

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
November 29, 2018
10:00 a.m.
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joel M. Weisblatt.

Present were:

Commissioners:

Paul Boudreau
David Jones
Pasquale Papero
Paula Voos

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, Acting General Counsel
Don Horowitz, Senior Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Kellie Hullfish, who acted as Stenographer

At the commencement of the meeting, Chair Weisblatt, pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, entered this announcement into the minutes of the meeting:

Adequate notice has been provided by the dissemination of a written "Annual Notice of Meeting." On December 21, 2017 a copy of such notice was:

- (a) prominently posted in a public place at the offices of the Public Employment Relations Commission;
- (b) e-mailed to the business offices of the Trenton Times and the Courier Post;
- (c) e-mailed to the Secretary of State for filing; and
- (d) posted on the agency's web site.

Furthermore on November 21, 2018, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and sent in a similar manner.

The first item for consideration was the minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Voos moved the minutes and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes were approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Papero and Voos) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

Chair Weisblatt reported that the agency is experiencing a very active period. Notably, there is an uptick in interim relief requests. Negotiations disputes are increasingly active particularly reflecting issues relating to Chapter 78 and the negotiability of health care contributions in the next contract after tier four, as per that statute. The parties are raising and resisting changes in health care benefits. The Chair commended the Mediation Staff for doing a terrific job working with the parties on these difficult issues, noting the increased incidence of compromise and real bargaining among many parties. The Chair expressed an expectation of increased activity in police and fire negotiations as more contracts advance on the December 31, 2018 expiration date. The hope is that parties will avail themselves of mediation and even fact finding impasse resolution mechanisms in order to maintain internal control over their contract terms. The Chair stated that as year's end approaches, the agency is in a positive current position, well-positioned for the future.

The first case for consideration was County of Essex and Public Employees Supervisors Union and Alexis T. Miller, Docket No. CI-2018-020. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioner Boudreau, Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was City of Newark and Newark Police Superior Officers' Association, Docket No. CO-2017-269. Commissioner Boudreau moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was not approved with a vote of two in favor (Chair Weisblatt and Commissioner Boudreau) and three opposed (Commissioners Jones Papero and Voos). A new decision will be drafted and presented at a future meeting.

The next case for consideration was Somerset County Sheriff's Office and FOP Lodge 39, Docket No. SN-2018-049. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Township of Rockaway and Rockaway Township FOP Lodge 31, Docket No. SN-2018-053. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Jones

seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Gloucester County Sheriff's Department and PBA Local 122, Docket No. SN-2019-006. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with the PBA. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones and Voos).

The last case for consideration was Bergen County and Bergen County Sheriff's Office and Bergen County PBA, Local No. 49, Docket No. CO-2019-036. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with the PBA. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Boudreau, Jones and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday,
December 20, 2018.