



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
September 1, 2021
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Stephen Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 4, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of August 4, 2021. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Michael J. Brandi provided the Commission with several updates. While the new fiscal year began on July 1st, there is very little updates at this time, however, staff continue to keep eyes on the budget cycle. The Office of Policy and Management recently approved the agency's request to carry over funds from the previous fiscal year.

The online scanning project has been completed by the agency's vendor, A&A. Happily the project was completed under budget, resulting in significant savings. Given the limited amount of storage and office space at our new address, these savings have prompted staff to identify other records that can be scanned and made publicly available online.

Director Brandi also noted the Compliance continues to field calls and e-mails from municipal candidates, treasurers, and committees relative to the fall municipal cycle. Agency staff look forward once again to presenting at the upcoming Town Clerks Conference in a couple of weeks. Also, staff are continuing to train for the 2022 General Assembly and Statewide cycle next year. Director Brandi anticipates that staff will hear from interested candidates in the next several months.

Director Brandi noted that the Accounts Examiner position has been filled and Patrick Dostie will join the agency next week. The Fiscal Administrator position is still posted. Also, in the next 6-8 months, Director Brandi expects to see an increase

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in retirements, not only at the agency, but statewide. He is in touch with counterparts in other agencies and departments as the state gears up for the forthcoming “silver tsunami”.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit
File No. 2019-076SF
Proposed Final Decision
Hearing Officer: Michael J. Ajello
Respondent: Paula L. Smith
Prosecutor: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is marked off.

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 9:42 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 Stephen Penny, Shannon Bergquist and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin Ahern, William B. Smith, Alyssa Torres, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Chelsea Ruzzo, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Lisa Drew, Paul Brady, Stephen Palmer, Linda Waterman, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:07 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 September 8, 2021 and requested that three (3) 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 three (3) complaint File Nos.: 2021-148, 2021-149, 2021-152. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated September 8, 2021 and requested that three (3) matters be moved to not investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to three (3) complaint File Nos.: 2021-150, 2021-151 and 2021-153. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

Commissioner Penny requested a Motion to add an item involving the Stamford Town Clerk. It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to add a matter to the NID that it is necessary to investigate violations. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated August 27, 2021 and requested: a Motion to make an investigation into whether Lyda Ruijter failed to meet her responsibilities under Chapter 145 of Title 9 of the General Statutes concerning the administration of absentee ballots related to the August 11, 2020 Primaries and the November 3, 2020 General Election, including but not limited to her responsibilities under General Statutes § 9-150c and including any additional related violations arising in the course of such investigation.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to initiate and investigate violations relating to one (1) matter docketed as File No.: 2021-154. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

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

Kevin M. Ahern
James Augustine &
Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-040B. 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 of the first count and no further action taken as to the second count in File No. 2020-040B. So

voted by a vote 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brian P. Boyd, Madison
File No. 2020-077B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-077B. 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. 2020-077B. So voted by a vote 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Fritz Blau, Stamford
File No. 2021-041
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-041. 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. 2021-041 pending receipt within 10 days. So voted by a vote 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carole T. Young-Kleinfeld and Annalisa Stravato, Wilton Registrar of Voters and Lori Kaback, Wilton, Town Clerk
File No. 2017-034
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

6. 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.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sharlene McEvoy, Woodbury
File No. 2021-126

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-126. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-126. So voted by a vote 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Referral by the SEEC
File No. 2019-165

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Stipulation of a Settlement in File No. 2019-165. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Stipulation of a Settlement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Settlement in File No. 2019-165. So voted by a vote 3-0-0. The Settlement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. "Sean Grace for Senate," Sean Grace
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced matter and Request to Initiate Investigation in "Sean Grace for Senate," Sean Grace campaign committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to Initiate Investigation in "Sean Grace for Senate," Sean Grace campaign committee. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

10. "Bosak for State Senate," Gerald R. Bosak
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced matter and Request to Initiate an Investigation in "Bosak for State Senate," Gerald R. Bosak campaign committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to Initiate an Investigation in "Bosak for State Senate," Gerald R. Bosak campaign committee. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

11. "Roeun 2018," Veasna Roeun
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced matter and Request to Initiate Investigation in "Roeun 2018," Veasna Roeun campaign committee.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to Initiate an Investigation in "Roeun 2018," Veasna Roeun campaign committee. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

12. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Hanks for Bridgeport," Shante T. Hanks
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
2. "Susan for CT*," Susan Bysiewicz
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
3. "Re-elect Senator Logan," George S. Logan
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
4. "Terry for CT," Terry Gerratana (Exploratory)
Accounts Examiner: Karen Walauskas
5. "Phil Young for 120," Phillip Young
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
6. "Thad for CT Treasurer," Thaddeus I. Gray
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

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

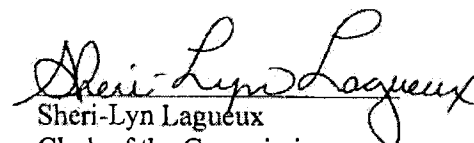
It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt as final 6 audit reports as listed above. So voted by a vote 3-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session


VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and Seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 11:17 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

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


Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

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