

Minutes of Second Injury Advisory Board
Wednesday June 29, 2009 Meeting
Approved by the Advisory Board on October 21, 2009

Office of the Treasurer
Second Injury Fund
Advisory Board
June 29, 2009

Present: Bonnie Stewart, Chairperson, Ben Cozzi, Lori Pelletier and Senator Edith Prague
For the Fund: Maria M. Greenslade, Assistant Deputy Treasurer, Tom Corrigan,
Deborah D'Agostino, Jim Eatherton, Hank Gaffney, Marge Supple

Meeting came to order at 11:55 AM and was held by teleconference.

1. Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order and called the roll.
2. She invited discussion of the minutes of the previous (October 29, 2008) meeting. Mr. Cozzi moved and Ms. Pelletier seconded adoption of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Update on Operation of the Fund. Ms Greenslade spoke of the Treasurer's May 1 announcement of the annual assessment rates for insured and self insured employers. Rates for insurance companies will decrease from 3% to 2.75% for insured employers and from 2.4% to 2.2% for assigned risk policies. The rate for self-insured employers will decrease from 4.7% to 3.84%, saving Connecticut businesses \$3.6 million annually. Ms. Greenslade also reported that during FY 2009, the Fund began utilizing the accumulated cash (from audits and assessments) for operating expenses. Ms. Stewart stated that the reductions in the assessment rates reflect the intent of the General Assembly to gradually ease the assessment burden on businesses while continuing to meet the needs of injured workers as caseloads have decreased since 1995. Ms. Stewart commended the work of the Fund and Treasury and thanked them for following the gradual reduction plan recommended by the Advisory Board.
Ms. Stewart encouraged the members to read the packet sent out with the meeting announcement as it contains helpful information on the financial and management status of the Second Injury Fund.
Senator Prague asked if business people include the assessments they pay to the SIF in their report of their workers compensation costs. Ms. Stewart said that they do and that since the Fund was closed to new Sec. 349 cases in 1995, those costs are minimal.

Legislative Proposal: In the recent General Assembly Session, the Fund submitted a proposal that clarified the interest penalty imposed on insurance companies and employers who fail to pay timely and accurate assessments. Although the bill was reviewed favorably by the Labor and Finance Committees, the press of other business kept it from reaching the House and Senate chambers. The Fund will resubmit the proposed legislation during the 2010. At this time the Fund is not aware of any opposition to this bill.

4. Staffing Update: Ms. Greenslade noted that Tom Corrigan will finish his assignment as a "part-time retiree" on June 30. She asked Jim Eatherton to address the status of the Special Investigator staff. Jim noted that Bert Martus is retiring after many years service to the SIF. Thanks to administrative staff having anticipated this retirement and planned for it, the staff will be able to absorb Bert's duties without a seriously onerous impact. Ms. Greenslade also noted that the staff has had one furlough day in May, will take another in July and two more before the end of the calendar year.
5. Other Business: Ms. Stewart noted the death on March 18 of Advisory Board member Richard Days, and encouraged members to read in their packets the article and obituary which outline Richard's many contributions to organized labor and the communities he served. Ms Greenslade noted that Carol Clapp has retired from the Hartford. The Treasurer will make two appointments.

Before adjourning the meeting, Ms Stewart thanked the staff for all its work. She noted that there will be a meeting in October at which time we will also set the meetings for 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM.