

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PUBLIC MEETING)
FOR THE TEXAS)
WORKFORCE COMMISSION)

COMMISSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT at approximately
9:01 a.m., Wednesday, the 7th day of March 2007, the
above-entitled matters came on for hearing at the
Texas Workforce Commission, TWC Building, 101 East
15th Street, Room 244, Austin, Texas before
DIANE RATH, RON LEHMAN and RONALD G. CONGLETON,
COMMISSIONERS, and LARRY TEMPLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
of the Texas Workforce Commission; and the following
proceedings were reported by Patricia Gonzalez, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter, in the State of Texas.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

(9:01 a.m.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

CHAIR RATH: We'll go ahead and come to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Whether to Assume Continuing Jurisdiction on Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases and Reconsideration of Unemployment Compensation Cases, Wage Claim Cases, and/or Tax Liability Cases, if Any.

No discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Tax Liability Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 10.

No discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Higher level Appeals in Wage Claim Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce Commission Docket 10.

The Commission considered and took

1 action on all wage claim cases listed on Docket 10.

2 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

3 Discussion, Consideration and Possible
4 Action Regarding Higher Level Appeals in Unemployment
5 Compensation Cases Listed on the Texas Workforce
6 Commission Docket 10.

7 The Commission agreed that Case Numbers
8 MR 887520 and 889722 can be resubmitted as companion
9 cases on a future docket, along with an additional
10 case that has not yet been reviewed nor placed on a
11 docket. The Commission then discussed, considered and
12 took action on all cases listed on Docket 10.

13 (Wage Claim and UI cases were heard from
14 9:02 a.m. to 9:14 a.m.)

15 CHAIR RATH: It's 9:14 we'll stand in
16 recess until 9:30.

17 (Recess: 9:14 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)

18 CHAIR RATH: We're awaiting being called
19 for Senate Finance; so I might be excusing myself.
20 And if so, Commissioner Lehman will continue with
21 Commissioner Congleton.

22 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

23 CHAIR RATH: Has anyone signed up for
24 public comment?

25 MR. BALLARD: No, they have not.

1 AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

2 CHAIR RATH: Trust fund position.

3 Mr. Townsend.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning,
5 Commissioners. My name is Randy Townsend, chief
6 financial officer, presenting this morning the
7 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund Projection for
8 October 1st, 2007 as of February 28th.

9 We're estimating the trust fund balance
10 will be 2 billion 1.8 million on October 1st, 2007.
11 This would be 1 billion 112.2 million above the floor.
12 It would also be 222.6 million above the ceiling on
13 that date based on our projection. And this actually
14 tracks very closely to last month's projection as
15 well.

16 A few comparisons for your consideration
17 this morning, for the last six completed weeks ending
18 February 17th, total net benefits paid averaged 22
19 million per week. That was up 2.3 percent from the
20 one-year ago six-week average of 21.5 million. With
21 respect to initial claims, they averaged 11,703 for
22 the six weeks ending February 17th. That was
23 .14 percent below the one-year ago six-week average of
24 eleven seven nineteen.

25 That concludes my presentation. Do you

1 have any comments or questions?

2 CHAIR RATH: Very good.

3 Any questions?

4 COMM. LEHMAN: I have none.

5 COMM. CONGLETON: I like that money.

6 (Laughter)

7 CHAIR RATH: Thank you. Appreciate it.

8 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

9 CHAIR RATH: Next, we have Workforce
10 nominees from Alamo, Coastal Bend and South Texas.

11 Are there any questions or is there a
12 motion?

13 COMM. LEHMAN: I have no -- go ahead.

14 COMM. CONGLETON: I move that we approve
15 the nominees of Alamo, Coastal Bend and South Texas as
16 presented by staff.

17 COMM. LEHMAN: Second.

18 CHAIR RATH: And I agree. So they're
19 all approved. Thank you.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

21 CHAIR RATH: Do we have anything on
22 legislative or state issues?

23 MR. LEWIS: Good morning, Chair Rath,
24 Commissioners. Jesse Lewis, external relations.

25 Congress is actually still working on

1 education issues in the Senate Health Committee as
2 well as in Workforce and we don't expect them to be
3 working on WIA for some time now. They're also
4 working on other appropriations bills.

5 Here on the state level, the Senate
6 Health and Human Service Committee passed out Senate
7 Bill 589 which would allow TWC to serve certain
8 child-only cases with TANF funds. That's been
9 recommended to the Local and Consent Calendar in the
10 Senate.

11 Last week, we were also asked to join
12 the Economic Development Committee in the House who
13 considered several bills related to TWC, one
14 requiring -- which establishes an alternate base
15 period, one that would also -- that would allow
16 benefits for part-time workers and then two that
17 you-all have brought forward, one which is the last
18 employing unit redefinition and the other being
19 adding -- being able to pay down bonds with surplus
20 from the UI Trust Fund.

21 The Economic Development Committee will
22 be meeting today and we've asked to be a resource
23 witness. We'll have Staff there. And then, as you
24 mentioned, the Senate Finance Committee is hearing
25 recommendations from the work group on Workforce

1 issues.

2 With that, I'll answer any questions.

3 CHAIR RATH: Questions?

4 COMM. LEHMAN: None.

5 COMM. CONGLETON: No questions.

6 CHAIR RATH: Very good.

7 MR. LEWIS: Thank you.

8 CHAIR RATH: Thank you very much.

9 I don't believe there's anything on our
10 Appropriations request or Rita or Katrina or the State
11 Data Center.

12 And I don't believe we have any staff
13 reports today. So with that, Commissioner Lehman, do
14 you have anything?

15 COMM. LEHMAN: I have nothing at this
16 time. Thank you.

17 COMM. CONGLETON: Nothing. Thank you.

18 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

19 CHAIR RATH: And I have nothing. So
20 thank you-all very much. We have now completed our
21 agenda and we will adjourn. Thank you.

22 (Proceedings concluded at 9:32 a.m.)

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25

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 STATE OF TEXAS)

4 COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

5

6 I, Patricia Gonzalez, a Certified
7 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do
8 hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter
9 occurred as hereinbefore set out.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings
11 of such were reported by me or under my supervision,
12 later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision
13 and control and that the foregoing pages are a full,
14 true and correct transcription of the original notes.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
16 my hand and seal this 13th day of March 2007.

17

18

19 _____
PATRICIA GONZALEZ
20 Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 4595-Expires 12/31/08
21 Firm Certification No. 276
Kennedy Reporting Service, Inc.
22 Cambridge Tower
1801 Lavaca Street, Suite 115
23 Austin, Texas 78701
512.474.2233

24

25

