



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
July 7, 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, Shannon Bergquist, Greg Picuch and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Michael Brandi updated the commission that the new Fiscal Year has commenced. As of July 1, most of the staff have returned to the office. The 50 percent Telework schedule for staff is ongoing, at least until September 1st; which may be extended. There are also a couple of personnel vacancies that we are hoping to fill before CEP season starts.

Director Brandi noted that staff continue to monitor special sessions of the legislature, which plans to hold at least two additional special sessions this calendar year. One special session is presently scheduled for July 2021 to consider whether to extend the Governor's emergency authority. An additional special session to consider how to spend federal ARPA dollars will be held at a later date, most likely in late August or early September. We also have a State Senate special election for the 36th District, scheduled for Tuesday, August 17th. Staff are working with interested candidates and the commission will be reviewing grant applications in the near term.

Director Brandi reported that staff will be hosting a delegation from the New York State Board of Elections on August 2nd. He stated that the New York State Assembly recently adopted a public campaign financing system, similar to Connecticut, and that staff from New York are eager to learn more about our processes as they get their program off-the-ground.

Director Brandi also provided a status update on proposed regulations related to Senate Bill 883 concerning child care expenses. With the legislature's Regulations Review Committee meeting year-round, he is hopeful that draft regulations can be promulgated and approved in a few months. Commission staff are already begun to draft regulations for the commission's review at a later meeting.

Commissioner Picuch inquired about Senate Bill 883 – Obviously we have a special election coming up. Any discussion regarding the regulations? Looking for an update.

Director Brandi responded that staff is already starting to look at drafting. The SEEC helped draft that language that was adopted by the legislature and now have to draft regulations for review and adoption. We will probably be able to get that in in the next couple of months, so that we can look at the restrictions. There will be more definition and clarity to come through the regulation.

Director Brandi advised that committees will need an invoice listing exactly what the candidate did afterwards. There might be a lesser paperwork requirement in order to help candidates out. New York City has one form that is filled out and more of a list of who they paid and how they paid, much for example of how a candidate would document driving mileage.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brian P. Boyd, Madison
File No. 2020-077A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Craig Rogoff
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-077A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-077A. 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 Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:46 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, Ajello, Bergquist, Picuch and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Kevin Ahern, Ryan M. Burns, William B. Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Ron Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Lisa Drew, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Chelsea Ruzzo, Linda Waterman, Doug Frost Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:22 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 July 2, 2021 and requested that (2) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to (2) complaint File Nos.: 2021-134 and 2021-135. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Perry Rowthorn (Self-Report), West Hartford File No. 2021-055
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Revised Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-055. He recommended replacement of the revised Consent Order & Agreement due to a scrivener error.

The revised Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Steven Tacconga, Stratford File No. 2020-040
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Investigators:

Kevin M. Ahern
James Augustine/
Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

4. 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

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes §§ 9-602, 9-607 and 9-706 in File No. 2020-045 and 2021-043

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to Find a Reason to Believe in File Nos. 2020-045 and 2021-043. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. Commissioner Bergquist has been appointed as hearing officer for these matters.

5. *In re*. Commission Initiated Investigation – *MakeWay4Holloway*

File No. 2021-043

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes §§ 9-602, 9-607 and 9-706 in File No. 2020-045 and 2021-043

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to Find a Reason to Believe in File Nos. 2020-045 and 2021-043. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. Commissioner Bergquist has been appointed as hearing officer for these matters.

6. Draft Audit Reports

1. “Josh for State Representative,” Joshua Elliott
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

2. “Ethan Book for State Rep ‘18,” Ethan Book
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

3. “Mase for State Representative 86th District,” Vincent J. Mase
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

4. “Rosario 2018,” Christopher Rosario
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

5. “Shaban for 18,” John Shaban

Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

6. "Amanda Webster New for 62," Amanda Webster (Exploratory)
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
7. "Amanda Webster New for 62," Amanda Webster
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
8. "Roman 2018," Roman A. Khondker
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
9. "Aimee 4 Ridgefield," Aimee Berger-Girvalo (Exploratory)
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
10. "Aimee4Ridgefield," Aimee Berger-Girvalo
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
11. "Rod for CT Gov.," Rodney M. Hanscomb
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

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

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt as final 11 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 Picuch and Seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 10:28 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is July 21, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.