



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
December 01, 2021
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, 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 November 17, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of November 17, 2021. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported that SEEC staff is moving on a number of personnel issues with the hiring of the Fiscal Administrative Officer and have now posted for the Office Assistant position which will be the last of our ranks to fill.

Director Brandi advised that SEEC staff is in discussion with a number of members of our staff related to retirements that are to occur later this year. So we are making plans and provisions for the changeover of staff as we get the retirements moving.

Director Brandi updated that SEEC staff is working with DAS through our HR representative to make sure that we can appropriately hire and fill our ranks as retirements are processed.

In terms of the budget is on target right now. We now have our capital budget in place and just went through purchase orders for new Surface tablets for the Commissioners and certain staff member. This is a replenishment of our existing IT equipment. We can't identify when they will be replaced since there are some delays that we see with the supply chain with computer chips at the top of the list. We hope to have replacement's done in January or early February.

SEEC staff will continue to watch for expenditures for this year. One Notable piece within the budget is our retirements as we will have accruals to be paid. SEEC staff will work with OPM to make sure that accruals are paid and does not affect the operating budget.

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SEEC staff is very cognizant of the increases right now with the COVID-19 numbers, so we are watching that as management and staff. SEEC staff will continue to try to maintain our schedules for telework and to make sure keeping people safe and continuing to monitor any information from DPH, DAS, the Governor's office as everyone is mindful of the increases in the COVID numbers right now and the new variant. SEEC staff is staying vigilant in our COVID responses and in our efforts to keep our staff safe.

III.a. 2022 SEEC Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the 2022 SEEC meeting schedule. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

1. "Elect DePalma 2021", Richard D. DePalma

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for "*Elect DePalma 2021*", Richard D. DePalma. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

*1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Statchen, Stonington
File No. 2020-061*

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

<i>Respondent:</i>	<i>Constantine Antipas</i>
<i>Attorney:</i>	<i>James M. Talbert-Slagle</i>
<i>Legal Investigator:</i>	<i>Stephanie Fish</i>

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-061. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-061. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Nicoletta Bleuins, Hartford
File No. 2020-065
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Salvatore Bordonaro
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-065. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in ten (10) days.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-065. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

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 Bergquist at 9:52 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 4-0-0.

Commissioners Stephen Penny, Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, 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, Scott Branfuhr, 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 11:02 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 Kevin M. Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated December 1, 2021 and requested that seven (7) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to seven (7) complaints File Nos. 2021-194, 2021-195, 2021-196, 2021-197, 2021-198, 2021-199, and 2021-200. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas J. McNally, Oakdale
File No. 2021-029

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-029. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-029. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-123

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorneys:

Ryan M. Burns &

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Subpoena Request in File No. 2019-123.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Subpoena Request in File No. 2019-123. "Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and section 9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commission shall authorize a subpoena to be issued to Josephine Edmonds to provide testimony and evidence relevant to potential violations within the jurisdiction of the Commission and pertinent to the ongoing investigations under SEEC File Number 2019-123." So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. Recommendation of Counsel Regarding a Potential Commission Initiated Investigation

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

5. Draft Audit Reports

1. "R 95", John Carlson
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
2. "Len in 2018", Leonard A. Fasano
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit

Linda Waterman summarized the above two (2) referenced Draft Audit Reports and recommended the draft reports become final.

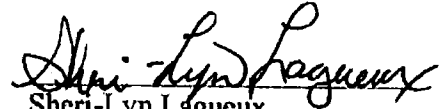
It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt as final two (2) audit reports listed above. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session


VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:08 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 15th day of December, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is December 15, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.