



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
February 1, 2023
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 Shannon Bergquist, 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 December 21, 2022

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 21, 2022. So voted by a vote of 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2023

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2023. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi provided commissioners with a few brief updates. The agency's current fiscal year budget remains on target. Staff projects that the agency will likely remit a surplus to the state's General Fund.

Director Brandi advised that last week, staff submitted the agency's legislative proposals to the General Assembly. Staff continue to monitor the work of the relevant legislative committees and review proposed bills as well.

Director Brandi updated that SEEC staff was recently contacted by the ACLU of Connecticut regarding the recently proposed Voter Rights Act, which will likely get a public hearing before GAE.

With respect to personnel, SEEC staff are awaiting the final lists from DAS for the staff attorney and IT manager positions, with the hope that we can conduct interviews in the near future.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In re: Commission Initiated Investigation: *Ganim for Governor*
File No. 2020-006
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-006. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in ten (10) days.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2020-006 upon receipt in ten (10) days. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

2. In re: SEEC Initiated *Stevenson4CT* – Audit Findings
File No. 2022-023A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Jayme J. Stevenson
Staff Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2022-023A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2022-023A. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. *In re: Commission Initiated Investigation into “Re-Elect Stallworth 2018”*
File No. 2022-024
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Luwannia Johnson-Martin
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is marked off.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint of Fernando Betancourt (Self-Report), Hartford File No. 2023-001
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Fernando Betancourt
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-001. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-001. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert E. Halstead, Bridgeport File No. 2022-006
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Patricia A. Howard
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is marked off.

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 9:49 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, Bergquist and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: William B. Smith, Lisa Drew, Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Stephen Palmer, Geetha Natarajan, Michael J. Brandi, Salman Munir, Shannon Kief and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:43 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 William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated January 25, 2023 and requested that one matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one complaint File Nos. 2023-002. So approved by the Commission 3-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by Margaret S. Cawley and Karen O. Linehan, Stonington
File No. 2017-010
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Commission Decision in File No. 2017-010. He recommended adoption of the Commission Decision to administratively close the matter without prejudice and, the Commission reserves the right to reopen this matter and conduct a hearing should Respondent avail himself to the Commission's jurisdiction.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Commission Decision in File No. 2017-010. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Commission Decision will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Steven A. Taccogna, Stratford
File No. 2021-146
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. 2021-146. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions of a dismissal in File No. 2021-146. 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 Complaint by Robert Natt, Easton

File No. 2021-196
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Louis A. DeCilio, Stratford
File No. 2021-187B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2021-187B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions of a dismissal in File No. 2021-187B. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will Be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by LeReine Frampton, Newtown
File No. 2022-017
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by LeReine Frampton, Newtown
File No. 2022-020
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

8. Draft Audit Reports – 2020 Election Cycle
 1. “Lisa for Eastern CT,” Lisa Thomas (Exploratory)
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
 2. “Weruche For CT,” Wreuche U. George
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

Director of Campaign Audit & Disclosure, Salman Munir provided an overview of the 2 draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make audits number 1 and 2 final, so moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo by a vote of 3-0-0.

VI. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 AM. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the commission are unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is February 15, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. via Webex.