

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 13, 2020
10:00 a.m. by Phone
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

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

Present were:

Commissioners:

John Bonanni
David Jones
Pasquale Papero
Paula Voos

Also present were:

Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, General Counsel
John Boppert, Deputy General Counsel
Frank Kanther, Deputy General Counsel
Ramiro Perez, 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 19, 2019 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) posted on the agency's web site.

Furthermore on August 6, 2020, 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 June 25, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Voos moved the minutes and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt reports that the agency continues to adapt and respond to operating in these remarkable times. The staff is providing efficient and comprehensive service to the parties under less than ideal circumstances but we are able to maintain our mission under pressure. There are numerous unique and new issues presented, often related to the coronavirus. We are working hard to remain responsive to these disputes.

The Chair reports that the cancellation of in-person hearings, conferences and mediations may be leading to some backlog of dispute resolution, however, the staff have had good success at using available remote means to assist the parties in reaching settlements. We are examining the potential to convert to remote video hearings and other meetings in the near future. I will keep you updated on our progress.

The Chair concluded that we are concerned about the possible impact of budget reductions. It is a concern as the agency has increasing caseload that will get heavier in the immediate future; this caseload increase will surely affect all aspects of the Agency's functions. We are planning for dealing with the

double-edged problem of reduced funding and greater workload but also hoping to be spared from unproductive budget cuts to our small agency.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro noted that the Appellate Division issued four affirmances of Commission decisions since the last meeting. Those appellate decisions are described in the Counsel's report. The General Counsel also briefly reviewed the latest updates on pending federal litigation that are also in the Counsel's report.

The first case for consideration was State of New Jersey (Dept. of Corrections) and New Jersey Superior Officers Association, Docket No. SN-2020-038. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was County of Cumberland and Cumberland County PBA, Local 231, Docket No. CO-2020-113. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with PBA. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Newark and Newark Police Department SOA, Docket Nos. CO-2014-169 and CO-

2014-170. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni recused himself because Morris County has engaged the Carmagnola and Ritardi law firm to defend an employment action brought against the County. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Gloucester City Education Association and Gloucester City Board of Education, Docket No. SN-2020-045. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was County of Hudson and Hudson County PBA Local 334, Docket No. CO-2019-137. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with PBA. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioners Jones).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bonanni made a motion to adjourn the meeting and

Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 17, 2020.