



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
November 2, 2022
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 Bergquist, Andrew Cascudo 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 October 19, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 21, 2022. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi updated that right now the SEEC is on target for the current fiscal budget. The major piece the SEEC is working on right now relates to the IT unit. The SEEC is still waiting on the last bids to come in for basically a major overhaul of our servers. This is anticipated to cost the agency around \$140K for the upgrade to the servers. The SEEC has capital budget available for that expenditure. Staff is just waiting on the final bids to come in for, first upgrading Groton and the plan is possibly to take the older servers that are available in Groton and move those to Springfield so that the back up servers in Springfield, while a little more dated, will be a little more modern to what is there now. It's time for the upgrades to be made and to make sure that the agency has more capacity on the servers and IT is working on that actively.

Director Brandi reported that the CEP season has finally ended – The SEEC ended up with a final tally of 292 Grants approved by the Commission to the tune of a little

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over 24 million this year. Thank you to all the staff especially elections officers and compliance team on the front end working with a lot of new treasurers and making sure that everything went as smoothly as possible on the application process. The audit unit pitched in of course in review of the applications, notably Salman Munir who led the unit and made sure that they were working seamlessly in getting applications completed. Also, thanks to the investigators and enforcement team for validations that were done in a pretty expedited process to make sure that the agency could move the applications forward. At the end of the day, I think it was a really successful year with 292 approvals and 3 denials. I think you are seeing the results of that on tv right now as the advertisements and the campaigns are extremely active as we head into election day next week.

Director Brandi advised that agency staff is actively fielding lots of calls. Agency staff are trying to get everything ready for Tuesday and make sure that the public is well aware of the hotline number, that will be published. The SEEC did have a couple of news articles come out already and Director Brandi poke at a couple of different events that are non-partisan to get the word out about election security and confidence in voting. The SEEC has had a few more press inquiries this week and they're ramping up their articles to make sure that the public is fully informed of all the details for election day. Shannon & I met with 2 international elections monitors this week. They are from Norway and Germany this is a standard process that we do before election day every year. There is usually an international process just before election day. The elections monitors are from an organization which are actually based in Maryland and DC. Right now they are working to prepare their international report and we were just speaking to them on just some of the basics of what we do here in CT. They do a survey of all 50 states, so we did that interview a few days ago. Will will be leading the team on election day for the hotline. The SEEC will have the hotline open from 6:00 am in the morning until 8:00 PM at night, monitoring everything locally, statewide we will be working with SOTS and working with our federal partners. The SEEC has 3 calls scheduled for the day to monitor any irregularities going on. Agency staff does anticipate a busy day based on the tone and tenure of issues that are going on nationally and how that will affect us here in CT. The agency will be prepared to react to anything that comes our way.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jane H. Weiner, Hamden
File No. 2021-193
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Staff 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. 2021-193. 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 in File No. 2021-193. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Findings and Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Natt, Easton
File No. 2021-196

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	June Logie
Staff Attorney:	James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator:	Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-196. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-196 upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christine Giaquinto, Mary Jo Nosal, and Joseph G. Soucie, Old Lyme
File No. 2021-200

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Timothy Griswold
Attorney:	James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator:	Ronald Perry

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-200. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-200 upon receipt in 10 days. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

- B. 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 Ajello 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 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Bergquist, Cascudo and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Shannon Clark Kief, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Joshua Foley, Geetha Natarajan, Lisa Drew, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Stephanie Fish, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:45 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 October 26, 2022 and requested that one matter 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 one complaint File No. 2022-052. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joshua A. Esses, Stamford
File No. 2021-060
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. 2021-060. 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 in File No. 2021-060. 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 David B. Lampart, Woodbury

File No. 2022-027

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

V. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

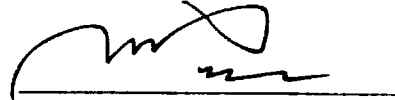
It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 AM. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheri-Lyn Lagoux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 16th day of November, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

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