

MINUTES OF MEETING
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION
March 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.
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
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
William Campbell, 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 15, 2022 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 March 22, 2023, 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 February 23, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Papero moved the minutes and Commissioner Bonanni seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the minutes was unanimously approved (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, Ford, Papero and Voos).

The Chair recognized two very recent new hires. Will Campbell is an addition of the General Counsel's staff and Ryan Kelly joins the staff in the Division of Unfair Practices and Representation. Both employees have solid educational and work experience backgrounds. They are both graduates of Rutgers/Newark law school and both came to us from law firms practicing in the labor-management field. We truly expect that their contributions here at PERC will live up to the quality of their prior experiences. He welcomed them both to the PERC family.

The Chair also reported that the agency is monitoring some critical negotiations in the public sector. There are some difficult contract talks progressing and we are prepared to provide dispute resolution services as appropriate. That is a key part of our mission.

Lastly, the Chair reported that the PERC conference agenda is set and posted on our website. It promises to be a fitting return to an in-person format with numerous speakers and panelists to keep attendees engaged throughout. The topics are

current and highly relevant. The personal interactions have always been a significant aspect of the event, including the interactions that have taken place where the coffee is served. We are looking forward to a great gathering.

The General Counsel's staff commented on the recent appellate argument in the matter of City of Ocean City and Edwin Yust, App. Div. Dkt. No. A-1391-21, involving the review of a Hearing Examiner's Report which found that the employer violated the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act by terminating a lifeguard for protected union activity.

The first case for consideration was New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and Fire and EMT Local 1412, AFL-CIO and International Brotherhood of Teamsters, et al., Local No. 560, Docket No. CU-2022-008. 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Plainsboro Township and Plainsboro Township SOA, Docket No. SN-2023-013. Commissioner Ford 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Union County and Union County Sheriff and PBA Local 108A Sheriff Superior Officers, Docket No. SN-2023-043. Commissioner Papero 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was Old Bridge Board of Education and Old Bridge Education Association, Docket No. SN-2023-011. Commissioner Bonanni 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Linden and Teamsters Local 469, Docket No. SN-2023-008. Commissioner Papero 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, Papero and Voos).

The next case for consideration was City of Elizabeth and Union Council 8, New Jersey Civil Service Association, (City Hall Employees), Docket No. SN-2022-041. Commissioner Bonanni moved the draft decision and Commissioner Papero seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the draft decision was approved by a vote of three in favor (Chair Weisblatt, Commissioners Bonanni, and Voos)

and two opposed (Commissioners Ford and Papero).

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

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023.