

MINUTES OF MEETING  
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION  
November 12, 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 November 5, 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 October 15, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved the minutes and Commissioner Bonanni 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 the agency continues to perform its functions well and in a neutral and independent manner. We are working on filling some vacancies on staff, still a slow and methodical process. There are special challenges to bringing in new employees during a pandemic where much, if not most, of the substantive work is performed remotely.

Chair Weisblatt continues by reporting that the agency continues to progress with the plan to train the staff and use video platforms for the conduct of conferencing cases, holding evidentiary hearings and presiding over mediations. This adaptation is well under way and he is optimistic that this process will continue to provide uninterrupted, full-scale dispute resolution services to all the parties.

Chair Weisblatt concluded by reporting that perhaps he jinxed us by discussing our extended streak of success in appellate matters at the last meeting. The agency did get a statutory interpretation from the Appellate Division in the NJIT case that reversed a substantial element of our decision in that matter. He is no less confident in our counsel staff now than he

was then; we continue to gain significant deference from the courts and the counsel staff deserves great credit for our proficiency at presenting our cases there. They also are due credit for the research, advice and drafting of our Commission decision drafts. Now let's move onto the rest of our agenda.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the DiGuglielmo decision recently issued by the Appellate Division.

The first case for consideration was State of New Jersey (Department 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, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and Paul Fischer, Docket No. DA-2020-003. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Voos was recused from voting on this matter because she is employed by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford and Papero). Commissioner Jones abstained from consideration.

The next case for consideration was Township of Springfield

and PBA Local 76A (Superiors), Docket No. SN-2020-014.

Commissioner Voos moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Bonanni was recused from voting on this matter because the Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala, Taylor law firm is counsel for Morris County. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Jones, Papero and Voos). Commissioner Ford abstained from consideration.

The next case for consideration was Monmouth County and CWA, AFL-CIO, Docket No. CO-2020-304. 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 Neptune Township and AFSCME Council 63, Local 2792, Docket No. SN-2021-005. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter because of his affiliation with the Vice President of the Eastern Region of New Jersey AFSCME. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Papero and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was New Jersey Turnpike

Authority and IFPTE Local 193C, Docket No. SN-2020-046.

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

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020.