



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

**Board Members in Attendance via Electronic Device:** Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, Adrienne Cochrane, Andrea Comer, Sheila Hummel, Ellen McKitterick, Eleanor Michael, Fran Pastore, David Salazar-Austin, Mike Soltis, Holly Williams, Molly Weston Williamson, Janée Woods Weber, Justin Zartman, Melissa Ziobron

**Board Members Absent:** Easha Canada

**CT Paid Leave Staff in Attendance via Electronic Device:** Erin Choquette, Michael Cisar, Amber Forrest, Madeline Granato, Walter Hay, David Marcone, Stephanie Oliveras, Loc Pho, John Simonetti, Priscilla Torcello, Jessica Vargas

### 1. Welcome & Call to Order

Board Chair Fran Pastore called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Executive Assistant Amber Forrest took attendance by roll call and confirmed the existence of a quorum. Ms. Pastore acknowledged members of the public in attendance.

### 2. Review & Approve February 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Pastore asked for a review of the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes and a motion to approve. There were no corrections. Justin Zartman motioned to approve the minutes, and Eva Bermudez Zimmerman seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. Eleanor Michael, Molly Weston Williamson and Melissa Ziobron abstained. None opposed. The motion carried.

### 3. Quarterly Actuary Report

Harindra Sebastian of Spring Group Consultants provided the quarterly actuarial update, covering the period from July 2025 to December 2025.

### 4. Quarterly Claims Administration

Benefits Manager John Simonetti provided the Quarterly Claims Administration update, noting that claim volume in FY 25 increased 9.92% compared to FY 24.

In response to questions from board members, Mr. Simonetti shared that the approval rate is approximately 81% and the most common reason for denial of claims is lack of required paperwork. The Authority continues to evaluate options to assist claimants understand and comply with the documentation requirements. Mr. Simonetti also reported that the Authority has seen an increase in customers using the website and self-service options available through the call center phone system.

During the discussion, Erin Choquette noted that CT has more covered employees as a result of the narrowing definitions of the municipalities in 2024 and the inclusion of the non-certified school employees in October 2025.

## 5. Discussion and Vote to Approve Proposed Litigation Plan Fund Recovery

Contribution and Compliance Manager Walter Hay and Assistant Controller Loc Pho led the discussion on the proposed litigation plan for fund recovery. The Board had a robust conversation on the efforts the Authority makes to collect payment from non-compliant employers and the need to add litigation to the tools available to the Authority. As part of the discussion, Ms. Choquette explained to the board why she believes it is appropriate and in the best interests of the Authority to contract with TSI for litigation support on a sole source basis.

Ms. Pastore asked for a motion to approve the proposed litigation plan for fund recovery. Ms. Weston Williamson motioned, and Ms. Michael seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. Ms. Ziobron opposed. None abstained. The motion carried.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Policy & Personnel

David Salazar-Austin reported that there were no pending policies that required review by the committee, so the March meeting was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### b. Outreach & Engagement

Ms. Bermudez Zimmerman reported that the Committee did not meet in February due to the bimonthly meeting schedule. The next scheduled meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### c. Finance & Audit

Ms. Williams reported that the Committee met in February and received the quarterly actuary report along with an update on next steps of the litigation plan for fund recovery, both discussed here today. We also received the presentation of the regular financial reports. Dave Marcone shared the following financial reports:

- Actual to Budget Operating Funds for the Month of January 2026
- Actual to Budget Bond Funds for the Month of January 2026
- Bond Schedule (Inception to Date)
- Actual to Budget Contribution Trust Funds for the Month of January 2026
- Contribution Schedule (Inception to Date)
- Statement of Fiduciary Net Position as of January 2026
- Operating Projection FY2026
- Contribution Projection for FY2026
- Draft expenditures and contributions for February 2026.

## 7. CEO Report

CEO Erin Choquette reminded the board that the Statements of Financial Interest are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Choquette shared with the board that the Authority has been the subject of two newspaper articles focusing on solvency and the contribution fund. Additionally, an editorial by a researcher who studied CT paid leave was also published. The Authority will contact the researcher to gain more in-depth information about the study.

Finally, Ms. Choquette noted that the Outreach team continues to engage with employers to ensure they understand their obligations. Ms. Choquette encouraged the board to provide their ideas on how the Authority can continue to provide outreach.

8. Old Business None

9. New Business None

10. **Adjournment**

Ms. Pastore asked the Board for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ziobron motioned, and Andrea Comer seconded that motion. All were in favor. None opposed. None abstained. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:39A.M.

*[Meeting Recording Link at https://youtu.be/33wr0SR0s2g](https://youtu.be/33wr0SR0s2g)*

*Agenda Attachments:*

- *Item 3- Quarterly Actuary Report*
- *Item 4- Quarterly Claims Administration*
- *Item 5- Proposed Litigation Plan for Fund Recovery*
- *Item 6- January Financial Reports*