

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 20, 2023

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, March 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
Peter Carozza, Labor Member
Michael Culhane, Management Member

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

Public Guests: Steven McEleheny
Richard Kosinski

The meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:40 a.m.

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Peter Carozza to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Culhane 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 two hundred and ninety-seven (297) cases pending which is an increase from 280; cases held in abeyance increased from 25 to 28; scheduled cases decreased from 135 to 97; and rescheduled cases stayed the same at 12

cases. Board members inquired about reasons for the scheduling backlog, and a discussion was held regarding possible reasons for and ways to address the backlog.

- 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 202 to 158; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly from \$81,250 to \$63,875; however, state cases filed to date have increased from 27 to 55.
- C. Motions to Vacate: All open motions to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status in two pending matters.
- D. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There are no overdue awards at this time.

3) New Business:

- A. The Board was made aware of a recent SBMA award that was issued in *City of Torrington & Council 4, 2021-A-0330*, which has received coverage in the news media.
- B. The Board was made aware of a Freedom of Information appeal filed in the matter of *Kosinski v. Chairman, SBMA; and SBMA, FIC Docket No. 2023-0021*.

4) Director's Report: SBMA has hired a new administrative assistant who will begin working in March and has made job offers to fill two secretary positions which are anticipated to be accepted shortly.

5) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Murphy and seconded by Peter Carozza; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator
March 20, 2023