

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
April 29, 2021
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 10, 2020 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 April 22, 2021, 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 March 25, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Jones 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).

The Chair reports that the annual PERC labor law conference was an enormous success last week. The program was particularly strong and the breath of the issues was extensive. He thought the presenters and panel members were very informative and thorough. The turnout of nearly 400 is remarkable for an online meeting of this type. Perhaps the most important aspect of the gathering is that we maintained the conference's identity even in this remote world and we will certainly pick up from there next year, when we expect to be in person again.

The Chair also reports that the Agency continues to provide mediation services in high profile school district disputes relating to issues of safety and the return to in-person learning. The Director of Conciliation and Arbitration is actively involved in the efforts to resolve these disputes while parallel efforts to address legal issues are pursued by the parties in superior courts. Each of these disputes presents its own set of complexities and we continue to adapt as they evolve from week to week. There has been considerable progress in some of these cases.

Lastly, the Chair reports that the Agency endeavors to meet its challenges and we've remained quite active through this recent phase of the coronavirus era. The pandemic has clearly not reduced our importance in the dispute resolution process within our jurisdiction.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the recent affirmance by the Appellate Division of the Essex County Commission case, and she also commented on other recently issued appellate cases that bear on the Commission's jurisdiction.

The first case for consideration was Borough of Old Tappan and PBA Local 206, Docket No. IA-2021-001. Commissioner Bonanni 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 Mercer County Proscutor's Office and PBA Local 339, Docket No. IA-2020-008. Commissioner Jones moved the draft decision and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because he is employed as a Mercer County Sheriff's Officer. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Township of Neptune and AFSCME Council 63, Local 2792, Docket No. SN-2021-024.

Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter due to his affiliation with AFSCME. The motion to adopt the draft decision was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Cape May and CWA Local 1036 and Government Workers Union, Docket Nos. RO-2021-035, RO-2021-037 and CO-2021-148. Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Bonanni 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 Jersey City and IAFF Local 1064, Docket No. SN-2021-022. 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, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Borough of Red Bank and CWA Local 1075, Docket No. SN-2021-010. Commissioner Bonanni 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 Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Voos made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos). The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021.