

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
January 24, 2008
10:20 a.m.
495 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lawrence Henderson.

Present were:

Chairman: Lawrence Henderson

Commissioners:

Kirsten S. Branigan
Donald J. Buchanan
Pierre D. Joanis
Matthew U. Watkins

Also present were:

Robert E. Anderson, General Counsel
Richard C. Gwin, Director of Conciliation & Arbitration
Mary Beth Hennessy-Shotter, Staff Agent
Don Horowitz, Deputy General Counsel
Christine Lucarelli-Carneiro, Staff Agent
Ira Mintz, Special Assistant to the Chairman
Annette Thompson, who acted as Stenographer

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, 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, 2007 a copy of such notice was:

(a) prominently posted in a public place at the offices of the Public Employment Relations Commission;

(b) mailed to the business offices of the Trenton Times, the Bergen Record, and the Camden Courier Post, as well as to the State House press room addresses of 25 media outlets; and

(c) mailed to the Secretary of State for filing.

Furthermore on January 17, 2008, copies of an additional written "Notice of Meeting" were posted and mailed in a similar manner.

Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order. The first item for consideration was the minutes of the December 20, 2007 meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Branigan. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan and Watkins). Commissioner Joanis abstained.

Chairman Henderson welcomed Pierre D. Joanis, the new Commissioner, to the Commission and his first meeting. He also congratulated Bob Anderson, General Counsel, on his upcoming retirement on March 1 and announced that Ira Mintz will become the new General Counsel.

Commissioner Branigan stated that she has been very impressed with the enthusiasm both Bob and Ira have shown for the work that they do. She concluded by saying that Bob will be missed and she is looking forward to working with Ira.

Commissioner Watkins stated that he has greatly appreciated the counsel he has received from Bob since being appointed a Commissioner. He has been comfortable knowing that any advice offered has been accurate and well thought out, and has been given with brevity and humor.

Bob Anderson thanked everyone for their kind comments.

The General Counsel distributed his monthly and supplemental reports. He also distributed his Annual Report. He took this opportunity to thank the Counsel's Office staff for their teamwork over the previous year.

Don Horowitz, Appeal Board Counsel, stated that the Commission has the authority to adopt and amend rules for the Appeal Board and that each set of administrative rules expires every five years and has to be readopted. The Appeal Board will be meeting next month to propose to the Commission the readoption of its rules and to address other matters. At its February meeting, the Commission will review the proposed readoption of the Appeal Board rules.

The first item on the agenda was the 2008 Biennial Report on the Police and Fire Public Interest Arbitration Reform Act. Commissioner Branigan moved that the 2008 Biennial Report be adopted and Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan, Joanis and Watkins).

The first case for consideration was New Jersey State Judiciary (Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage) and Probation Association of New Jersey (Case-Related Professional Unit), Docket No. SN-2008-001. Commissioner Watkins moved the draft decision and Commissioner Branigan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan, Joanis and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was Atlantic County Prosecutor and Mainland P.B.A. Local No. 77, Docket No. SN-2008-022. Commissioner Branigan moved the draft decision and

Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan, Joanis and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was City of Bayonne and P.B.A. Local 7, Docket No. SN-2007-073. Commissioner Branigan moved the draft decision and Commissioner Joanis seconded the motion. Commissioner Watkins recused himself because the attorney representing the City is also the attorney who represents South Brunswick. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan and Joanis).

The next case for consideration was City of Millville and Millville P.B.A. Local 213, Docket No. SN-2008-024. Commissioner Watkins moved the draft decision and Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Chairman Henderson, Commissioners Branigan, Buchanan, Joanis and Watkins).

The next case for consideration was County of Hudson and PBA Locals 51 & 51A, Docket Nos. CO-1997-058 & CO-1997-059. Chairman Henderson recused himself because he was the Personnel Director involved at the time of the events in the case, and a witness in the case. He left the Commission room during this portion of the proceedings. Commissioner Branigan served as Acting Chairman for this case. Commissioner Watkins moved the draft decision and

Commissioner Joanis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of three in favor (Commissioners Branigan, Joanis and Watkins), and one opposed (Commissioner Buchanan).

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Buchanan 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, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.