

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, September 18, 2023. This meeting was held virtually, via Teams.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
Dennis C. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Chairman
Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member
Peter Carozza, Labor Member
Ken Baldyga, Management Member

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

Public Guests: Steven McEleheny
Richard Kosinski (joined the meeting as it was in progress)

The meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Peter Carozza to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2) Old Business:

A. Review of Outstanding Arbitration Hearings: The number of pending arbitrations, the number of cases held in abeyance, scheduled and re-scheduled were examined by the Board. There are approximately 258 cases pending which is a slight increase from 250; scheduled cases decreased from

160 to 115; rescheduled cases decreased from 25 to 20; and cases held in abeyance decreased from 37 to 22.

- B. Review of Fiscal Year Figures: The SBMA fiscal year figures to date were compared to the past year and have decreased slightly; cases received to date have decreased from 45 to 40; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly from \$19,800 to \$14,000; state cases filed to date have decreased from 13 to 5.
- C. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards at this time.
- D. Applications to Vacate: All open applications to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. Four new applications to vacate have been filed since the last Board meeting, two involving the Madison Police Department, one involving the Shelton Police Department, and one involving a Town of Vernon interest arbitration award. A brief discussion on the general increase in the number of applications being filed this past year was held.
- E. A brief discussion on the status of the Board's successful use of "/s/" signatures for arbitration awards was held.
- F. Update on Summer Conference September 28, 2023. A brief discussion of the status of the Summer Conference was held.

3) New Business:

- A. The Board welcomed a new permanent management member, Ken Baldyga, who was attending his first Board meeting.
- B. The Board noted that the Neutral Arbitration Selection Committee has recently added two members appointed by DOL Commissioner Dante Bartolomeo, namely Attorney Christopher Hodgson and Peter Carozza.

4) Director's Report:

- A. Passing of Helene Shay: Ms. Shay served for many years as an alternate labor arbitrator with the Board. It was noted that Ms. Shay was a devoted arbitrator who served the Board and unions with a great deal of commitment, passion and energy and she will be missed.

- 5) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Carozza and seconded by Dennis Murphy. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator