



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex  
November 03, 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 Bergquest, 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 October 20, 2021*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 20, 2021. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi updated the Commission that the Election Day Hotline was a success once again. Staff fielded approximately 100 phone calls on election day. A majority of the calls received were concerning mask mandates at polling places.

The agency is on target with its budget. The SEEC is still looking to fill two positions in the agency: the Fiscal Administrative Officer and the Office Assistant position, which will be the final 2 positions to fill out the roster. Those positions are moving to the interview stage.

Director Brandi advised that the agency is operating well. Telework is ongoing as we continue our COVID-19 protocols. With Election Day behind us, staff will be transitioning very quickly into the 2022 Statewide Elections and we are already preparing for the start of the 2022 season.

Director Brandi also updated Commissioners concerning the latest news relative to two (2) ongoing federal cases. First, the trial start date for the Bradley/Martinez matter has been delayed to February 2022. Second, the trial start date for the DeFilippo matter has also been postponed due to COVID-related delays at the federal court level.

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*Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to add an item to the Executive Session agenda to discuss pending litigation, Markley et al v. SEEC. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to postpone discussion of Item #6 under Executive Session, *Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Proposed Regulations pursuant to Public Act 2021-49*, until the next regularly scheduled meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. So voted.

#### ***IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations***

##### ***A. Public Session***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Shaun Mastroianni, Stonington  
File No. 2020-073

Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:

Anne-Marie Foster and  
Robert Statchen

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2020-073. He recommended adoption of the 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. 2020-073. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions 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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:55 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, Andrew Cascudo, and Greg Piecuch 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,

Salman Munir, Lisa Drew, Paul Brady, Stephen Palmer, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:20 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 November 03, 2021 and requested that twelve (12) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to twelve (12) complaints File Nos.: 2021-175, 2021-176, 2021-177, 2021-178, 2021-179, 2021-180, 2021-181, 2021-182, 2021-183, 2021-184, 2021-185, and 2021-186. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Sampson, Wolcott  
File No. 2021-123  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-123. 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. 2021-123. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by John P. Vasellina, West Hartford  
File No. 2020-078  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2020-078. 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. 2020-078. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Hope Kasper, Middletown  
File No. 2021-167

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:	William B. Smith
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-167. 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. 2021-167. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. 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

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-097. 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. 2019-097 pending receipt within 10 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.

6. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Proposed Regulations pursuant to Public Act 2021-49

The matter is continued.

7. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Audit Process

The matter is continued.

8. Draft Audit Reports

Draft Audit Reports #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 are continued.

1. "Merrill 2018," Denise Merrill  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
2. "Lembo for CT," Kevin P. Lembo (Exploratory)  
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
3. "Lembo for CT," Kevin P. Lembo  
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
4. "Dita for CT," Dita Bhargava (Exploratory)  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
5. "Dita for CT Treasurer," Dita Bhargava  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
6. "Kurt for CT," William K. Miller  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
7. "Alex for CT," Jon A. Tiktinsky (Exploratory)  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
8. "Alex for CT," Jon A. Tiktinsky  
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
9. "Leone for Senate 2018," Carlo Leone  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
10. "Julie 2018," Julie Kushner  
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

Linda Waterman summarized Draft Audit Reports #7, 8, and 9 and recommended that they become final.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt as final Audit Reports #7, 8, and 9. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. So voted.

9. In re. Markley et al v. SEEC

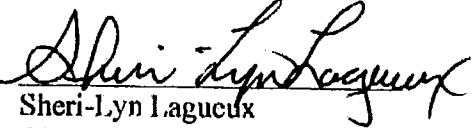
No action was taken on this matter.

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

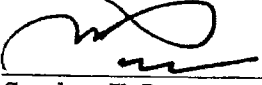
**VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 11:35 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagucix  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Stephen T. Penny  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is November 17, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.***