



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
1st Floor Conference Room
February 17, 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 and Stephen Penny were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present via Webex.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 3, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes by a 3-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes by a 3-0-0 vote. So voted.

Commissioner Castagno updated the agenda as follows: Executive Session Item #8 is marked off. To the Executive Session, adding an item as #9 identified as – Commission Items.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported that the Governor's budget has been submitted. Has passed through our requested budget. Our budget hearing will be Monday at 11:30 AM to which we are preparing testimony.

Director Brandi reported starting February 26th Ronald Perry will be starting with the agency. He is a former detective with the City of New Haven Police Department.

Director Brandi reported we are holding Election Officer interviews this week. We currently have 2 open positions, but we will be filling 1 at this time.

Director Brandi reported Staff is still maintaining schedules and working remotely. We will continue to maintain this framework for as long as necessary.

Director Brandi advised-we are monitoring appropriations and the GAE committees. They were several bills that were affecting us. The most common involved

55 Farmington Avenue • Hartford, Connecticut • 06105

Phone: (860) 256-2940 • Toll Free-CT Only: 1-866-SEEC-INFO • Email: SEEC@ct.gov • Internet: www.ct.gov/seec

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

constitutional amendment on Absentee Ballots and continuations of early voting for any special elections under the Governor's powers.

The SEEC has seen a few bills relating to the CEP. Most likely the bills are supposedly related to the childcare case which went up to the Superior Court. We are waiting for additional bills to come forward relating to CEP contributions. The contribution bill involve returning buffer amounts from disqualified contributions. We anticipate additional GAE and Appropriations meetings in the next few weeks.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

Public Session was not convened.

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 9:43 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 and Penny were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Kevin Ahern, James Talbert-Slagle, William B. Smith, Ryan Burns, Stephanie Fish, Joshua Foley, Alyssa Torres, Lindsey Leung, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Lisa Drew and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:00 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 February 17, 2021 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two (2) complaints File Nos. 2021-029 and 2021-030. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Cane, New Britain
File No. 2019-109

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Dismissal in File No. 2019-106. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Commission Dismissal.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Dismissal, without prejudice, in File No. 2019-106. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by James Capra, Shelton
File No. 2019-132

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Dismissal in File No. 2019-132. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Commission Dismissal.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Dismissal, without prejudice, in File No. 2019-132. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

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

Recommendation of Counsel

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 Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-150A. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria Pereira, Bridgeport
File No. 2020-016
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. 2020-016. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as a dismissal in File No. 2020-016. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

6. In the matter of a Complaint by Shawn Styfco, Beacon Falls
File No. 2020-025
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. 2020-025. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-025. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

7. *In re.* Commission Initiated Investigation: *Josh 4 Bpt*
File No. 2019-175
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

8. 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.

9. Commission Items

Commissioner Castagno reported that he has been notified by the Speaker of the House that he will not be reappointed as a Commissioner of the SEEC. Commissioner Castagno advised that he will remain on the commission until such time that a replacement commissioner has been appointed. He recommended adoption of a motion to resign his position on the Commission as Chair and appoint Stephen Penny as Chair and Salvatore Bramante as Vice Chair of the commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Motion to accept Commissioner Castagno's resignation as Chair of the SEEC and to appoint Stephen Penny as Chair and Salvatore Bramante as Co-Chair. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and Seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 11:15 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 3, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. in the 1st Floor Conference room.