

REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING via Webex
MINUTES

January 19, 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 Cascudo, Bergquist, and Picuch 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 January 05, 2022

Commissioner Picuch noted a typographical error on page 3 of the minutes as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the minutes of the Meeting of January 05, 2022, as amended. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided the Commission with several updates. Candidate committee and exploratory committee registrations are proceeding at a brisk pace. Staff expect to see additional registrations in the coming weeks. Some committees are actively fundraising and will likely be ready for PARs in March.

With respect to personnel, management is continuing to interview for the open Fiscal Administrator position. We are also keeping a keen eye on the COVID numbers. As a result, the level of staff working in the office is being limited. Most staff continue to telework. Some employees and/or their families have had or are recovering from COVID. We will continue to keep staff safe.

In budget news, we have had some savings from vacancies and will likely see additional savings with staff retirements. We will continue to monitor the agency's budget as we experience staff turnover in the coming year.

1. Consumer Price Index Adjustments to limits on Meal Expenditures as Set Forth in Citizens' Election Program Regulations

Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief summarized the recent changes in the Consumer Price Index.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo that pursuant to Section 9-706-2 (c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, that for the 2022 election cycle, the Commission has reviewed the meal expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election Program as prescribed by Section 9-706-1 (a) (11) of the Regulations and deems it necessary to adjust them pursuant to the change in the consumer price index, during the period beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on December 31, 2021 and that adjustment be \$20 for breakfast, \$25 for lunch, and \$35 for dinner. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

Public session was not convened.

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 Cascudo at 9:56 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 Stephen Penny, Shannon Bergquist, Greg Piecuch, and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were Michael J. Brandi, Shannon Kief, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Lindsey Leung, Joshua Foley, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Salman Munir, Paul Brady, and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:55 A.M.

Chairman Penny noted for the record that Commissioner Cascudo left the meeting at 11:42 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 January 19, 2022 and requested two (2) matters 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 two (2) complaints File No. 2021-214 and 2022-001. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the East Granby Registrars of Voters
File No. 2021-131
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. 2021-131. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as a dismissal in File No. 2021-131. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

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 Philip S. Augur, Durham
File No. 2021-129A
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above reference complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-129A. 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. 2021-129A. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brian Merlen, Stamford
File No. 2021-119
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-119. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as a dismissal in File No. 2021-119. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by the Stratford Town Clerk
File No. 2021-162
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorneys: Ryan M. Burns & William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ryan M. Burns

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above reference complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel. He recommended the adoption of the Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Recommendation of Counsel as a withdrawal in File No. 2021-162. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joseph Angland, Greenwich
File No. 2020-068
Recommendation of Counsel

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

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-068. 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, as amended, in File No. 2020-068. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. Chairman Penny noted that a Declaratory Ruling on this matter will follow later this year.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Jenkins, Chaplin
File No. 2020-071

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James M. Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement. 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. 2020-071. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation: Bosak for Senate
File No. 2021-158

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

***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

This matter is continued.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session


VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 12:11 P.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 Laguëux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 02, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.