

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
December 10, 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  
Grace Xanthacos, 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 December 3, 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 November 12, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Bonanni moved the minutes and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

Chair Weisblatt reports that it is with great sadness that he reports the passing of one of the members of our PERC family, Susan Osborn. Sue began working at PERC in a clerical position in 1970; she proved worthy of the responsibility of a professional title in 1973. Susan developed a universally recognized expertise in the conduct of elections and all other representation matters. She later earned promotions to the level of Hearing Examiner and Deputy Director of the unfair practice and representation section. Sue Osborn retired from PERC in 2007 but her retirement did not lead to inactivity. She embarked on a prolific career as an arbitrator of both grievance and interest arbitration disputes. Her dynamic caseload and prominence in the field was clearly reflective of her enormously high level of acceptability among the parties on both sides. Susan's work was always rock solid and she was an outstanding member of PERC's neutral panels. She will be sorely missed.

Chair Weisblatt continues by reporting that the agency continues to be more and more adept at using on-line resources for remote activities in case conferences, mediations, and

hearings. We are also using our zoom capabilities for training and divisional staff meetings. The use of remote communications methods have kept us highly effective at processing the different types of disputes brought our way and we can expect to continue to raise our level of technological capacity to meet our responsibilities as an agency.

Chair Weisblatt states with respect to the Agency's caseload, we have seen a continued reliance by the parties on interim relief filings. Sometimes they present very substantial and complex disputes and although the Agency is occasionally pressed to respond in an expedited time frame to these filings, we do invariably process them with great diligence. However, it is noteworthy that the parties often focus on the importance and significance of issues without recognizing the well-established standards for having a case dealt with on an interim relief basis. The impact of over-reliance on interim relief filings is the strain on resources needed to enable those case appropriate for interim relief to move at an effective pace. It is understandable that the pandemic has given rise to numerous disputes where emergent issues are presented; this fact does not reduce the importance of maintaining the strict standards surrounding the interim relief process.

Chair Weisblatt concluded by thanking Kellie Hullfish, who is retiring at the end of the month, for her work and commitment

to the Agency. As you are all aware, in addition to her other duties, she has been extraordinary in her success at making our Commission meetings run. This starts with organizing and distributing materials and includes just about every aspect of getting our agenda from one outline concept to the detailed process that we could easily take for granted. Kellie, we don't take it for granted; we all know how dedicated you are to preparing and executing every detail that leads to a professional and effective Commission meeting. We wish you all the best in retirement; may you be safe, healthy and happy in your future.

Lastly, Chair Weisblatt thanked Grace Xanthacos for agreeing to learn the ropes from Kellie and taking over her responsibility for getting us to each meeting in the preparedness that we have come to expect. He stated he is confident that Grace will be up to the task.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the DiGuglielmo matter, as well as the Port Authority matter discussed in the Counsel's report. She also discussed the possibility of changing the Commission mailing format to an electronic format.

The first case for consideration was Jackson Township Board of Education and Teamsters Local 97, Docket No. SN-2020-048. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonnani was recused from

voting on this matter because Schenck, Price, Smith & King represents Jackson Township Board of Education. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Voos, Ford and Papero) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and PBA Local 240, Docket No. SN-2020-044. 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 Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Newark and Newark Police Superior Officers' Association, Docket No. CO-2021-021. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonnani 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 City of Englewood and Englewood PBA Local 216, Docket No. SN-2021-003. 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).

At this time, Commissioner Bonanni excused himself from the meeting and left the call.

The next item for consideration was Chapter 12 Rules Amendments. Commissioner Jones moved the Chapter 12 Rules Amendments and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to consider the Chapter 12 Rules Amendments was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The last item on the agenda was the Annual Notice of Regularly Schedule Meetings for 2021. Commissioner Voos moved this item and Commissioner Papero seconded this item. The motion to adopt the notice was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Papero made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021.