

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Board Members Present In Person

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Carolyn Doherty
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Christopher Harris
Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Amylee Simonovich
Commissioner Deborah Simpson

Board Members Present via WebEx

Commissioner Stephen Mathis
Commissioner Marc Parker

IWCC Staff Present In Person

Cole Garrett, Deputy General Counsel (via WebEx)
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Manager Research and Education
Ron Rascia, General Counsel
Annette Roti, Chief of Staff
Kris Tharp, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman

On September 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the Workers' Compensation Commission Meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and verified a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for the June 12, 2023 Board Meeting had been circulated. Upon Motion by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 12, 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan stated that in person Oral Arguments were proceeding in the Springfield and Collinsville offices. Chairman Brennan also announced the retirements of Arbitrators Fruth and Kane and welcomed the new Arbitrators Bae and Byrnes. He congratulated Commissioner Baker in her new position as the General Counsel for Lt. Governor Stratton. Chairman Brennan introduced the new Confidential Assistant to the Chairman, Kris Tharp and congratulated Annette Roti as the new Chief of Staff.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan announced that Yellow Corporation, a self-insured entity recently declared bankruptcy and that the Commission called the bond held by Liberty Mutual. He stated that there was a conversation with Liberty Mutual's counsel with the goal to make sure injured workers are paid as soon as possible.

Chairman Brennan asked the Commission to plan to have their 2024 calendars ready for posting before January 1st to avoid questions and confusion from the Bar.

Chairman Brennan asked the Board if there was any other business to discuss. There was discussion about whether to hold Review calls in person or remote and Chairman Brennan reiterated that it is the choice of each Commissioner. Chairman Brennan also announced that there were some staffing issues in the Peoria office and the IWCC is in the process of updating the Rockford office.

Chairman Brennan asked the members if anyone had any new or old business to discuss. There was none.

Chairman Brennan asked if there was any member of the public on the call. There being none, he asked if there was a Motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Mathis moved to adjourn, Commissioner Portela seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM.