



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
August 4, 2021
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Stephen Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist, Andrew Cascudo, Michael Ajello and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

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

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 21, 2021 as amended. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 22, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 22, 2021 as amended. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Michael J. Brandi updated the commission on two personnel matters. Staff are presently working on interviewing candidates for the open Accounts Examiner and Fiscal Administrator positions. Also, the new budget, adopted by the legislature, is underway. The agency remains on target and will continue to watch.

Director Brandi recapped the August 2, 2021 meeting with representatives from the New York State Board of Elections. New York State is in the beginning stages of implementing a new public matching fund/campaign finance program, which will be rolled out for the 2024 cycle. Director Brandi thanked all of the SEEC staff who made presentations on a variety of topics and components of the CEP. Director Brandi expects that there will be a continuing dialogue with New York State staff as they learn from our successes and failures as well as those similar experiences in other states.

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Director Brandi also reviewed the 2021 municipal cycle as nominating conventions have recently wrapped up. Compliance staff have fielded a number of calls and e-mails related to the September primary and November general elections.

Director Brandi updated the commission that the 2018 audits are almost complete and staff have begun the review process for 2020 audits.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

No items for public session discussion

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 Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:38 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, Cascudo, Bergquist and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Alyssa Torres, Chelsea Ruzzo, Ronald Perry, Lisa Drew, Paul Brady, Stephen Palmer, Douglas Frost, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi 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 Kevin M. Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated July 30, 2021 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two (2) complaint File Nos.: 2021-146 and 2021-147. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

receipt in 14 days. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-066
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-069
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-071
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-072
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-074
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-077
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-078
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-079
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-080
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-083
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-084
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-085
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-086
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-088
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-090
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-092
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-094
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-096
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-097
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-101
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-102
- In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szyrkowicz,
Middletown File No. 2021-103

In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-104
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-106
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-107
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-109
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-110
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-112
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-114
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-115
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-117
In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz,
Middletown File No. 2021-124

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File Nos. File Nos. 2021-066, 2021-069, 2021-071, 2021-072, 2021-074, 2021-077, 2021-078, 2021-079, 2021-080, 2021-083, 2021-084, 2021-085, 2021-086, 2021-088, 2021-090, 2021-092, 2021-094, 2021-096, 2021-097, 2021-101, 2021-102, 2021-103, 2021-104, 2021-106, 2021-107, 2021-109, 2021-110, 2021-112, 2021-114, 2021-115, 2021-117, 2021-124. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File Nos. 2021-066, 2021-069, 2021-071, 2021-072, 2021-074, 2021-077, 2021-078, 2021-079, 2021-080, 2021-083, 2021-084, 2021-085, 2021-086, 2021-088, 2021-090, 2021-092, 2021-094, 2021-096, 2021-097, 2021-101, 2021-102, 2021-103, 2021-104, 2021-106, 2021-107, 2021-109, 2021-110, 2021-112, 2021-114, 2021-115, 2021-117, 2021-124. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Godbout, East Lyme
File No. 2020-075

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-075. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-075. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. 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.

8. Draft Audit Reports

1. "David Michel 2018," David Michel
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
2. "Mike Gagliardi for 30th House Rep," Michael J. Gagliardi
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
3. "Friends of Travis Simms," Travis L. Simms
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
4. "Ray for Rep," Kennard Ray
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Team Eleni for CT," Eleni C. Kavros DeGraw
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
6. "Connecticut Comeback Committee," Mark D. Boughton (Exploratory)
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
7. "Boughton for Governor," Mark D. Boughton
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

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


It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt as final 7 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 Cascudo and Seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:35 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagoux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 1st day of September, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is August 18, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.