

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 17, 2019
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:

John Bonanni
Paul Boudreau
David Jones
Pasquale Papero

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
Don Horowitz, Senior Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Ramiro Perez, Deputy General Counsel
John Boppert, 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 20, 2018 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 January 11, 2019, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and sent in a similar manner.

Chair Weisblatt is pleased to introduce Ramiro Perez and John Boppert, two experienced and skilled new staff members filling the deputy general counsel positions that were vacant. These additions to the Counsel staff both have extensive experience in public sector labor relations in New Jersey. He stated that they will be an important addition to PERC. This is a significant step towards properly staffing the agency. I have very high expectations for the performance of the entire Counsel staff.

Chair Weisblatt went on to state that the caseload in many areas continues to grow swiftly and getting the agency to necessary staffing levels continues to be a substantial priority. The second quarter statistics recently calculated revealed that union unfair practice charges have increased by 10% in the first two quarters of fiscal year 2019 over the first two quarters of fiscal year 2018. Mediation requests are up 11.5% over the same time span and disputes moving to fact finding are up 50% in the second quarter comparison.

The Chair stated that the next goal is to attract a new staff mediator and an experienced hearing officer in the unfair practice and representation section.

The Chair stated that the Smith lawsuit continues to evolve in its procedural mode and we will address it in detail in executive session. We were also served in an additional law

suit, involving employees of the Township of Lakewood and AFSCME. We will also bring you up to date on that case in executive session.

As a final note from the Chair, there remains no new status as to any scheduled meetings for the senate judiciary committee so there is nothing new with respect to the pending nominations for the Commission.

The first item for consideration was the minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the minutes and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes were approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Boudreau and Papero) and one abstention (Commissioner Jones).

At approximately 10:15 a.m. Chair Weisblatt then turned the meeting over to Acting General Counsel Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro and she asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the pending federal litigation. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move into Executive Session and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Boudreau, Jones and Papero).

At approximately 10:40 a.m. the Commission returned to the regular Commission meeting from Executive Session.

The Chair then turned the meeting over to Senior Deputy

General Counsel Don Horowitz for the Counsel's Office report.

The first case for consideration was County of Burlington and International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 3091, Docket No. RO-2018-038. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Boudreau seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Boudreau, Jones and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Township of Edison and AFSCME, Council 73, Local 3269, Docket No. SN-2018-043. It was decided that this case would be tabled and considered at a later meeting.

The next case for consideration was Township of Mullica and PBA Local 77, Docket No. SN-2018-052. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni 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 Bonanni, Boudreau and Jones).

The last case for consideration was City of Burlington Board of Education and City of Burlington Education Association, Docket No. SN-2019-054. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Boudreau, Jones and Papero).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019.