

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
March 14, 2013

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 8:30 A.M. in the System's Springfield office at 2101 S. Veterans Parkway with videoconferencing in SERS Chicago Office.

Committee members present:

Loren Iglarsh, Chairperson
Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary
Lori Laidlaw, Vice Chairperson

Others Present:

Steve Bochenek, Attorney
Michelle P. Clatfelter, Attorney
Kathy Yemm, Manager, Claims Division
Michael Noblet, Supervisor, Pension & Death Section
Kerry Walker, Assistant Supervisor, Disability Section
Cory Michelle, Assistant Supervisor, Pension & Death Section
Joseph S. Maggio, Manager, Service & Refunds Division
Dawn Blakeman, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the February 14, 2013 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 seconded by Vice Chairperson Laidlaw and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

The Routine Claims and Denials Report for the month of February, 2013 were presented. Following review and discussion, the Routine Claims and Denials Report for the period of February, 2013, as prepared by staff was received by the Executive Committee.

Old Business

Carlesha Springer

Non-Occupational Disability

The System's attorney submitted a recommendation to deny based on the facts and findings on file in this case for the Committee's review. Following discussion, on motion by Chairman Iglarsh, seconded by Vice Chairperson Laidlaw, and by unanimous vote, the Committee accepted Recommendation No. 2013-04.

A copy of this recommendation has been made a part of Carlesha Springer's file.

On June 1, 2012, Mr. Saupe retired under the Reciprocal Act with the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) and State Universities Retirement System (SURS).

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Executive Committee finds Phillip Saupe is receiving a retirement annuity as of June 1, 2012 and during the application process for his retirement annuity, he indicated he wanted to retire under the reciprocal option.

Mr. Saupe was initially paid \$5,883.76. After the reciprocal exchange was complete it was determined a proportional reduction was necessary because his combined benefits exceeded the 80% maximum. His benefit from SERS was reduced to \$5,491.01.

In a letter dated November 9, 2012, Mr. Saupe sent in a written request to appear before the Executive Committee to appeal the reduction of his SERS pension.

Mr. Phillip J. Saupe along with his friend, Mr. Bruce Bialorucki, appeared before the Committee during the December 6, 2012 meeting. A personal hearing was accomplished and a record of this hearing has been made a part of the member's file.

He stated he doesn't believe that he made any errors and that he should not be punished for our errors.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, the Committee has recommended that the appeal of Phillip J. Saupe be deferred so that the Supervisor of the Pension Section can contact the SURS office to verify that Mr. Saupe could change his retirement within the provisions of the law. He also wants to transfer creditable service to SERS under the provisions of SB65 providing the Police Funds of Benton and Mt. Vernon approve the repayment and transfer under the provisions of SB65.

Vicki Chambliss works for a state agency and a medical leave of absence was granted.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Ms. Chambliss works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Medical evidence was obtained and reviewed by the System's medical consultant. Based on the information in file, a disabling condition was not substantiated. Therefore, the request for disability was denied. Vicki Chambliss requested an appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommended deferring the appeal of Vicki Chambliss until additional information could be obtained and reviewed by the system's medical consultant.

Ms. Chambliss requested her case be deferred until the November meeting. In a letter dated October 10, 2012, Mr. L. James Hanson, Attorney for Ms. Chambliss sent in additional medical information. The entire file was reviewed by the System's medical consultant who determined that the medical information failed to substantiate a disabling condition.

After discussion the Committee recommended denial of the appeal of Ms. Vicki Chambliss for non-occupational disability benefits. Executive Secretary Blair moved that the appeal be denied. Vice Chairman Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

In a letter dated February 12, 2013, Ms. Chambliss' Attorney, L. James Hanson requested a re-appeal. He requested that Ms. Chambliss be granted a re-appeal and reopen her case for reconsideration due to the additional medical documents submitted.

After a review of the file, Vice Chairman Laidlaw recommended approval of the re-appeal of Vicki Chambliss for non-occupational disability benefits. Executive Secretary Blair seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The additional evidence was reviewed and Ms. Chamblis was found to be disabled from performing her job duties.

Brenda Russell Non-Occupational Disability

Brenda Russell has requested and attended a personal hearing with the Executive Committee pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

She explained she has additional medical information; however, she failed to bring it with her.

The Executive Committee agreed to have Ms. Russell provide the additional medical information to the Disability Assistant Supervisor for review.

The Committee agreed to defer this matter at this time in order to obtain and review the additional information.

New Business

Glen Foster Non-Occupational Disability/90day

Glen Foster works for a state agency and a medical leave of absence was granted.

