

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2023 at 10AM

Board Members Present In Person

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

Board Members Present via WebEx

Commissioner Stephen Mathis
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Maria Portela

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
Inez Gardner, Fiscal Administrator

On December 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. Upon Motion by Commissioner Mathis and seconded by Commissioner Harris, the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 18, 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan stated that the Springfield office once again had flooding issues. Kris Tharp noted that the problem had been resolved and repairs were in process. The office is open for business. Chairman Brennan updated the Board on the Yellow Freight matter and said that the self-insurance claims continued to be paid by the bond holder, Liberty Mutual.

Next, the Chairman announced there would be 14 Arbitrator Docket changes for January. He also announced that a new docket had been created in Cook County, and Arbitrator Brady would be handling calls for this Docket.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan welcomed Inez Gardner, a treasured member of the fiscal department to the meeting. Chairman Brennan announced that after working for the Commission for over 44 years, Ms. Gardner planned to retire at the end of the year. He congratulated her and wished her well. Several Commissioners noted her outstanding work ethic, her welcoming smile and said she would be missed.

Next, Chairman Brennan noted that while there is no pending legislation, he has been reviewing an issue wherein insurance carriers unfairly cancel coverage and leave the IWBF responsible for the claims. He will circulate proposed amendments to the statute to address this issue.

Next, Chairman Brennan noted that some court reporters were not being paid for their transcripts because a party will make copies for the other side. After discussion, it was resolved that the Court Reporter should copy the Commissioner on the email for payment if this is an issue.

Finally, the Commissioners discussed the vacant Commissioner position hoped it will be filled soon.

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

There being no members of the public on the call, Commissioner Mathis Motioned to Adjourn, Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.