

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILLINOIS
November 10, 2016

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois was held on Thursday, November 10, 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
Cory Mitchell, Pension and Death Section
Joe Maggio, Service and Refunds Manager
Jerry Blackwell, Claimant
Gloria Blackwell, Claimant's wife
Carl Draper, attorney for Roseanne Serpe

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the October 13, 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 Vice Chairperson Morris and seconded by Executive Secretary Blair, and by unanimous vote, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Routine Claims & Denial Report

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

Old Business

Roseanne Serpe – Requests lump sum benefit paid to her and not the member's estate

Carl Draper, the attorney for Ms. Serpe presented to the committee on behalf of his client, requesting that the committee honor the request of Ferdinand Serpe and pay the death benefit directly to Roseanne Serpe. Mr. Draper argued that it was Mr. Serpe's intent to keep his pension separate from his estate. Ms. Serpe and Mr. Draper stated that there were liens against the estate and her husband wanted the money to go to her, not the creditors.

The committee discussed the case and Vice Chairperson Morris made a motion to approve the payout of the benefit directly to Ms. Serpe and that the System will seek for Ms. Serpe to sign an indemnification form. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Iglarsh, all were in favor.

New Business

Jerry Blackwell works as a highway maintainer for the Department of Transportation. He last worked on February 17, 2015 and began a medical leave of absence on December 4, 2015.

Mr. Blackwell has been paid a temporary disability benefit from January 3, 2016 through the present. Mr. Blackwell turned 66 years of age in August of 2016. His temporary disability benefit should have been offset by the unreduced social security amount he is eligible to receive. A tickler was not set by our office and, therefore, his temporary disability benefit was not offset until the following month when he came into our office inquiring about his retirement. This caused an overpayment of \$2,122.00. Mr. Blackwell is requesting the overpayment be waived.

Mr. Blackwell is requesting a personal appeal to the Executive Committee.

After some discussion, this case has been referred to SERS attorney Steve Bochenek.

Laura Terry – Nonoccupational – 90 day waiver

Laura Terry works as a Human Service Caseworker for DHS. She last worked on February 18, 2016. She began a medical leave of absence on March 21, 2016. She is requesting an appeal to the Executive Committee so that the 90 day filing limitation can be waived.

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

John Otey – Nonoccupational – 90 day waiver

John Otey was a Public Service Administrator for the Department of Public Employment Security. He last worked February 18, 2013 and returned to work July 1, 2013. He is requesting an appeal to the Executive Committee to have the 90 day filing period for nonoccupational disability benefits waived.

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

James Jobe – Occupational – 12 month waiver

James Jobe works as a Site Tech II for the Department of Natural Resources. He last worked on June 3, 2016. He began a service connected leave on June 16, 2015. He has requested an appeal to the Executive Committee so that the 12 month filing limitation can be waived.

After some discussion a motion was made by Chairperson Iglarsh to approve Mr. Jobe's request to waive the 12 month filing limitation, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Danielle McChristian – Requesting retro Soc Sec disability payment be waived

Danielle McChristian works as a Public Service Representative for the Secretary of State. She last worked on August 18, 2014. She began a medical leave of absence on August 19, 2014.

Ms. McChristian has been paid a nonoccupational disability benefit from September 18, 2014 through the present. She was awarded social security disability benefits with an entitlement date of February 1, 2015, resulting in an overpayment with our office in the amount of \$22,610.00. Ms. McChristian is requesting the overpayment be waived.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. McChristian's request to waive her overpayment, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Yolanda Peppers - Requesting retro Soc Sec disability payment be waived

Yolanda Peppers works as a Health Facilities Surveillance Nurse for the Department of Public Health. She last worked on April 17, 2014. She began a medical leave of absence on April 18, 2014.

Ms. Peppers has been paid temporary and nonoccupational disability benefits from May 18, 2014 through the present. She was awarded Social Security disability benefits with an entitlement date of October 1, 2014. This caused an overpayment with our office in the amount of \$49,456.00. Ms. Peppers is requesting the overpayment be waived.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. Pepper's request to waive her overpayment, seconded by Chairperson Iglarsh. All were in favor.

Andre Miller - Requesting retro Soc Sec disability payment be waived

Andre Miller works as a Human Services Case Manager for the Department of Human Services. He last worked on August 13, 2014. He began a medical leave of absence on August 15, 2014.

Mr. Miller has been paid a nonoccupational disability benefit from September 13, 2014 through the present. He was awarded Social Security disability benefits with an entitlement date of February 1, 2015. This caused an overpayment with our office in the amount of \$32,338.00. Mr. Miller is requesting the overpayment be waived.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Mr. Miller's request to waive his overpayment, seconded by Chairperson Iglarsh. All were in favor.

Normajean Norris-Brantley – Requesting her monthly re-payment of her overpayment be reduced

Normajean Brantley received social security disability retroactive to November 1, 2013, resulting in an overpayment of \$37,128.00. Ms. Brantley only received \$8,297.00 from Social Security because she had a previous overpayment with Social Security due to working and receiving a disability benefit at the same time.

Last month Ms. Brantley requested her monthly payback be reduced to \$150.00 per month. She is now requesting a payback amount of \$400.00 a month. The Executive Committee approved a payback amount of \$605.53. The member has not been cooperative with the Benefit Support section in working out a payment amount.

SERS has been taking her whole pension check of \$796.18. Her current overpayment is \$36,331.82.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. Brantley's request to reduce her overpayment, seconded by Chairperson Iglarsh. All were in favor.

Dixie Wagy – Appeal to revoke level income

Dixie Wagy retired effective February 1, 2013. She chose the level income option for age 62 years and 1 month. The level income option increased her pension by \$1,125.85 per month. Effective August 16, 2013 she returned to state employment. Ms. Wagy's pension would have been reduced by \$1,282.00 in April, 2014 if she had remained retired.

Ms. Wagy is retiring again effective November 1, 2016. She is asking to repay the amount she received in level income so her previous base pension will be added to her new pension and will not be affected by the level income option.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Chairperson Iglarsh to approve Ms. Wagy's request to repay the amount she received in level income so her previous base pension will be added to her new pension and will not be affected by the level income option, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Carolina Mata Jones – Appeal to change level income

Carolina Mata Jones retired effective April 1, 2011. She chose the level income option for age 62 years and 1 month. The level income option increased her pension by \$426.05 per month.

Effective August 1, 2016, her pension was reduced by \$738.00 per month as this was the amount the member provided us at the time of her retirement that she would be eligible to receive from Social Security.

Ms. Jones' Social Security benefit is lower than she expected due to her noncoordinated service while working under the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS).

Ms. Jones is asking for her pension to be reduced by \$519.80 instead of \$738.00.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Executive Secretary Blair to deny Ms. Mata Jones' request to change the reduction in her pension attributable to the level income option, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Mary Mann, Deceased – James Mann – Appeal to receive state's portion of death benefits

Mary Mann died on December 3, 2014. When her death was reported it appeared she was an active employee so her beneficiary was sent paperwork for a lump sum death benefit in the amount of \$44,724.84. This amount consisted of \$13,758.20 in contributions, \$3,010.71 in interest and \$28,548.00 for a state's portion (six times her monthly salary).

Once the Employer Statement arrived at SERS, it was discovered that the member last worked on October 30, 2014 and was not on a medical leave of absence at the time of her death. This was confirmed through emails to her employing agency.

A death benefit was paid to her beneficiary in the amount of \$16,196.16. This amount consisted of \$13,777.52 in contributions and \$3,010.71 in interest. A state's portion was not paid as it was determined by staff that Ms. Mann was an inactive employee at the time of her death.

James Mann is appealing the amount of the death benefit and requesting the state's portion be payable.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Chairperson Iglarsh to approve Mr. Mann's request to receive the State's portion of the death benefit associated with the death of Mary Mann, seconded by Vice Chairperson Morris. All were in favor.

Angela Brown – Wishes to void the refund

Angela Brown is requesting a written appeal before the Executive Committee. She contends that she did not understand what she was doing and wants her account reinstated so that she can apply for a future pension. Apparently, none of Ms. Brown's family had Power of Attorney during her disability.

After discussing the case, a motion was made by Chairperson Iglarsh to deny Ms. Brown's appeal to revoke her refund election, seconded by Executive Secretary Blair. All were in favor.

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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

Loren Iglarsh, Chairman

David Morris, Vice Chairperson

Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary