

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 20, 2023

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, November 20, 2023. This meeting was held virtually, via Teams.

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

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

Public Guest: Steven McEleheny

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 Betty Kuehnel and seconded by Peter Carozza to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was 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 216 cases pending which is a decrease from 258; scheduled cases increased from 115 to 126; rescheduled cases increased from 20 to 44; and cases held in abeyance increased from 22 to 32.

- 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 82 to 75; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly from \$34,400 to \$28,600; state cases filed to date have decreased from 33 to 7.
- C. Applications to Vacate: All open applications to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. One new application to vacate was filed since the last Board meeting, involving the Shelton Police Department and a terminated police officer who was reinstated. Also, three prior applications to vacate have been resolved, two in which the Superior Court denied the applications (*City of Bristol v. Bristol Police Union*, and *IAFF v. City of Milford*), and one case which was withdrawn by the employer (*City of Waterbury v. Local 2090*).
- D. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards at this time.
- E. A brief discussion was held on the SBMA Summer Conference conducted on September 28, 2023, which was considered to be highly successful by the Board members and many participants.

3) New Business:

- A. No new business was reported.

4) Director's Report:

- A. Passing of Victor M. Muschell: Attorney Muschell served for over 28 years as an alternate management arbitrator with the Board. He was praised as a good person, and an effective arbitrator who was always a professional with an open mind to effectuate reasonable compromises.

5) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Murphy and seconded by Betty Kuehnel. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:47 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator