State of New York Public Employment Relations Board Decisions from March 1, 2011

Keywords
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In the Matter of

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 252,
AFL-CIO,

Petitioner,

-and-

METROPOLITAN SUBURBAN BUS AUTHORITY,
(d/b/a MTA LONG ISLAND BUS)

Respondent.

COLLERN, O'HARA & MILLS, LLP (EDWARD J. GROARKE, ESQ., of counsel), for Petitioner

PROSKAUER ROSE, LLP (NEIL H. ABRAMSON, ESQ., of counsel), for Respondent

BOARD DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes to us from a report and recommendation of the Director of Conciliation (Director) dated February 23, 2011, regarding a petition for interest arbitration filed by the Transport Workers Union Local 252, AFL-CIO (TWU) under §209.5 of the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act (Act) and §205.15 of our Rules of Procedure (Rules) with respect to an impasse in contract negotiations between TWU and the Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority (d/b/a MTA Local Island Bus) (MSBA).

In his report and recommendation, the Director concludes that a voluntary resolution of the contract negotiations between TWU and MSBA cannot be effected and recommends that the impasse be referred to a public interest arbitration panel. MSBA

has not filed an objection to the Director's report and recommendation, pursuant to §205.15(b) of the Rules.

Following our review of the Director's report and recommendation, we hereby certify that a voluntary resolution of the contract negotiations between TWU and MSBA cannot be effected and we, therefore, refer the impasse involving these parties to a public interest arbitration panel.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: March 1, 2011
Albany, New York

Jerome Lefkowitz
Chairperson

Sheila S. Cole
Member
CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE AND ORDER TO NEGOTIATE

A representation proceeding having been conducted in the above matter by the Public Employment Relations Board in accordance with the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act and the Rules of Procedure of the Board, and it appearing that a negotiating representative has been selected,¹

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act,

¹ By letter dated January 3, 2010, the incumbent bargaining agent, United Public Service Employees Union, has disavowed any interest in representing the existing...
IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO has been designated and selected by a majority of the employees of the above-named public employer, in the unit agreed upon by the parties and described below, as their exclusive representative for the purpose of collective negotiations and the settlement of grievances.

Included: All Adult Nursing Instructors who receive contracts for more than 600 hours during the BOCES fiscal year.

Excluded: All other employees.

FURTHER, IT IS ORDERED that the above named public employer shall negotiate collectively with the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO. The duty to negotiate collectively includes the mutual obligation to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the execution of a written agreement incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party. Such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession.

DATED: March 1, 2011
Albany, New York

[Signatures]
CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE AND ORDER TO NEGOTIATE

A representation proceeding having been conducted in the above matter by the Public Employment Relations Board in accordance with the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act and the Rules of Procedure of the Board, and it appearing that a negotiating representative has been selected,¹

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act,

¹ By letter dated December 16, 2010, the incumbent bargaining agent, Plainedge Bus Drivers Association, has disavowed any interest in representing the existing bargaining unit.
IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO has been designated and selected by a majority of the employees of the above-named public employer, in the unit agreed upon by the parties and described below, as their exclusive representative for the purpose of collective negotiations and the settlement of grievances.

Included: All part-time and full-time Bus Drivers, Attendants, Dispatchers, Assistant Dispatchers, Driver/Substitute Dispatchers and Couriers.

Excluded: All other employees.

FURTHER, IT IS ORDERED that the above named public employer shall negotiate collectively with the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO. The duty to negotiate collectively includes the mutual obligation to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the execution of a written agreement incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party. Such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession.

DATED: March 1, 2011
Albany, New York

Jerome Lefkowitz, Chairman

Sheila S. Cole, Member
In the Matter of

SUPERIOR OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,

Charging Party,

-and-

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,

Respondent,

-and-

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, PARK POLICE UNIT and SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,

Intervenors.

CERTILMAN BALIN ADLER & HYMAN, LLP (PAUL S. LINZER and JENNIFER A. BENTLEY of counsel) for SUPERIOR OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

LAMB AND BARNOSKY, LLP (RICHARD K. ZUCKERMAN and ALLYSON MATTHEWS of counsel) for COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

GREENBERG BURZICHELLI GREENBERG, P.C. (SETH H. GREENBERG and LINDA N. KELLER of counsel for SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, PARK POLICE UNIT and SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

THE TUTTLE LAW FIRM (JAMES B. TUTTLE of counsel) for POLICE CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK, INC

DAVIS & HERSH, LLP (David A. Davis of counsel) for SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE CONFERENCE
This case comes to the Board on exceptions filed by the Superior Officers' Association of the Police Department of the County of Suffolk (SOA) to a decision by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) dated August 12, 2010, dismissing a charge alleging that the County of Suffolk (County) violated §209-a.1(d) of the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act (Act) by unilaterally transferring duties previously performed exclusively by SOA unit employees on the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway in Suffolk County. ¹ Although the ALJ dismissed a related charge filed by the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association (Association), Case No. U-28611, alleging that the County violated §209-a.1(d) of the Act by unilaterally transferring Association unit work on the same two highways, the Association did not file exceptions.

In its exceptions, SOA asserts that the ALJ erred in defining the at-issue unit work, in applying the criteria for determining whether a discernible boundary exists, and in concluding that SOA failed to demonstrate that it performed the at-issue work exclusively. The County, along with intervenors Suffolk County Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association, Park Police Unit (SCDSPBA/Park Police Unit) and Suffolk County Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association (SCDPBA), support the ALJ's decision.

The Police Conference of New York, Inc. (PCNY) and the Suffolk County Police Conference (SCPC) have separately moved for leave to file amicus curiae briefs with respect to the issues raised in SOA's exceptions. In support of its motion, PCNY contends that Board resolution of the issues raised by SOA may have statewide
Board with a unique countywide perspective regarding the issues raised in SOA's exceptions because SCPC is composed of employee organizations representing officers in police departments throughout Suffolk County.

The County opposes both motions. It contends that SOA's exceptions do not raise issues of statewide importance. In addition, it objects to granting amicus status to PCNY and SCPC because the Association is a member of both organizations, and the Association is a signatory to a memorandum of agreement dated October 28, 2009, in which it agreed that it would not file exceptions to the ALJ's decision. 2 In the alternative, the County urges that the scope of the amicus briefs be limited to the issues relevant to SOA's charge. Intervenors SCDSPBA/Park Police Unit and SCDSPBA do not support or oppose the motions by PCNY and SCPC.

DISCUSSION

Our Rules of Procedure (Rules) are silent with respect to the procedures for the filing of a motion for leave to file an amicus curiae brief. Historically, however, the Board has granted such motions 3 and in some cases we have invited amicus briefs relating to particular pending legal issues. 4

In our experience, participation by amici can enhance Board deliberations by highlighting particular issues and explaining the potential impact of our ultimate

2 As part of its opposition to the motions by PCNY and SCPC, the County submitted a copy of the memorandum of agreement.

3 See, Brooklyn Excelsior Charter Sch, 43 PERB ¶3004 (2010); City of New York, 40 PERB ¶3005 (2007); Greenburgh No 11 Union Free Sch Dist, 32 PERB ¶3024 (1999).

work cases are frequently fact-specific, the issues raised in SOA’s exceptions with respect to the particular work in the present case may have importance for employers and employee organizations representing law enforcement employees in other jurisdictions who perform similar duties on state and county highways. Finally, we conclude that the Association’s agreement with the County not to file exceptions does not preclude its parent organizations, PCNY and SCPC, from filing amicus briefs regarding the issues raised in SOA’s exceptions. Similarly, we find it unnecessary to direct PCNY and SCPC to limit their respective amicus briefs to the issues set forth in the exceptions regarding the exclusivity of SOA unit work in light of the representations made in their respective motions.

Based upon the foregoing, the respective motions by PCNY and SCPC for leave to file amicus briefs are hereby granted.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that PCNY and SCPC may file an original and four copies of an amicus brief with the Board on or before April 4, 2011 with proof of service upon the County, SOA, SCDSPBA/Park Police Unit and SCDSPBA. The County, SOA, SCDSPBA/Park Police Unit and SCDSPBA may file supplemental briefs with the Board on or before May 5, 2011 responsive to the arguments raised by PCNY and SCPC.

DATED: March 1, 2011
Albany, New York

Jerome Lefkowitz, Chairperson