

Minutes of January 3, 2019, Meeting of the Vermont Labor Relations Board

The meeting of the entire Board convened at 2:10 p.m. in the Vermont Labor Relations Board Hearing Room located at 13 Baldwin Street in Montpelier. Present were Chairperson Richard Park and Members Jim Kiehle, David Boulanger, Alan Willard, Robert Greemore and Karen Saudek. Also present were Executive Director Timothy Noonan and Clerk Melinda Moz-Knight.

Status of Cases

Mr. Noonan provided a caseload status report. He reported that case filings have been slightly below average since the beginning of 2018. We have 30 open cases which is 20 percent above the average of 25 open cases. The Board discussed reasons for this including that more cases have gone to hearing than in the past.

Board Assignments

March 18-Park, Willard and Boulanger
April 4-Greemore, Saudek, and Kiehle
April 11-Park, Saudek
April 18-Greemore, Willard
April 25-Park, Saudek
May 2-Greemore, Willard
May 9-Park, Saudek
May 16-Greemore, Willard
May 23-Park, Willard
May 30-Greemore, Saudek
June 6-Park, Saudek
June 13-Greemore, Willard

Budget:

Mr. Noonan discussed our budget and responded to questions. The Board discussed possibly requesting supplemental monies from the legislature for the current budget year as there were a few unexpected expenses this year.

Legislation:

Mr. Noonan will keep the Board posted on any legislation introduced which affects the Board.

Conferences and Training Sessions:

Mr. Noonan reported that the New England Consortium of State Labor Relations Agencies (NECSLRA) will hold a conference this year in Albany NY on June 21st. The Association of Labor Relations Agencies will hold their annual conference in Cincinnati July 20th through July 23rd. Finally, the Labor Arbitration Institute will hold a one-day training in Boston in October.

Mr. Noonan will inform Board members in the spring the extent of funds available for Board members to attend any of these conferences. The Board began discussion on hosting a conference at the Capitol Plaza in October 2019. Ms. Moz-Knight will check on available dates. Discussion will occur at the next meeting of the Board on the content of the conference sessions. Mr. Noonan discussed the possible conducting of one-day training sessions for union stewards and front-line supervisors at various locations in the State with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The Board members approved of this training. Mr. Noonan will be conducting the training sessions along with two federal mediators.

Procedures for Resolving Conflict of Interest Questions

The Board discussed ideas on how to handle the increasing number of possible conflict of interest issues involving Board members arising in Board cases. The Board discussed guidelines for handling various scenarios.

The public meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Melinda Moz-Knight