

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH ST., ROOM 9-036 CHICAGO, IL

HELD ON MARCH 16, 2020 at 10:00AM

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Barbara Flores
Commissioner Deborah Simpson

Present by telephone:

Commissioner Stephen Mathis
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Douglas McCarthy
Commissioner L. Elizabeth Coppoletti

IWCC staff present at the meeting:

Ronald A. Rascia, General Counsel
Cole D. Garrett, Deputy General Counsel
Annette Roti, Confidential Secretary to the Chairman
Cecelia Kasmierski, Associate General Counsel

On March 16, 2020 at 10:00AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the meeting to order. Chairman Brennan advised that due to the exigent circumstances there was no violation of the Open Meeting Act and verified a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for a Commission meeting held on January 14, 2020 had been circulated and asked for any objections to the minutes as written. Hearing no objection, Chairman Brennan called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Simpson so moved, Commissioner Portela seconded the motion, and the motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 Meeting of the Commission carried unanimously.

As to old and new business, Chairman Brennan then moved discussion to the memo dated March 14, 2020. Chairman Brennan discussed the need to protect staff, but to be available for those who need us. The Chairman discussed suspending operations, in terms of Arbitrators and Commissioners, through March 31, 2020 and granting the Chairman authority to review events and continue the suspension. The Chairman advised that the Commission did not have the capacity to suspend the statute of limitations and that staff would be available to process documents by mail and walk-ins. Chairman Brennan advised the possibility of extensions which will come with direction from the Governor's Office.

Chairman Brennan then moved discussion regarding the staff working remotely, or being on hiatus, with pay. The Board next discussed electronic notices and email addresses.

Chairman Brennan called for a vote to suspend all normal in-person arbitration and Commission review operations for a two-week period from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020. Chairman Brennan called for the vote pursuant to its authority under Section 16 of the Act and Section 9020.60 of the Administrative Rules to temporarily suspend hearing operations and automatically continue all cases scheduled for in-person appearance

for a period of ninety days. Chairman Brennan so moved, Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Brennan noted that no members of the public were present at the meeting and that no public comment was offered.

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Brennan called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simpson so moved, Commissioner Doerries seconded the motion, and the motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32AM.