



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**February 5, 2020**  
**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Penny was present and called the meeting to order at 9:36A.M. Commissioner Cascudo was present. Commissioner Bramante was present via teleconference.

***II. Approval of the Minutes***

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 27, 2019*

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the minutes of December 27, 2019. So voted 3-0-0.

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 15, 2020*

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the minutes of January 15, 2020. So voted 3-0-0.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Director Brandi updated the Commission that this is the first day of Legislative session. SEEC proposals will be due by end of the week, and the agency will be resubmitting prior proposals.

Director Brandi reported that Sarah Clark had left the agency and thanked her for her service. The SEEC will be moving to refill the position as we are entering into the 2020 General Assembly election cycle with more than 150 registered candidates.

Director Brandi updated that the posting for the Staff Attorney position has closed and that interviews will be scheduled soon. Additionally, the interviews are complete for the Accounts Examiners position, offers have been extended and accepted and Linda will be welcoming 2 Accounts Examiners for February 14, 2020. The Office Assistant position will be one of the next position's the SEEC is looking to refill.

Gilberto Oyola is now scheduled for retirement at the end of February, but the SEEC will request the 120 day Temporary Worker Retiree in an effort to have him assist in training his replacement.

Director Brandi advised that the SEEC is still watching the budget closely. Our priority for funding will be within the IT unit regarding cybersecurity upgrades and enhancements.

**IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

*A. Public Session*

**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 9:41 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. Commissioner Bramante was present via teleconference. Staff members present were James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin M. Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Gilberto Oyola, Joshua Foley, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Subrina Persaud and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

Returning to public session at 11:51 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 January 28, 2020 and requested that twenty (20) matters 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 twenty (20) complaints File Nos.: 2020-009, 2020-010, 2020-011, 2020-012, 2020-013, 2020-014, 2020-015, 2020-016, 2020-017, 2020-018, 2020-019, 2020-020 and 2020-021. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford  
File Nos. 2012-121 & 2019-012  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sean Hughes, Wolcott  
File No. 2020-009  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney:

William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-099. 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. 2020-099 with revisions to paragraphs 11 & 12. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by Nancy Ahern, New Haven  
File No. 2018-011A  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney:  
Lead Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern  
Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-011A. 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. 2018-011A. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Godbout, East Lyme  
File No. 2019-160  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney:  
Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern  
Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-160. 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. 2019-160. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

6. In Re; SEEC Initiated Failure to Appoint a Treasurer – Chris Dorio for State Representative  
File No. 2016-102NT  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-102NT. 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. 2016-102NT. So voted by a vote 2-0-1. Commissioner Cascudo abstained.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Molly Spino, Torrington  
File No. 2016-080  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator:

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-080. 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. 2016-080. So voted by a vote 2-0-1. Commissioner Cascudo abstained.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael A. Hayes, Colchester  
File No. 2018-083  
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

9. In re: SEEC Initiated: Grant Application for “Ingraham for Branford”  
File No. 2016-075  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

10. In Re: SEEC 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.

#### 11. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. “NKD16,” Nicole Klarides-Ditria  
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission make audit number 1 final. So moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 2-0-1. Commissioner Cascudo abstained.

2. “Rackliffe for CT 79,” David M. Rackliffe  
Examiner: Ergys Guni

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audit and recommended that the Commission make audit number 2 final. So moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

#### **VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:58 AM to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

*The next regular scheduled meeting is February 19, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.*