of her disability. The Executive Committee deferred the case pending receipt of documentation from Ms. Hogueisson reflecting costs incurred from May 1, 2015 through November 1, 2015, and pending general information from SERS' attorney, Steve Bochenek, concerning the Pension Code.

The case was re-examined at the August 2016 Executive Committee. After some discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Iglarsh to approve the appeal of Ms. Cronk to receive disability benefits through October 31, 2015 and the ½ time ceasing credit will be applied to any future disability leave, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

New Business

James LaPlume – Nonocc – Waive 90 day filing period

James LaPlume works as a sales representative for the Illinois State Lottery. He stopped working on June 26, 2015 and began a medical leave of absence on July 20, 2014. He has not yet returned to work.

His agency notified SERS of his disability on July 14, 2015 and a disability packet was mailed to him on July 17, 2015. His application, however, was not received until February 9, 2016, as he did not return his application within the 90 day filing rule.

Mr. LaPlume is appealing the denial of his disability benefits. He is requesting that the 90 day rule be waived.

After some discussion a motion was made by Chairman Iglarsh to approve Mr. LaPlume's request to waive the 90 day filing limitation, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Larry Harvell - Nonocc – Waive 90 day filing period

Larry Harvell works as an office associate as a hotline representative for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. He stopped working on November 10, 2008 and began a medical leave of absence on November 13, 2008. He returned to work on March 30, 2009.

Mr. Harvell was not aware that he was eligible to apply for nonoccupational disability at the time of his injury, and subsequently missed the deadline for the 90 day filing rule. He is appealing the denial of his disability benefits and is requesting that the 90 day filing rule be waived.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Iglarsh to approve Mr. Harvell's request to waive the 90 day filing limitation, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Rosalind White – Wants to receive higher pension

Rosalind White retired reciprocally with the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) effective June 1, 2016.

In March, 2016, Ms. White was provided with a reciprocal pension estimate. This estimate assumed all of Ms. White's service credit was under the alternative formula. In actuality, only 3.5 years of service were under the alternative formula. The difference between the estimated amount and the actual pension is \$594.88 per month.

Ms. White is asking for her pension to be the same as the amount used in the pension estimate.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. White's request to adjust her pension benefit to the higher estimated rate, seconded by Chairman Iglarsh. All were in favor.

Kyle Coda, Waiver of survivor benefit (member, Robert Coda)

Robert Coda was an active state employee who died on February 1, 2006. He was survived by his spouse, Victoria, and three minor children.

When the middle child, Tyler, turned 18 years old, he did not return his application and student certification to begin a benefit on his own record. At this time the benefit should have been split between his older brother, who was receiving a benefit on his own, and his mother, who was receiving a benefit for herself, and now one remaining minor child. This created an overpayment of survivor benefits to the member's spouse, Victoria, in the amount of \$200.79, which should have been instead paid to Kyle.

Kyle's benefit was suspended October 31, 2015 because he had not submitted his semi-annual student certification. The form was later returned and his benefit should have been activated effective December, 2015, but this was not entered into the computer system, resulting in Victoria continuing to receive the money due to Kyle.

Kyle signed a waiver agreeing to waive his portion of the survivor annuity so his mother will not incur an overpayment. Kyle is requesting approval of the waiver of the survivor annuity.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Iglarsh to move for approval to waive Kyle's portion of the survivor benefit, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Robert Piersza, Wants to receive a survivor annuity, (member, Margaret Cook)

Margaret Cook, an active state employee, died on December 2, 2007. Robert Piersza is requesting to receive a survivor benefit, as the surviving spouse.

Robert and Margaret were married outside of the country and Robert cannot locate a valid proof of marriage verification.

After a review of the file and the marriage verification rules, a motion was made by Chairman Iglarsh to deny Robert Piersza's request to receive a survivor benefit, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Add-on

Scott Ward – Waiver of survivor benefit

Jack Ward was an active state employee who died on January 22, 2016. Mr. Ward is survived by a 19 year old son, Scott Ward. Scott is not a full-time student, so he is currently ineligible for a survivor annuity.

Scott Ward signed an agreement to waive the survivor annuity and is requesting approval of the waiver of the survivor annuity he may be eligible to receive in the future so a larger lump sum would be payable now.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Vice Chairperson Morris to approve Scott Ward's request to waive the future survivor annuity in order to be eligible for the lump sum payment. This motion was seconded by Chairman Iglarsh. All were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for September 8, 2016, in the Springfield office, with video conferencing in Chicago.

Loren Iglarsh, Chairman

David Morris, Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary