

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 41

of the

WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

For Final and Binding Arbitration Involving
Public Safety Employees in the Employ of

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Case ID: 383.0003

Case Type: MIA

DECISION NO. 40242

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS
OF INVESTIGATION, AND ORDER REQUIRING ARBITRATION**

Petitioner having on December 12, 2022, filed a petition with the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission to initiate compulsory final and binding arbitration pursuant to § 111.77(3) of the Municipal Employment Relations Act, for the purpose of resolving an impasse arising in collective bargaining between it and Douglas County, on matters affecting the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of public safety employees in the employ of said Employer; and an informal investigation having been conducted by a member of the Commission's staff; and the Commission, being fully advised in the premises, makes and files the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Certification of Results of Investigation, and Order Requiring Arbitration.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Douglas County, hereinafter referred to as the Employer, is a municipal employer maintaining its offices at 1316 N. 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin.
2. The Douglas County Deputy Sheriffs Association, Local 41 of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, hereinafter referred to as the Union, is a labor organization maintaining its offices at 660 John Nolen Drive, Suite 300, Madison, Wisconsin.
3. At all times material herein the Union has been, and is, the exclusive collective bargaining representative of the public safety personnel in the employ of said Employer.

4. On December 12, 2022, the instant petition was filed with the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission requesting the Commission to initiate final and binding arbitration, pursuant to § 111.77(3) of the Municipal Employment Relations Act, with regard to an impasse existing between the parties with respect to wages, hours, and conditions of employment of public safety personnel; a member of the Commission's staff conducted an informal investigation which reflected that the parties were at impasse; said Investigator, having advised the Commission that the parties are at impasse on the existing issues as outlined in their final offers, on January 12, 2024, transmitted those offers along with the Advice to Commission and closed the investigation on that basis.

5. The parties have not established mutually agreed upon procedures for the final resolution of disputes arising in collective bargaining and, further, the parties have not mutually agreed that the arbitrator should have the power to determine all issues in dispute involving wages, hours, and conditions of employment.

Upon the basis of the above and foregoing Findings of Fact, the Commission makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

An impasse within the meaning of § 111.77(3) of the Municipal Employment Relations Act exists between the Union and the Employer with respect to negotiations leading toward a new collective bargaining agreement covering wages, hours, and conditions of employment for public safety personnel employed by said Employer.

Upon the basis of the above and foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission makes the following:

CERTIFICATION

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the conditions precedent to the initiation of compulsory final and binding arbitration, as required by § 111.77 of the Municipal Employment Relations Act, with respect to negotiations between the Union and the Employer on issues of wages, hours, and conditions of employment of public safety personnel employed by said Employer have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

1. Compulsory final and binding interest arbitration pursuant to § 111.77(4)(b), Stats., be, and the same hereby is, initiated for the purpose of issuing a final and binding award to resolve the impasse existing between the Union and the Employer.

2. That the parties select an arbitrator within ten (10) days after the issuance of this order from the panel of arbitrators submitted to the parties in the accompanying letter of

transmittal, by alternately striking four (4) of the members from said panel for the selection of the neutral arbitrator; and thereupon the parties, or either of them, shall notify the Commission, in writing, of the name of the neutral arbitrator, and the Commission shall then issue an order appointing said neutral arbitrator.

Issued at the City of Madison, Wisconsin, this 23rd day of January, 2024.

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

James J. Daley, Chairman