

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
June 24, 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 June 17, 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 May 27, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Jones moved the minutes and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Jones, Papero and Voos).

The Chair reported that the Agency continues to provide services to parties with disputes directly or indirectly related to the coronavirus pandemic. We are called upon to resolve disputes related to the impact of COVID-19 in all sections of the Agency and most of these matters raise novel issues. The staff remains flexible enough to deal with these issues of first impression but still stay true to the law and the practical side of our mission.

The Chair also reported that it is his understanding that there are proposals in the legislature for modifying the Act that we apply and enforce. Of course we will continue to perform our work in accordance with any changes enacted, as we are dedicated to serve within our jurisdiction as currently established or even as modified. This must also fall within the realm of the authority delineated by the courts, which is subject to change within certain legislatively created parameters.

Lastly, the Chair reported that we anticipate making changes in protocols related to the increased re-opening of our offices and those of the parties we serve. It is reasonable to expect

greater return to in-person processes. We are working on guidelines to move back to pre-pandemic working conditions, but in stages, emphasizing the safety of our staff, the parties and the public.

General Counsel Lucarelli-Carneiro commented on the recently issued Lutter decision from federal district court and that a notice of appeal had been filed. The General Counsel also commented on the recently issued Atlantic County and Rutgers Appellate Division decisions.

The first case for consideration was Town of Hammonton and PBA Local 77, Docket No. SN-2021-032. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Voos and Ford) and two opposed (Commissioners Jones and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Wayne Board of Education and Wayne Custodial Maintenance Association, Docket No. TO-2020-004. 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 Rutgers, State University of NJ and AFSCME, Council 63, Local 88, Docket No. SN-2021-021. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and

Chair Weisblatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter due to his affiliation with AFSCME. Commissioner Voos was recused from voting on this matter because she is employed by Rutgers. The motion to adopt the draft decision resulted in a tie vote with two in favor (Chair Weisblatt and Commissioners Bonanni) and two opposed (Commissioners Jones and Papero).

The next case for consideration was Andover Regional Board of Education and Andover Regional Education Association, Docket No. SN-2021-033. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded the motion. Commissioner Ford was recused from voting on this matter because Oxfeld Cohen represents the union. 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 Union City and Union City Employees Association, Docket No. SN-2021-030. Commissioner Jones 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 Passaic County Sheriff's Office and PBA Local 97, Docket No. IA-2021-005. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Voos seconded

the motion. Commissioner Papero was recused from voting on this matter because Crivelli & Barbati law firm represents the union. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of four in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, and Voos) and one opposed (Commissioner Jones).

The next case for consideration was Ocean County Utilities Authority (OCUA) and United Steel Workers (USW), AFL-CIO-CLC, Local 4-406, Docket No. SN-2021-028. 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 County of Union and Union Council 8, Docket No. SN-2021-036. 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 Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Papero 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,
August 26, 2021.