

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2023  
MEETING OF THE WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES GRIEVANCE BOARD**

The March 23, 2023 meeting of the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board was called to order at the Grievance Board's office located at 1701 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 142, Charleston, West Virginia, at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman, John Myers. Chairman Myers requested a roll call to establish a quorum. A quorum was established. Secretary William Burdette and Board Member Maria Eshenaur participated via telephone. PEGB Director, Michelle L. Bradley, Chief Administrative Law Judge Billie Thacker Catlett, ALJ Landon R. Brown, Executive Assistant, Kate A. Craddock were present in person. Also present via telephone was Dena Smith from the Finance Division.

Chairman Myers sought for approval of the December 14, 2022, Board Meeting minutes. Secretary William Burdette moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Board Member Maria Eshenaur and approved unanimously.

Dena Smith from Finance presented and reviewed the Financial Report. Ms. Smith stated the current expenditure benchmark is at 67%, the Grievance Board is under at this time with 59%. She noted there was a \$15k Secretary transfer to assist the Grievance Board with purchasing new case management software. Board Member Maria Eshenaur made a motion for the Financial Report to be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Secretary William Burdette and approved unanimously.

PEGB Director Michelle L. Bradley presented and reviewed the Administrative Report. Chief Administrative Law Judge Billie Thacker Catlett reviewed the Administrative Law Judge Production Report. Secretary William Burdette made a motion for the Administrative Reports to be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Board Member Maria Eshenaur and approved unanimously.

Director Bradley gave a Legislative Wrap-up. She reviewed highlights of SB 461 and its potential impact on the Grievance Board. At the current time, the bill is waiting on signage from the governor. Director Bradley informed the Board she had submitted a recommendation that Governor Justice veto SB 461. She stated if passed, she will monitor its impact and re-evaluate for next session to propose legislation.

Director Bradley shared an update regarding open ALJ positions. The Grievance Board is now seeking two candidates due to ALJ Carrie H. LeFevre accepting a new position outside the Grievance Board. She has been conducting interviews and is in the process of hiring a contract ALJ. She noted, as of now, the ALJ's can maintain the current workload.

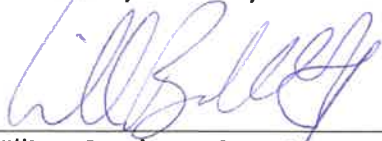
During General Discussion, Secretary William Burdette asked if the Annual Report had been submitted. Director Bradley informed the Board that the Annual Report will be submitted the following week.

During Public Comments ALJ Landon R. Brown asked to address the Board to make a formal request. Judge Brown requested for the Board to write a letter to the Governor's office, no later than April 15, 2023, requesting an increase in the salaries of all PEGB ALJ's to receive an \$8,000 raise. There is contradictory information being received regarding the rationale for the low ALJ salary and the ability to raise the salary amount. He requested the letter be signed by the Chief ALJ, the Division Director and a representative of the Board. He noted this amount should not include the recent raise recently approved by legislators. He discussed his concerns for the future of the Grievance Board and

stated that low salaries are a contributing factor that hinders the agency from hiring new ALJ's and finding the right candidates.

Board Members unanimously agreed the next Board Meeting would take place on June 29, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at 1701 5th Avenue, Suite 142, Charleston, West Virginia.

Motion for adjournment was made by Board Member Maria Eshenaur. The motion was seconded by Secretary William Burdette. The Board Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.



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William Burdette, Secretary  
Public Employees Grievance Board



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Date of Approval