

REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING via Webex
MINUTES

March 2, 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 and Andrew Cascudo 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 February 02, 2022***

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 2, 2022. So voted by a vote of 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 09, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 9, 2022. So voted by a vote of 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Administrative reports were not provided.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations***A. Public Session***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Andreas Bisbikos & Taras Rudko, Colchester
File No. 2021-152

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-152. 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. 2021-152. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. 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 9:37 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 3-0-0.

Commissioners Stephen Penny, Michael Ajello and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Michael J. Brandi, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, William B. Smith, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Stephanie Fish, Lisa Drew, Salman Munir, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:31 A.M.

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 March 2, 2022 and requested that five (5) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to five (5) complaints File Nos. 2022-005, 2022-006, 2022-007, 2022-008 and 2022-009. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, et al, Middletown File No. 2019-151

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-151. 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 count one and no further action in count two in File No. 2019-151. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joanne Marquis, Waterbury
File No. 2020-082

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-082. 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. 2020-082. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Bridgeport Republican Registrar of Voters
File No. 2021-169

Memorandum of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-169. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

“Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and § 9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a motion to authorize investigatory subpoenas on Charles D. Clemons to provide evidence relevant to the investigation of issues raised in the investigation of File Number 2021-169”

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to authorize the issuance of an investigatory subpoena in File No. 2021-169. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Philip S. Augur, Durham
File No. 2021-129B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is marked off.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, Middletown
File No. 2021-082

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-082. 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 as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-082. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, Middletown
File No. 2021-087

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-087. 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 as to a dismissal in File No. 2021-087. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. Recommendation of Counsel Regarding a Potential Commission Initiated
Investigation

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

The matter is marked off.

9. *In re.* Commission Initiated Investigation based on Audit Findings: *Sean Grace for Senate*
File No. 2021-159

Recommendation of Counsel

Staff Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

10. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation based on Audit Findings:

Rouen 2018

File No. 2021-157

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

11. Draft Audit Reports

1. "*Lemar2018*," Roland Lemar

Attorney: William B. Smith

Draft Audit Report 1 "*Lemar2018*," Roland Lemar, is continued.

2. "*Re-elect Stallworth 2018*," Charlie L. Stallworth

Attorney: William B. Smith

3. "*Stevenson4CT*," Jayme L. Stevenson

Attorney: William B. Smith

4. "*Feehan for 120*", Jim Feehan

Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

5. "*Linares 2018*" Exploratory, Art Linares

Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

6. "*Linares for Treasurer*", Art Linares

Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

7. "*Patrick Murphy for CT*", Patrick A. Murphy

Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

8. "*Bob for Governor*", Robert V. Stefanowski

Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

9. "*Erin for CT*", Erin E. Stewart

Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit

10. "*Aaron for Senate*", Aaron R. Turner

Accounts Examiner: Nicole Petit

11. "*Eva for CT*" Exploratory, Eva Bermudez Zimmerman

Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

12. “*EVA for CT*”, Eva Bermudez Zimmerman
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
13. “*Committee to Elect Aileen Abrams for State Representative*”, Aileen Abrams
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado
14. “*Borges 2020*”, Joseph J. Borges
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Report “*Re-elect Stallworth 2018*,” Charlie L. Stallworth and recommended the draft audit reports be referred In re Commission Initiated Investigation “*Re-elect Stallworth 2018*.”

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt as final the audit reports of

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Report “*Stevenson4CT*,” Jayme L. Stevenson and recommended the draft audit reports be referred to the enforcement unit In re Commission Initiated Investigation into “*Stevenson4CT*.”

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt as final the audit reports of

Linda Waterman summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Reports 4 through 14 and recommended the draft audit reports become final.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt as final the audit reports of “*Feehan for 120*”, Jim Feehan, “*Linares 2018*” Exploratory, “*Linares for Treasurer*”, Art Linares, “*Patrick Murphy for CT*”, Patrick A. Murphy, “*Bob for Governor*”, Robert V. Stefanowski, “*Erin for CT*”, Erin E. Stewart “*Aaron for Senate*”, Aaron R. Turner, “*Eva for CT*” Exploratory, Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, “*EVA for CT*”, Eva Bermudez Zimmerman “*Committee to Elect Aileen Abrams for State Representative*”, Aileen Abrams and “*Borges 2020*”, Joseph J. Borges. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

VI. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200(6)(A) and 1-210(b)(2) (Discussion of Personnel Matters)*

Consideration of Personnel Matter

Executive session was not convened and marked off.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session


VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 10:23 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueur
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 6th day of April, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 16, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.