

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET
ROOM 9-031
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Joann Fratianni
Mario Basurto
Michael Brennan
Charles DeVriendt
David Gore
Kevin Lamborn
Joshua Luskin
Thomas Tyrrell

Present by telephone:

Stephen Mathis
Ruth White

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Cecelia Kasmierski, Assistant General Counsel
Darlene Senger, Chief Financial Officer
Annette Roti, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman

Chairman Joann Fratianni called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present. There was a motion by Commissioner Lamborn and seconded by Commissioner Tyrrell and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 6, 2016.

Chairman Fratianni first addressed old business. Chairman Fratianni asked Commissioner Brennan to give an update on the changes to the administrative rules of the Commission. Commissioners Brennan said the majority of emails from JCAR involve linguistic changes, for example, changing "such" to "that". Substantive change in language involved self-insurance, changes in wording to make it more clear. Ronald Rascia indicated that he, Cole Garrett, and David Larson have taken over dealing with JCAR and that Cole sent an email with the same types of changes. The changes have to go through submission and need a second submission ASAP to make the October deadline for the November JCAR meeting. It is the Commission's desire to expedite the JCAR process.

Chairman Fratianni indicated the first comment period was closing and addressed the issue whether the Board would have to meet to approve the technical changes. Ronald Rascia stated the Commission may not. Commissioner Brennan stated there was nothing of substantive change. The Chairman asked if a formal meeting was needed to approve changes and may need to reconvene in the next several weeks, unless only technical changes. Ronald Rascia stated that the second submission will be circulated. Commissioner Brennan stated that if submission did not get in, there will be four new JCAR members and Chairman Fratianni stated that there may be one new member by the time of submission. Commissioner Brennan gave Cole Garrett credit because the JCAR process is very strict. The Chairman stated there were no other old matters.

Next, the Chairman addressed new business. The Chairman advised that for RFP, a successful bidder was approved and there was a meeting scheduled for October 4th with the bidder. Chairman Fratianni appointed Commissioner Luskin as the point person for the Commission perspective on the computers. The Chairman advised that all departments are to get involved, so that it is all inclusive. The first phase is the Architectural phase and for phase two, bidding will open up, again. Chairman Fratianni stated that all departments are to be involved and the system is to work for everyone. Chairman Fratianni advised that this ties in with JCAR rules for e-filing.

Chairman Fratianni also addressed the IWCC Bench Book which she stated would be further addressed at judicial training. Commissioner Tyrrell passed out copies of the Bench Book and expressed gratitude to Commissioner staff attorney, Peter O'Malley and the law students who worked hard on it. Commissioner Tyrrell said the book is a quick reference guide to problems when arbitrators are on the firing line and can give a quick reference while on the bench. More detail about the Bench Book would be outlined at judicial training. Ronald Rascia made a motion to consider publication at judicial training. Commissioner Tyrrell agreed to present the motion at judicial training and Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion with the comment that it needs to be placed on the computer to afford a quick reference guide.

Darlene Senger asked if the use of the Book will save money. Commissioner Tyrrell thought it would especially save research hours. Chairman Fratianni said to make sure it was budgeted. A vote was taken. All were in favor, including the phone call-in members. Chairman Fratianni stated that the motion carried.

Chairman Fratianni introduced new employees Darlene Senger and Cecelia Kasmierski and commended Darlene Senger for getting the travel vouchers. Darlene stated that she had just opened FY17 vouchers. Ronald Rascia stated there was no new information from CMS and that Brenden O'Rourke checked and the move would probably be to another state property. Chairman Fratianni stated that 69 West Washington was out and since 203 LaSalle is private, it could be out, too.

Ronald Rascia discussed the judicial training site at the Carlton Hotel and that it was close to the Oak Park train station, and had several parking lots. The Chairman stated that the cost savings for this site was significant and that Brendan O'Rourke negotiated a very competitive price.

There was a motion by Commissioner Basurto, seconded by Commissioner Gore, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.