Mr. Foster's claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for non-occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Glen Foster works for a state agency, and was granted a medical leave of absence.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits until 2/7/2013. Since the application was received beyond the ninety day filing limitation as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-124, the application was denied.

Mr. Foster requested an appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to the late filing. Information was received with the appeal request which lists the reasons the employee did not file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Glen Foster's appeal for disability benefits.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Vice Chairman Laidlaw moved approval of the appeal of Glen Foster for a waiver of the 90 day filing limitation for non-occupational disability benefits. Secretary Blair seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Delores Trevino

Occupational Disability/12 Months

Delores Trevino works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

Ms. Trevino's claim for disability benefits was denied due to failure to apply for occupational disability benefits within the proper time frame.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds Delores Trevino works for a state agency and a service connected leave of absence was granted.

The System did not receive the employee's application for disability benefits within the time limitation pursuant to occupational disability benefits as noted in 40 ILCS 5/14-123, therefore the application was denied.

Ms. Trevino requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits due to late filing. The appeal request indicates the reasons the employee failed to file on a timely basis.

Based on the facts of this case and information submitted, the Committee recommends approving Ms. Trevino's appeal for a waiver of the twelve month filing limitation.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved approval of the appeal of Delores Trevino for a waiver of the twelve month filing time limit for occupational disability benefits. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Becky McClure

Temporary Disability

Ms. McClure works for a state agency and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Her claim for disability benefits was denied based on a review of medical documentation from treating medical sources.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds that Ms. McClure works for a state agency and was granted a medical leave of absence.

Becky McClure has requested an appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

Medical documentation in the employee's file was reviewed by the System's medical consultant on March 4, 2013, and based on the information in the file, the medical consultant states "there is conflicting information therefore it is impossible to resolve". Therefore the request for disability was denied.

In a letter dated February 25, 2013, Ms. Becky McClure has requested a written appeal pursuant to the denial of disability benefits.

However, additional information was submitted which substantiates a disabling condition. Based on the facts of this case and additional medical information submitted, Executive Secretary Blair moved approval of the appeal of Becky McClure for temporary disability. Vice Chairman Lori Laidlaw seconded the motion, and all were in favor

Jeffery Altenberger

Pension/Level Income

Jeffery Altenberger is receiving a retirement annuity from the System since August 1, 2012.

During the application process for his retirement annuity, Mr. Altenberger did not elect to participate in the level income option. However, when he received his first payment instead of cashing the warrant he contacted SERS stating he wanted to elect the level income option because financially he could not make it on his retirement.

Because Mr. Altenberger had not cashed his first payment the application was amended to use the level income option with his pension to be reduced at age 62 and 1 month.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Executive Committee finds Jeffery Altenberger is receiving a retirement annuity as of August 1, 2012. During the application process for his retirement annuity, he initially indicated he did not want to retire under the level income option but amended his application before cashing the first check to use the level income option for age 62 and 1 month.

However, since retirement Mr. Altenberger has applied for and was approved for Social Security Disability benefits. He is now requesting a written appeal that the Executive Committee approve retroactively revoking the level income option. He is aware there would be an overpayment.

After discussion and following a review of the file, the Committee agreed to deny Jeffery Altenberger's request to retroactively revoke the level income option. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved to deny the written appeal of Jeffery Altenberger. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Barbara Harcharik

Service

Barbara Harcharik requested a written appeal before the Executive Committee. She is attempting to establish creditable service for a leave of absence that was not less than one year.

Ms. Harcharik is attempting to purchase one year of creditable service under HB313, which allows a member to establish service credit for periods of "less" than one year. Her leave of absence was for one year and one day.

Following a review of the file and some discussion, Chairman Iglarsh moved to deny the written appeal of Barbara Harcharik. Vice Chairperson Laidlaw seconded the motion and all were in favor.

William E. McDonald

Reinstatement of Write Off

The account of William E. McDonald became eligible for a write-off in June, 1996.

SERS was contacted by Mr. McDonald's sister, Ms. Laura Debartolo, who indicated William E. McDonald passed in January, 2005 and that she is the only living survivor to Mr. McDonald's Estate.

Based upon a review of the file and information submitted, the Committee finds that Mr. McDonalds account was written off in June, 1996.

After some discussion, Vice Chairperson Laidlaw moved to approve the written appeal to reinstate the account of William E. McDonald. Chairman Iglarsh seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30A.M.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2013, in the Springfield office, with video conferencing in Chicago if needed.

Loren Iglarsh
Chairman

Lori Laidlaw
Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair
Executive Secretary