

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**  
**BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 19, 2024 at 10AM**  
**69 W WASHINGTON, 22<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, CHICAGO, IL 60602**

**Board Members Present In Person**

Chairman Michael J. Brennan  
Commissioner Carolyn Doherty  
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries  
Commissioner Christopher Harris  
Commissioner Stephen Mathis  
Commissioner Maria Portela  
Commissioner Amylee Simonovich  
Commissioner Raychel Wesley

**Board Members Not Present**

Commissioner Marc Parker  
Commissioner Deborah Simpson

**IWCC Staff Present In Person**

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

On March 19, 2024 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 Doerries, the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on December 18, 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

As to Old Business, Chairman Brennan thanked Kris Tharp for handling the flooding issues in the Springfield office. Chairman Brennan updated the Board on the Yellow Freight matter and stated that the self-insurance claims continued to be paid by the bond holder, Liberty Mutual, now through its TPA Helmsman. Next, the Chairman stated that the 14 Arbitrator Docket changes were successful.

As to New Business, Chairman Brennan stated that due to a resignation in the Fiscal Department, Inez Gardner who retired in December has returned on contract to assist the department. Chairman Brennan then welcomed and congratulated Commissioner Raychel Wesley on her appointment as Commissioner.

Next, Chairman Brennan stated that there is a shortfall in the operations budget for this fiscal year, and an expected shortfall in the Rate Adjustment Fund. He will be seeking an increase in the assessments to address these shortfalls. Also, he will be seeking a fund transfer from the Self-Insurers Security Fund to the operations fund. To keep costs down, the judicial training in April will be virtual for those outside of the Chicago Metro area.

Mr. Rascia reminded the Commissioners to schedule oral arguments as soon as possible so there is no backlog.

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 Portela seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.