

June 25, 2014

Today Judge Jacobson made a ruling on our request for a preliminary injunction on our lawsuit about Governor Christie not making the legally required pension payment.

The Judge said:

1) She would not rule on what the Governor makes as a pension payment for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) because the budget is not completed and it is premature to make a decision;

2) She was persuaded by the Union's argument that there is a contractual right to the pension payment and that not making the unfunded liability payment is a "impairment" of that contract. (This is a central and key component to our lawsuit. It means that the Judge agrees that the law - Chapter 78 - gives us a contractual right to have the pension paid. This is a critical decision in our favor.)

3) She believed, however, that the very unusual and specific circumstances of Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014) where at the very end of the Fiscal Year the budget was found to be extremely underfunded, it was reasonable in that specific circumstance for the Governor to not make the full payment. She made it clear that she was only speaking of Fiscal Year 2014.

4) She specifically said that she was not dismissing our complaint and that she is expecting us back in her court about Fiscal Year 2015.

We will continue to litigate this matter. We will go back into court when Christie vetoes the 2015 payment. We are preparing for a long fight to protect the pension plan. We also expect Christie to very shortly take direct aim at post-retirement medical.

We will fight to maintain our benefits and our standard of living. We will fight in court. We will fight in the Legislature. We will fight at the Worksite. We will fight in the Street. We will not back down.

In Solidarity,

Chris Shelton  
District 1 Vice President

Hetty Rosenstein  
New Jersey Director