



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex
April 20, 2022
9:30 A.M.

I. *Call to Order*

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Shannon Berquist, Greg Picuch 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 April 6, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1. Commissioner Picuch abstained.

III. *Administrative Reports*

Director Brandi updated Commission members on the status of state budget legislation currently pending in the legislature. He also updated members that new laptops for members and staff have been received. Training for new staff is ongoing as well. Director Brandi also noted that staff continue to monitor legislative proposals currently pending in the House and Senate.

Director Brandi also stated that staff will be once again attending the annual Connecticut Town Clerks' Conference on April 21, where staff will be presenting as well as being available for Q&A.

Finally, Director Brandi noted that the commission received approximately 60 PARs to date. Staff continue to work with treasurers and committees as we gear up for grant application season. Director Brandi noted that conventions are several weeks away and we should expect to see some movement on statewide races soon.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral from LaReine Frampton, Newtown
File No. 2022-018

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-018. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-018. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Essie Labrot, West Hartford
File No. 2020-072

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Clarisa J. Cardone

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-072. 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. 2020-072. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. 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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:43 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, Greg Piecuch 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, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Lisa Drew, Salman Munir, Douglas Frost, Geetha Natarajan, Shannon Kief, Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:07 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 William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated April 20, 2022 and requested that one (1) matter 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 one (1) complaint File Nos. 2022-022. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Grasso, Middlebury
File No. 2022-015
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-015. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-015. 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 Referral by LeReine Frampton, Newtown
File No. 2022-016
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-016. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-016. 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 Linda Szyrkowicz, Middletown
File No. 2021-087B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joseph Quaranta, New Milford
File No. 2021-030

Recommendation of Counsel

Staff Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2021-030. He recommended the authorization of the issuance of a Subpoena Duces Tecum.

“Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and § 9-7b-28 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a motion to authorize investigatory subpoena duces tecum to Peter Bass. The subpoena would seek testimony from Bass as well as documentation related to the following items: All bank records, online payment receipts, contribution documentation, cancelled checks, statements, and other materials related to services provided related to the re-election campaign of deponent Bass from December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. This includes contributions that may have been received through any online portals, such as Facebook, or other social media sites and or funds that may have been spent before the candidate started his candidate committee on or about July 16, 2021”

It was moved by Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to authorize the issuance of a Subpoena Duces Tecum in File No. 2021-030. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. Draft Audit Reports

1. “Harding 2020,” Stephen Harding, Jr.
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

2. “Friends of Christine Palm,” Christine Palm

Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

3. "Rogers 2018," Ryan Rogers
Accounts Examiner: Dinorah Collado

Michael Brandi summarized the above referenced Draft Audit Reports 1 and 2 and recommended the draft audit reports become final. Draft Audit Report 3 is marked off.

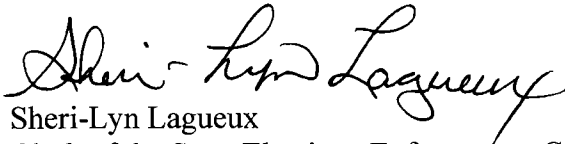
It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt as final the audit reports of "Harding 2020," Stephen Harding, Jr. and "Friends of Christine Palm," Christine Palm. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:15 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

May 18, 2022

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)

The next regular scheduled meeting is May 04, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.