



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
1st Floor Conference Room
February 3, 2021
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. Commissioners Salvatore Bramante, Stephen Penny and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present via Webex. Commissioner Ajello joined the meeting via Webex at 9:43 A.M.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the January 21, 2021 Minutes by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported that for legislative proposals this session, staff is seeing fewer proposals from the General Assembly than in past years. So far staff has seen 10 or 12 bills that could affect the agency. Mostly the bills being brought up are affecting to the Secretary of the State and are election admin bills related to absentee ballots, constitutional question of early voting, etc. Those are the primary bills we have seen so far. There are a couple of CEP bills that have been brought up, one being the childcare provision and those are the bills we will be monitoring.

Director Brandi advised that SEEC has received notice of a ZOOM format with appropriations committee. Staff expects our meeting within the next couple weeks and we will keep you advised of any changes there. Our proposal was submitted months ago and the SEEC is not expecting anything drastic in the form of appropriations. Based on the Comptroller latest numbers it looks like for the current budget cycle the State is looking at a surplus. The budget may be easier right now since the Agency is not looking at a deficit right now. We will be monitoring everything.

Director Brandi reported that with personnel right now, the SEEC is in the process of doing a couple of hires, will have the legal investigator position sorted out and hired hopefully by the end of today.

Brandi updated that the SEEC had 1 more COVID incident in the office in the past couple weeks which has put a couple of people into quarantine for safety and protection. So far there has been no spread. One Individual who was identified positive. We are trying to keep a bare minimum in the office and limiting our exposure to the public. On a given day we probably have no more than half a dozen people in the office. Staff is working in shifts and the agency is doing everything to have a presence here but doing everything possible to limit exposure as best as we can. Staff has been sticking to their schedules and being as safe as possible.

We have 1 grant application on the agenda today for a Special Election for Senate District 27 and are expecting a second application.

IV. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

1. "Billie Miller4CT," Patricia Billie Miller

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "*Billie Miller4CT,*" *Patricia Billie Miller.* So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

***1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File Nos. 2018-121 and 2019-012
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement***

<i>Respondents:</i>	<i>Kim Allen and Town of Groton</i>
<i>Attorney:</i>	<i>William B. Smith</i>
<i>Legal Investigator:</i>	<i>Scott Branfuhr</i>

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to respondent Kim Allen in File Nos. 2018-121 and 2019-012. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement as to respondent Kim Allen in File Nos. 2018-121 and 2019-012. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to the Town of Groton in File Nos. 2018-121 and 2019-012. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement as to the Town of Groton in File Nos. 2018-121 and 2019-012 with modification. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Frank LaDore, Hamden
File No. 2019-150A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

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. 2019-150A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-150A. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Frank LaDore, Hamden
File No. 2019-150B

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney: William B. Smith

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is tabled.

VI. *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 Ajello at 10:25 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 Castagno, Bramante, Penny, Ajello and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Kevin Ahern, James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Ryan M. Burns, Scott Branfuhr, Stephanie Fish, Joshua Foley, Alyssa Torres, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Lisa Drew and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:40 A.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

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, 2021 and requested that twenty-eight (28) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to twenty-eight (28) complaints File Nos. 2021-001; 2021-002; 2021-003; 2021-004; 2021-005, 2021-006, 2021-007, 2021-008, 2021-009, 2021-010, 2021-011, 2021-012, 2021-013, 2021-014, 2021-015, 2021-016, 2021-017, 2021-018, 2021-019, 2021-020, 2021-021, 2021-022, 2021-023, 2021-024, 2021-025, 2021-026, 2021-027 and 2021-028. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephen Sheinberg, Fairfield
File No. 2020-046

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brian P. Boyd, Madison
File No. 2020-077

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Cressotti, Enfield
File No. 2019-156

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. 2019-156. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as a dismissal in File No. 2019-156. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joseph C Lazzaro, Darien
File No. 2019-158

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-158. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as a dismissal in File No. 2019-158. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Scott Valey, Berlin
File No. 2019-097

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a complaint by Thomas Rutledge (Self-Report)
File No. 2020-080

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

8. In the matter of a Complaint by John Rodlico, Ledyard
File No. 2020-010

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

9. In the matter of a Complaint by Joseph Vollano, Meriden
File No. 2020-045

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is marked off.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

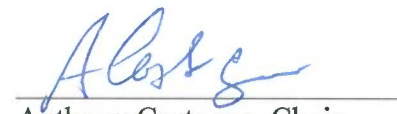
VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and Seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 11:46 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 17th day of February 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony Castagno, Chair
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 17, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. in the 1st Floor Conference room.