



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING**  
**Via Webex**  
**December 15, 2021**  
**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

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

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

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 01, 2021*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 1, 2021. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Item 3 in executive session is marked off

Item 13 is being added to the executive session: In the Matter of a Referral by the Simsbury Registrar of Voters, File No. 2021-161

Director Brandi reported that budget wise we are on target. Waiting on retirements for the later part of this year and will also see some other personnel moves coming up, where the agency will have some savings in the operational budget

The SEEC is in the middle of hiring a new Fiscal Administrative Officer as well as filling the Office Assistant position.

SEEC staff want to thank two individuals who will be leaving the agency: Attorney Chelsea Ruzzo, who joined us a year and a half ago, will be leaving at the end of this month for a position with the Office of the Attorney General and Attorney Ryan Burns will be leaving in January for the Department of Consumer Protection. The agency will look to start the process of refilling through January & February this year.

Director Brandi updated that for the 2022 cycle, 34 candidates have already registered with the commission; 8 statewide candidates and 7 exploratory committees.

There was a Special Election for the 116<sup>th</sup> district which occurred yesterday. Trenee McGee was the successful candidate.

There is also a special election coming up for House District 144, which is scheduled for January 25, 2022 and there are 2 candidates already registered with the SEEC. SEEC staff does expect CEP applications by the January 10<sup>th</sup> deadline, and we will keep the Commissioners on notice for the January 5<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Hopefully, we will have the applications in hand by then. If not, there's a potential for a special Commission meeting before the deadline so that the candidates in that race will have their grant money.

Director Brandi reported that there will be another special election due to a retirement in the House 71 district. Incumbent Anthony D'Amelio has decided to retire from the Legislature, effective December 31, 2021. SEEC staff are waiting on the Writ from the Governor to declare the Special Election. We expect that special election to be scheduled for late February.

Staff has been working hard on monitoring the Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee, so the districts are now settled for the House and the Senate and we are waiting on the Congressional district map. We are just waiting for those districts to be finalized to determine how it will impact contributions from the various towns for CEP candidates; there's some adjustments that always occur within the redistrict plan.

Director Brandi updated that staff is starting to get busy with the Statewide Elections and we are starting our preparations on all levels. SEEC staff is also starting to get ready for the Legislative Session, which starts in February and ends in May.

#### ***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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:45 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 by a vote of 5-0-0.

Commissioners Stephen Penny, Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, Greg Piecuch and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Michael J. Brandi, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin Ahern, William

B. Smith, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Chelsea Ruzzo, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Salman Munir, Lisa Drew, Paul Brady, Stephen Palmer, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 12:01 P.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 Kevin M. Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated December 15, 2021 and requested that four (4) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to four (4) complaints File Nos. 2021-201, 2021-202, 2021-203, and 2021-204. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the East Haddam Town Clerk  
File No. 2020-067  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-067. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-067. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In re: Commission Initiated Investigation into Contributions Received by the “Vargas 2020” Committee  
File No. 2020-056  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is marked off.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Philip S. Augur, Durham  
File No. 2021-129

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Greg Haythorn, Weston

File No. 2021-130

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-130. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-130. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jean A. Jacquier, North Canaan

File No. 2020-066

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-066. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-066. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Scott Veley, Berlin

File No. 2019-097A

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-097A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt of payment in ten days.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-097A upon receipt in ten days. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt of payment.

8. Recommendation of Counsel Regarding a Potential Commission Initiated Investigation

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Attorney Ryan M. Burns represented a recommendation of counsel as follows: it is the recommendation of counsel that the Commission vote to initiate an investigation and make a finding that it is necessary to investigate potential campaign finance violations by William L. Jenkins, including, but not limited to an alleged violation of the terms and conditions of a signed Consent Order concerning In the Matter of a Complaint by Joshua Fedeli, Stamford, File No. 2017-071 and any and all associated individuals for improperly contracting out the statutory duties of campaign treasurer to ineligible individuals.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to initiate an investigation. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3-0 – with Commissioners Penny and Ajello in favor, Commissioners Bergquist, Cascudo and Piecuch against.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dustin R. Bingham, Torrington  
File No. 2020-070

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-070. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-070. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Legislative Proposals

No action taken.

11. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Audit Process

The matter is continued.

12. Draft Audit Reports

1. “Wooden for Treasurer”, Shawn T. Wooden  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
2. “Dita for CT”, Dita Bahargava  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
3. “Dita for CT Treasurer”, Dita Bahargava  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
4. “Gilchrest 2020”, Jillian Gilchrest  
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
5. “Shaun2020”, Shaun Mastroianni  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
6. “Gannon for 3”, Gannon R. Long  
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle

Linda Waterman summarized Draft Audit Reports 1 thru 5 and recommended the draft reports become final.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt audit report 1 listed above. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt audit reports 2 thru 5 listed above. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized Draft Audit Report item 6 and recommended a referral to the Enforcement Unit.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to refer audit report item 6 to Enforcement Unit. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. In the Matter of a Referral by the Simsbury Registrar of Voters  
File No. 2021-161  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Request for Investigative Subpoena in File No. 2021-161.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to authorize the issuance of an Investigatory Subpoena in File No. 2021-161. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

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

***VII. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 12:19 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

***The next regular scheduled meeting is January 5, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.***