

Draft Minutes of August 18, 2022, Meeting of the Vermont Labor Relations Board

The Vermont Labor Relations Board conducted a hybrid meeting via Microsoft Teams of the entire Board on August 18, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Present in the VLRB hearing room at room 315, 6 Baldwin Street were Board Chair Richard Park and Board Members David Boulanger, Roger Donegan, Alan Willard and Karen Saudek. Also present in the room were Executive Director Judith Dillon and Clerk Melinda Moz-Knight. Present through Microsoft Teams was Board Member Robert Greemore and a member of the public who called in for the meeting.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed and then approved the draft meeting minutes from our April 7th meeting.

Update on Hearing Policies

The Board reviewed our hearing policy. Executive Director Dillon shared that so far only one matter is scheduled for an in-person hearing. The Board discussed whether to survey attorneys and organizations that practiced before the board for their input on their preferences or comments on participating in person, remotely, or hybrid. The Board decided that Executive Director Dillon and Board Chair Park would continue to discuss how best to gauge preferred hearing modes for hearings and will provide a summary for the Board.

The Board discussed the role of the Executive Director in a hearing. The Board decided that to promote efficiency Executive Director Dillon, when appropriate, may ask clarifying questions during the hearing. The Board will continue to caucus to discuss whether and when to seek additional information from the parties.

VLRB Budget Update

Executive Director Dillon told the Board that we will start the budget process in September and that we have not received input from the Finance and Management on the parameters or directions for budget development for FY 24. We have submitted our carry forward plan, but we have not been told if it will be approved.

New Issues/Processes

Executive Director Dillon introduced the new grievance discovery forms and answered Board questions. These forms will only be used in grievance cases when both sides are represented by an attorney. The form should make discovery and hearing scheduling more efficient.

The next issue discussed was how the Board should handle a motion to withdraw counsel. It was decided that the Executive Director is going to summarize the discussion and present to the Board before a finalized decision is made.

Matter Update/Case Status Report

We have forty-one open cases. We have one election petition, eleven unfair labor practice cases, and twenty-nine grievances.

Election of Board Chair

Richard Park was unanimously voted in to act as Board Chair for another two-year term. There were no other nominations. The new term will start on September 22, 2022.

Board Assignments

Board members were assigned to hearing dates through June 2023.

The next full Board meeting will be on November 3, 2022.

The public meeting adjourned at approximately noon.

August 18, 2022

Respectfully Submitted
/s/ Melinda Moz-Knight