

STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300 • Post Office Box 40919 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0919 (360) 570-7300 • Fax: (360) 570-7334 • E-mail filings: filing@perc.wa.gov • Website: www.perc.wa.gov

MINUTES

June 9, 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
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on May 12, 2020, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

- 1. The pace of case filings is still slow. Thirty-one cases were filed in April, and thirty were filed in May. The bulk of the cases comprise unfair labor practice or representation work. We expect case filings to pick back up over the summer. With respect to representation work, three elections were conducted in May. This included a run-off election for a large vote that originally took place in March.
- 2. A field staff meeting will be held via Zoom next week. Staff will discuss mediating during a recession with those staff who were at PERC during the last recession sharing their experiences.
- 3. PERC staff is continuing to work remotely and will likely do so through July. State agencies have received guidance to work remotely if possible. No in-person events may be conducted until Phase 3 of the Governor's Safe Start plan. However, even then, any in-person events will need to be approved by Mike.
- 4. As a result of COVID-19, Washington State is estimating a \$7 billion shortfall over the next three years. State agencies have been asked to engage in a 15% budget reduction exercise for the 2021 fiscal year. Because of vacancies and staff not traveling during the pandemic, we can

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make this budget cut and end the fiscal year with a 10% positive variance. The State is also starting to discuss furloughs.

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.

Adjournment

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

The Commission went into executive session for deliberation on appeals. Mike Sellars and Charity Atchison initially joined the discussion, but were then excused while the Commission continued its deliberations.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 14th day of July, 2020.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MARILYN GLENN SAYAN, Chairperson

MARK R. BUSTO, Commissioner

KENNETH J. PEDERSEN. Commissioner