

REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING via Webex
DRAFT MINUTES

May 18, 2022 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, Shannon Bergquist, and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

II. Approval of the Minutes***1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2022***

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Michael Brandi provided the Commission with several brief updates. The 2022 regular legislative session recently concluded. While the bills that the agency proposed were favorably reported out of the GAE committee, they regrettably died on the floor. We look forward to reintroducing these bills next year during the long session.

The agency budget remains on target. This was a budget adjustment year and the agency was flat funded and had no changes. We may have a small surplus due to staff retirements, but we will continue to monitor.

CEP season is underway. Weekly commission meetings will start the week of May 23. Based upon past cycles, we expect a large volume of applications in the weeks and months ahead. We had 59 PARs this spring, of which 41 were prequalified. Those that did not prequalify, they have been given guidance on next steps.

We are also trying to fill several vacant positions due to retirements. We are working with DAS on posting several positions.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In re: SEEC Initiated Investigation
File No. 2020-056
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. 2020-056. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopted the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-056. 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 Andrea Gartner, Danbury
File No. 2021-133
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

James M. Talbert-Slagle
Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-133. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopted the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-133. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jacqueline Lightfield, Norwalk
File No. 2021-044
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

James M. Talbert-Slagle
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-044. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopted the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-044. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Andrew J. Daniels, Chaplin
File No. 2021-160
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-160. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopted the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-160. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lucy von Brachel, Greenwich
File No. 2021-031
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-031. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopted the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-031. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement 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 Piecuch 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 Penny, Ajello, Bergquist, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Salman Munir, Doug Frost, Geetha Natarajan, Lisa Drew, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Lindsey Leung, Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, Stephanie Fish, Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:43 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 May 18, 2022 and requested that three (3) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to three (3) complaints File No. 2022-025, 2022-026, and 2022-027. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Greenwich Registrars of Voters
File No. 2021-058
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-058. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2021-058. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Order and Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Milford Registrars of Voters
File No. 2021-135B
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, Middletown
File No. 2021-087B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-087B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-087B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arthur Penna & Patricia Bollettieri, West Haven
File No. 2021-149
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary-Jane Ugalde, Burlington
File No. 2021-171
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda McDonough, New Haven
File No. 2021-211
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-211. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-211. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christina Fagerstal & Lisa Hannich, New Canaan
File No. 2022-008
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. 2022-008. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2022-008. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:49 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.

The next regular scheduled meeting is May 25, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. via Webex.