



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
February 19, 2020
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioner Cascudo was present. Commissioners Castagno and Bramante were present via teleconference.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020. So voted 3-0-1. Commissioner Castagno abstained.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi updated that the SEEC is evaluating purchases for IT equipment and continuing to look at updating workstations.

Director Brandi reported on personnel updates by welcoming Rhonda Salvatore and Maureen Goff as our new Accounts Examiners. The SEEC expects to be interviewing for the Staff Attorney within the next two weeks. The SEEC will be moving forward to refill the Investigator and Office Assistant position as well as the Elections Officer. The SEEC is moving forward with all these pieces so everything will be in place by the time the CEP season heats up.

Director Brandi advised that staff has already taken in several pre-applications in for the February pre-application review period. The elections officers are busy. Staff expects a good number to file within the next month or so. Compliance has been very busy as well.

Director Brandi updated on trainings and speaking engagements both internal and external. The Town Clerk's Conference will be coming up in April and the SEEC will be in attendance. Also, Treasurer's training should be starting within the next six weeks. Staff wants to make sure that these trainings are robust.

Regarding Legislative session, a GAE meeting today is being held today. Concept bills came out last week and the SEEC is waiting to see what specific bills will be popping up. Regarding Appropriations, there are no rescissions to our budget. No changes have been recommended but we will keep an eye out.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-022
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-022. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusion in File No. 2019-022. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

2. In re: SEEC Initiated *Delnicki for South Windsor* Audit Findings
File No. 2019-143A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Tom Delnicki

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

3. In re: SEEC Initiated *Delnicki for South Windsor* Audit Findings
File No. 2019-143B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Stephanie M. Dexter

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-143B. 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. 2019-143B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

4. In re: SEEC Initiated *Haines 2018* Audit Findings
File No. 2019-144A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Irene M. Haines
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-144A. 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. 2019-144A upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

5. In re: SEEC Initiated *Haines 2018* Audit Findings

File No. 2019-144B

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Marie Forsyth
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-144B. 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. 2019-144B upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael A. Hayes, Colchester

File No. 2018-083

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-083. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-083. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

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 Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:58 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 Cascudo were present. Commissioners Castagno and Bramante were present via teleconference. Staff members present were Joshua Foley, Kevin M. Ahern, James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Scott Branfuhr, Gilberto Oyola, Stephanie Fish, Lindsey Leung, Linda Waterman, Douglas Frost, Shannon Kief, Subrina Persaud and Michael J. Brandi.

Returning to public session. 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 11, 2020 and requested that one (1) matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No.: 2020-025. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-021
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Clark, Farmington
File No. 2017-054
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-054. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-054. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Nancy Ahern, New Haven
File No. 2018-011C

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-011C. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-11C. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria Pereira, Bridgeport
File No. 2019-038

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced matter in File No. 2019-038. He recommended authorization for six (6) investigatory subpoenas for Verizon, Optimum, Southern Connecticut Gas, United Illuminating, Aquarion Water and Frontier Communications..

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to authorize six (6) investigatory subpoenas for File No.2019-038. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-038. He recommended adoption of a Reason to Believe Finding.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt a Reason to Believe Finding in File No. 2019-038. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. Commissioner Cascudo is appointed as Hearing Officer.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-013
Recommendation of Counsel
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. 2019-014
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

8. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-015
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-016
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

10. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-017
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

11. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-018
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

12. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-019
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria H. Pereira and Karen Jackson
File No. 2017-060
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

14. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2018-082
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

15. In Re: SEEC File No. 2019-200 In re: Post Election Review Findings Related to Certain Integrated Campaign Service Providers
SEEC File No. 2018-033, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Arconti 2016* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-034, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Candelaria 2016* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-036, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Linehan 2016* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-038, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Friends of Russ* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-039, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Citizens for Mushinsky* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-040, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Friends of Lonnie Reed* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-041, *In re* SEEC Initiated: *Reynolds4staterep* – Audit Findings;
SEEC File No. 2018-042, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Friends of Emmett Riley* – Audit Findings; and
SEEC File No. 2018-043, *In re*. SEEC Initiated: *Tomchik 138* – Audit Findings
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

The matter is continued.

16. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Souney for State Rep.," Colin C. Souney
Examiner: Krysta Palozie

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission make the audit final. So moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

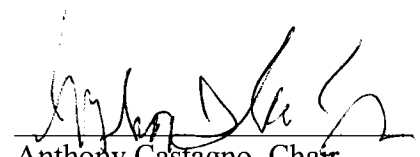
VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Penny at 11:40 AM

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony Castagno, Chair
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 4, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.