



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Greg Picuch, 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 September 1, 2021

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 1, 2021. So voted by a vote of 3-0-2, with Commissioners Cascudo and Ajello abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Michael J. Brandi provided the Commission with several brief updates. Agency staff continue to train and prepare for the upcoming statewide and General Assembly election in 2022. Compliance staff also continue to field calls and e-mails from municipal candidates and committees ahead of the municipal general election in November. The agency's budget remains on target and staff continue to monitor on it as we move forward with the new fiscal year.

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

Hearing Officer Ajello summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Final Decision in File No. 2019-076SF. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Final Decision in File No. 2019-076SF. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Final Decision will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Charles J. Mozzochi, Glastonbury
File No. 2020-069

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

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. 2020-069. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-069. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dustin Bingham, Torrington
File No. 2020-062

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:

Noel Rodriguez and

Jeremy Kincaid

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. 2020-062. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-062. So voted by a vote 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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo 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.

Commissioners Stephen Penny, Michael Ajello, Andrew Cascudo, Shannon Bergquist and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan M. Burns, Kevin Ahern, William B. Smith, Joshua Foley, Chelsea Ruzzo, Alyssa Torres, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Lisa Drew, Stephen Palmer, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:27 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 15, 2021 and requested that one (1) matter be moved to investigate and requested that one (1) matter be moved not to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No.: 2021-155 and that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No.: 2021-156. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Trey Hazard, Newtown
File No. 2021-128

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-128. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-128. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Urs Berger, West Hartford
File No. 2021-144

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-144. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-144. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. 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 marked off.

5. 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 the following motion: “Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and section 9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Commission shall authorize subpoenas to be issued to Alberto Ayala, Sonia Belardo, Alfredo Castillo, and Nilsa Heredia 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”.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the presented motion and authorize subpoenas in File No. 2019-123. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Peter Beckwith, Manchester
File No. 2020-047

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of Referrals by the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit
File Nos. 2019-163, 2019-166, 2019-026, 2020-058, 2020-060, 2021-027,
2021-034, 2021-140

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

8. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Friends of Phil Chabot," Phillip J. Chabot
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit
2. "Mark for Comptroller," Mark D. Greenberg
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit

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

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt as final 2 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 Ajello and Seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 10:38 AM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is October 6, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.