



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
December 7, 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, Andrew Cascudo and Greg 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 November 16, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2022. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi updated that post election. A series of new complaints that are coming in and being assigned as a result of the recent election.

Director Brandi announced that the SEEC would like to congratulate Salman Munir. SEEC as promoted him to the Director of Disclosure & Audit. Salman has done amazing work for us. He has been with the Commission for 15 years and he's been in every position from Accounts Examiner to Associate Accounts Examiner and now the Director of Disclosure & Audit. He basically has been running the audit unit for this CEP cycle and has shown that he can do great work and he's going to be a great asset to the management staff.

Salman is getting prepared for the continuation of the 2020 post election audit reviews and we're back to the audit cycle within the unit.

Director Brandi reported that budget wise the agency is looking at some major upgrades to the IT systems. The SEEC has been looking at the final cost estimates for the upgrade of our servers down at the Groton Data center and that's been an ongoing project with the IT unit. The cost estimate is about \$120,000 so the agency is prepared to do the upgrades to both the servers and we are also looking to upgrade our Laserfiche system. SEEC staff are looking at cost estimates as well which will allow the SEEC to take advantage of upgrades and new features in Laserfiche

Director Brandi reported that Shannon is away for a few days at the COGEL conference in Montreal. Hopefully we are getting some good information back from

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her in the next few days as to what is going on nationally with issues related to campaign finance and elections

Director Brandi updated that the SEEC is in the midst of multiple postings as well as hirings. We've had continuing interview processes going on for staff attorney positions and we are looking to hopefully make those hires in the next month or so. We have some new lists coming out through DAS and we are going through the process of refilling positions, especially following the retirements statewide, so there have been a lot of open positions and people moving around. With the new staff at OPM we have been getting approvals much quicker taking only 2-3 weeks.

Director Brandi reported that Legislative Session will start in the first week of January. At the next meeting we will have a basic outline of the bills we are looking at and the issues that came up during the election cycle. We can try to address any of those issues in proposed legislation. We're still not sure if there will be any movement on any the committees with some of the new elected members of the House and Senate. – We do expect the same chairs for the GAE, so we will have some continuity there that will certainly help us moving forward. We will have proposals for you at the next meeting.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Eneida Martinez, Bridgeport
File No. 2021-201

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Patricia Howard

Staff Attorney:

James M. Talbert-Slagle

Attorney Michael J. Brandi summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-201. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-201. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings and 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 Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:35 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, Cascudo and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Lisa Drew, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Joshua Foley, Ron Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Stephen Palmer, Paul Brady, Michael J. Brandi, Salman Munir, Geetha Natarajan and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 9:43 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 Michael J. Brandi summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated November 30, 2022 and requested that eleven (11) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to eleven (11) complaints File Nos. 2022-056, 2022-057, 2022-058, 2022-059, 2022-060, 2022-061, 2022-062, 2022-063, 2022-064, 2022-064 and 2022-066. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by William A. Warner, N. Grosvenordale
File No. 2021-208
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Michael J. Brandi summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-208. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2021-208. 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 Evonne Klein (Self Report) New Canaan
File No. 2022-050
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session


VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Cascudo and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 AM. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 21st day of December, 2022 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Stephen T. Penny
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is December 21, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.