

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
October 15, 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  
Craig Ford  
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 October 7, 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 September 17, 202 meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the minutes and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next item for consideration was the Executive Session minutes of the September 17, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Voos moved the executive minutes and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Executive Session minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt reports that the agency continues to fulfill its mission in a neutral, professional and independent manner. We are doing well at the timely delivery of our services but he thinks we can do better. The agency aspires to become even more effective and efficient in the near future in all areas of our responsibilities.

The Chair continues by stating that the use of remote communications technology is a key to that goal and our transition to greater reliance on remote services is moving along. He believes the parties are generally accepting of this transition under the current health environment, although we must deal with some resistance. This is just another form of dispute resolution that we must master.

The Chair also continues by stating the agency is working on the required re-adoption of our rules for the Conciliation and Arbitration section. There will be some modifications needed without any major overhaul; of course, the Commissioners will be given notice and provided details before any vote on the re-adoption.

The Chair concluded by saying that just two days ago we learned of another successful result in the Appellate Division, extending a lengthy streak of favorable decisions. The General Counsel will provide you with details relating to that case and current pending actions including two matters before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and one in which we argued this week before the New Jersey Supreme Court. The Chair pointed out that the Counsel staff has been exceptional work even with one fewer staff member than usual. They are a credit to the agency.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the Commission's participation in the Rozenblit Supreme Court matter, and the oral arguments in the Third Circuit court of appeals in Thulen and Smith.

The first case for consideration was Perth Amboy Federation of Teachers and Perth Amboy Board of Education, Docket No. CO-2019-038. 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, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos)

The next case for consideration was Town of West New York and West New York Police Supervisors Association, Inc., Docket No. SN-2019-067. This case was tabled at the February 20, 2020 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Borough of Somerville and Somerville PBA Local No. 147, Docket No. SN-2020-033. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Town of Morristown and PBA Local 43, Docket No. SN-2020-047. This case was tabled at the September 17, 2020 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. This case was voted down with a vote of two in favor (Chair Weisblatt and Commissioner Bonanni) three opposed (Commissioners Ford, Jones and Papero) and one abstention (Commissioner Voos).

The next case for consideration was Jackson Township Board of Education and Teamsters Local 97, Docket No. SN-2020-048.

Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni recused himself because Schenck Price Smith and King law firm is his personal attorney. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Jones made a motion to table this case and Chair Weisblatt seconded that motion. The motion to table this matter to the next Commission meeting was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The last case for consideration was Morris Hills Regional Board of Education and Morris Hills Regional Education Association, Docket No. SN-2020-049. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020.