



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING  
Via Webex  
April 21, 2021  
9:30 A.M.

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Stephen Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Salvatore Bramante and Shannon Bergquist were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

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

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2021*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2021. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Director Brandi reported the budget is on target. SEEC has surplus money this year due to the vacancies most of this fiscal year. Commissioners should be advised that the SEEC is still figuring out the last remnants of our move from Trinity Street to Farmington Avenue. In the past week more current relevant materials were moved to the 92 Farmington Avenue storage location and there were estimated 200 plus boxes of materials included in that move which were previously stored in the basement of 20 Trinity Street.

Director Brandi updated that SEEC is working with DAS and will be working with an outside Contractor to hire for the purpose of scanning in and shredding the documents that were stored in the 20 Trinity Street basement. Some of these are Commission decisions that date back to when the Commission was formed so, there's historical significance for them. Staff is going to review these materials to determine what will be scanned verses shredding depending on guidance from the retention schedules. SEEC is hopeful to complete that by the end of the fiscal year.

Executive Brandi reported that the SEEC is in the process of hiring our unfilled positions. Election Officer Stephen Palmer is starting this Friday and that leaves two positions left to fill. The Fiscal Administrative Officer and Accounts Examiner. Staff is in the second round of interviewing the Fiscal Administrative Officer starting this week, so we hope to have that hired quickly, then staff will start the interviewing process for the Account Examiner position. The SEEC intends to complete the

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recruitment in the next 4-5 weeks and have all positions filled by end of the fiscal year.

Executive Brandi also updated on a few events this week. Connecticut Conference of Town Clerks and the Fairfield Community Foundation meeting. The Town Clerk's Conference was in a virtual format and it went well. It was not like normal where we are to actually meet and talk with the town clerks and get to know them, but staff attorney Chelsea Ruzzo conducted the primary presentation. Lindsey Leung, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Michael Brandi also presented and fielded questions.

The Fairfield Community Foundation had a forum. Michael Brandi, Senator Haskell and Representative Thomas participated in this virtual meeting which was about voting reform in Connecticut, the constitutional amendment, the success of the 2020 Elections and the expanded use of the absentee ballots as well as the possibilities of early voting. The forum was nonpartisan and educational and we should have a copy of the actual taping which will be posted on our website when it becomes available.

Commissioner Cascudo joined the meeting at 9:36 A.M.

#### ***IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations***

##### ***A. Public Session***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Patrick O'Sullivan, Orange  
File No. 2021-048  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Kenneth Lenz  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-048. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-048. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

#### ***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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:47 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, Bramante, Bergquist, Ajello and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were, William B. Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin Ahern, Alyssa Torres, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Lisa Drew, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:21 A.M.

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 William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated April 1, 2021 and requested that (59) matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to (59) complaint File Nos.: 2021-056, 2021-057, 2021-058, 2021-059, 2021-060, 2021-061, 2021-062, 2021-063, 2021-064, 2021-065, 2021-066, 2021-067, 2021-068, 2021-069, 2021-070, 2021-071, 2021-072, 2021-073, 2021-074, 2021-075, 2021-076, 2021-077, 2021-078, 2021-079, 2021-080, 2021-081, 2021-082, 2021-083, 2021-084, 2021-085, 2021-086, 2021-087, 2021-088, 2021-089, 2021-090, 2021-091, 2021-092, 2021-093, 2021-094, 2021-095, 2021-096, 2021-097, 2021-098 and 2021-100, 2021-101, 2021-102, 2021-103, 2021-104, 2021-105, 2021-106, 2021-107, 2021-108, 2021-109, 2021-110, 2021-111, 2021-112, 2021-113, 2021-114, 2021-115, 2021-116, 2021-117. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Fritz Blau, Stamford

File No. 2021-041

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Cheshire Registrar of Voters

File No. 2020-052

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-052. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-052 upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

#### 4. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Doucette for CT," Jason Doucette  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
2. "Doucette for CT-13," Jason Doucette  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
3. "Doyle Explores," Paul Doyle  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
4. "Doyle for AG," Paul Doyle  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
5. "Goselin 4 Attorney General," Peter Goselin  
Accounts Examiner: Salman Munir
6. "Hatfield 2018," Susan W. Hatfield  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
7. "Lawson 2018," David A. Lawson  
Accounts Examiner: Karen Walauskas

Linda Waterman summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Reports and recommended the draft reports become final.

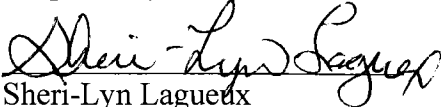
It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt as final 7 audit reports as listed above. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

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


***VII. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and Seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 10:27 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Laguerx  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Stephen T. Penny, Chair  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is May 5, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.***