



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
March 4, 2020
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present via teleconference and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Penny was present. Commissioners Bramante and Cascudo were present via teleconference.

Commissioner Castagno added Audit items #8 through 18 to the Consideration of Draft Audit Reports.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 19, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020. So voted 4-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 26, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020, as amended. So voted 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported that the SEEC provided testimony to the Appropriations Subcommittee this week. The Governor has not proposed any changes to the SEEC's budget.

Director Brandi advised that questions raised were with regard to disqualified contributions and the second issue raised was the Staff Attorney 3 position, which is held by a full-time A&R Union Steward, and how it fits in with our current year budget.

Director Brandi updated that the SEEC has sent a repeat letter to OPM which discusses a solution to the situation and our need to have the position held by another agency and allow us to open the position for a refill.

Director Brandi reported that the SEEC did received additional monies in the last biennial budget of which has been put to use for IT regarding hardware and software

related to cybersecurity. We have purchasing equipment and attending trainings to make sure that the elections infrastructure is secure.

The SEEC is taking advantage of any federal money that we can acquire. SOTS was given additional federal money and have requested some from them to help with our hardware and training needs.

Director Brandi reported that as for personnel, Gilberto Oyola's retirement was effective on Friday and we are actively working right now to refill his position. Additionally we will be requesting the temporary worker retiree in order to assist in training his replacement.

We are also looking to hire a Staff attorney for which we are interviewing right now. We are also looking at Elections Officer and Office Assistant positions to fill.

Director Brandi updated that over 215 candidates have filed registrations with us. 150 of those candidates have requested on-line contribution site review, so this is a great start to our season.

This year we are really looking at emphasizing, for the General Assembly, the Pre-Application Review process which gives us a chance to pre-qualify the committees and see where they are. In February we saw three applications, in March we anticipate over 20 applications and we anticipate April to be at least 20 or more.

In 2018 we did a total of 335 grants with 317 General Assembly Grants and we anticipate this year, the same if not more. The more we can do right no to get a head start, the smoother the season will be. The hope is that with the change in the schedule, this year with the emphasis of the PARS we are hoping to level the workload a little bit.

Director Brandi reported that the GAE has scheduled a public hearing for this Friday of which we will be testifying including Senator Sampson's bill on disqualified contributions as well as bills relating to absentee balloting.

Commissioner Penny raised the questions of absentee ballots and the threat of the Coronavirus. Brandi and Ahern advised that Illness is a category to allow for an absentee ballot and town clerks' are now worried about a rush on absentee ballots and trying to prepare for it

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In re: SEEC Initiated *Delnicki for South Windsor* Audit Findings
File No. 2019-143A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

Legal Investigator:

Tom Delnicki

William B. Smith

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-143A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-143A. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria Pereira, Bridgeport
File No. 2017-060
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents:
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-060. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-060. So voted by a vote 4-0-0

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-013
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Thomas Janik &
Robert Sherman
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-014
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Barbara Crouch &
Maria Gladue
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-014. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-014. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-015

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Barbara Reisner &
Anne Wall

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-015. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-015. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-016

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Linda Grzeika &
Dorothy Mrowka

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

7. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-017

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Angelo Seravino &
Linda Sinsigallo

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-017. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-017. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-018
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Desiree Majcher &
Cheryl Roberts

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-018. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-018. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-019
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Wendy O'Connor &
Melody Savino

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

V. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 10:09 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Penny and Castagno were present. Commissioners Cascudo and Bramante were present via teleconference. Staff members present were Kevin M. Ahern, William B. Smith, Stephanie Fish, Salman Munir, Douglas Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Subrina Persaud and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

Returning to public session at 10:44 A.M. the Commission took the following action:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated February 26, 2020 and requested that one (1) matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Penny to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaints File Nos.: 2020-027. So approved by the Commission 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-020

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-020. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-020. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Heather Dean, Fairfield
File No. 2020-001

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-001. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-001. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by James Millington, Fairfield
File No. 2017-075

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-075. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-075. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Mullane, Stratford
File No. 2017-087
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-087. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-087. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by Wallingford Registrar of Voters Chester Miller
File No. 2019-002
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Alfonso Vazquez

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-002. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-002. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Patrice M. Peterson, West Hartford
File No. 2019-090
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

8. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State

File No. 2018-082
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Ryan M. Burns
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-082. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-082. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

9. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "DeCaprio4CT48th," Mark P. DeCaprio
Examiner: Krysta Palozie
2. "Re-elect Charles Ferraro "18"," Charles J. Ferraro
Examiner: Ergys Guni
3. "Valerie for CT," Valerie Horsley
Examiner: Nicole Petit
4. "Markley for LG," Joseph C. Markley
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Michelle Lapine McCabe 2018," Michelle Lapine McCabe
Examiner: Ergys Guni
6. "Haines2018," Irene M. Haines
Attorney: William B. Smith
7. "Delnicki for South Windsor," Tom Delnicki
Attorney: William B. Smith
8. Crisco 2016," Joseph Crisco
Examiner: Ergys Guni
9. Elect Laura Bartok," Laura Bartok
Examiner: Karen Walauskas
10. Friends Of Chris Perone," Chris Perone
Examiner: Ergys Guni
11. Gerratana 2016," Theresa Gerratana

Examiner: Ergys Guni

12. Gifford For North Haven,” Stephen Gifford
Examiner: Krysta Palozie
13. Hogan For State Rep.,” Beth Hogan
Examiner: Ergys Guni
14. Joe De La Cruz 2016,” Joseph de la Cruz
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
15. Ryan Rogers 2016,” Ryan Rogers
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
16. Sharon Palmer 2016,” Sharon Palmer
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
17. Steve Gifford For Connecticut,” Stephen Gifford
Examiner: Krysta Palozie
18. Streets For Stratford 2016,” Frederick Streets
Examiner: Nicole Petit

Salman Munir provided an overview of the audits and recommended that the Commission make audit numbers 1 through 5 and 9 through 18 final and audits 6 and 7 referred to enforcement. So moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM by Commissioner Castagno. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 18, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.