



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

May 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission was held
at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Those present and participating:
Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Chairperson
Mark R. Busto, Commissioner
Kenneth J. Pedersen, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Dario de la Rosa, Compliance Officer
Emily Whitney, Compliance Officer
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:
Robbie Duffield, PERC, IT Manager
Lisa Hartrich, PERC, Field Services Manager
Katelyn Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Kelly Rupert, Department of Social and Health Services
Peggy Pulse, Department of Social and Health Services

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 10, 2020, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

1. PERC upgraded its Zoom license to include the Webinar feature for up to 100 participants. This feature will be used for the Commission meetings and trainings. Our Zoom meetings can accommodate up to 300 participants. Chris Casillas recently had over 100 participants in a virtual mediation.
2. At the time of this meeting, PERC was conducting a large vote with a bargaining unit of about 370 City of Bellingham employees. The count will take place on May 13.

3. The case volume has been really low. Thirty-one cases were filed in April. This is the lowest number of cases filed in a single month since December 2008, when 35 cases were opened. At the time of this meeting, 7 cases had been filed so far in May. The decrease is most seen in mediations. Some parties have indicated they want to wait out the technology, while parties in other mediations that were stalled are moving forward. If parties are willing to utilize the new technology, we can move forward.
4. PERC has worked remotely for eight weeks, and this will likely continue through June. The Office of Financial Management is encouraging agencies that can work remotely to do so. There hasn't been an actual hearing yet, but PERC staff has had two virtual mock hearings to prepare. Mike noted that PERC staff should be commended, particularly our IT Manager Robbie Duffield, since we have had a huge increase in the use of technology.
5. State agencies have been told to prepare for budget cuts. PERC currently has a 5% positive variance due to vacancies not being filled and travel being discontinued. PERC draws from three fund sources: the general fund, the revolving state personnel fund, and the revolving higher education personnel fund. Between 2008 and 2011, PERC made upwards of 20% in budget cuts, so staff is concerned. However, PERC had a much larger staff then. The revenue forecast normally comes out in June. Many PERC clientele organizations have started making cuts and layoffs.
6. The 2020 ALRA conference has been postponed. It will be held in Vancouver, BC, next year.

Compliance Docket

Mill A School District, Case 129785-U-17. Compliance Officer Emily Whitney provided a summary of the decision, which was previously appealed to and affirmed by the Commission. After detailing the parties' compliance actions, Emily recommended that compliance be accepted. The Commission accepted compliance, and the case will be closed.

Washington State Department of Ecology, Case 130988-U-18. Compliance Officer Emily Whitney gave a brief overview of the case and the parties' compliance actions. Emily recommended that compliance be accepted. The Commission accepted compliance, and the case will be closed.

University of Washington, Case 131056-U-18. Compliance Officer Dario de la Rosa summarized the case and the Examiner's order. Because the parties had taken the required actions to comply with the order and did not object to compliance, Dario recommended that the Commission accept compliance in this matter. The Commission accepted compliance, and the case will be closed.

Court Docket

Charity Atchison reviewed the pending court cases and provided updated information where available. Pending Commission cases that have been appealed to court are available on the agency website.

Other Business

The Commission reviewed and unanimously accepted Dorothy Foley's application for membership on the Dispute Resolution Panel. Ms. Foley will be on the grievance arbitration list.

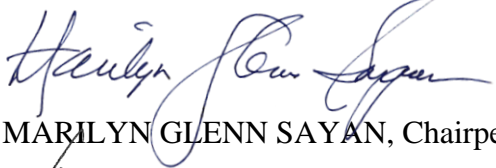
Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned.

Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Mark Busto, Kenneth Pedersen, Mike Sellars, and Charity Atchison went into Executive Session for deliberation on cases pending before the Commission.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 9th day of June, 2020.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MARILYN GLENN SAYAN, Chairperson



MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner



KENNETH J. PEDERSEN, Commissioner