I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello 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 May 17, 2023

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2023. So voted by a vote of 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cascudo abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided the Commission with several updates. The legislative session is ending today. The budget was approved by the legislature this week. The requested budget for the agency has been approved. There were some additions to it based on additional payroll and the anticipated raises based on the union contracts. The agency is also doing a carry-forward on the budget for capital funds because of the need for new servers and are yet awaiting information from DAS. With the potential closings of the state’s data centers, the agency is monitoring options for servers and centers.

One bill that is pending is Senator Looney’s bill 226. This bill will increase the gubernatorial grant. There are some technical changes in the bill, but overall staff are content with the bill. This bill has been added to another bill as an amendment and will be monitored by staff today to see if it passes. Last week, staff were able to make arguments to legislators against a proposal concerning internet provisions that would deregulate most of the internet, which could subject candidates to significant attack ads that would have been unregulated with no attributions and no disclosures. That provision has since been removed.

Administratively, the agency has ongoing open recruitments for two Accounts Examiners, which will be filled as CT Career Trainee positions. Resumes for the
Elections Officer position are in with compliance staff. The IT Manager posting has closed and staff are awaiting the list of candidates.

The remainder of the budget for the current fiscal year is on track to close on June 30th with a surplus, due to personnel vacancies. The surplus will be transferred over to the general fund.

**IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

1. In re: Referral of the Secretary of the State
   File No. 2020-057
   Proposed Findings & Conclusions
   Respondents: Enrique Gallego
   Attorney: William B. Smith
   Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

   Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2020-057. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

   It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2020-057. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Fred A. DeCaro & Mary Hegarty, Greenwich
   File No. 2021-056
   Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
   Respondent: Amy C. Fratello Stoever and Joyce Fratello
   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. 2021-056. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

   It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2021-056. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.
3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Fred A. DeCaro & Mary Hegarty, Greenwich
File No. 2022-026
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Anita M. O'Brien
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. 2022-026. He
recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner
Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2022-026. So
voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available
on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Rosa Rebimbas, Naugatuck
File No. 2022-035
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Peter E. Mariano and
Carlos A. Santos
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. 2022-035. He
recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner
Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2022-035,
pending receipt within 10 days. 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 Alison S. Gould, Madison
File No. 2022-074
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and
Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2022-074. He recommended
adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.
It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2022-074. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0. The Findings & 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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 10:01 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 3-0-0.

Commissioner Cascudo left the meeting at 10:02 A.M.

Commissioners Penny and Ajello were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Shannon Clark Kief, Salman Munir, Geetha Natarajan, Renata Rydzewski, William Smith, James Heffernan, Ronald Perry, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Joyce Figueroa, Stephen Palmer, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

Commissioner Cascudo returned to the meeting at 10:36 A.M.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:37 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 May 31, 2023 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to investigate.

   It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two (2) complaints, File No. 2023-019 and File No. 2023-021. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-0. So voted.
2. In re. Audit of Theresa Davidson for the 128th
File No. 2016-017A & 2016-017B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

This matter is continued.

3. In re: Referral of the Secretary of the State
File No. 2019-123
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James B. Heffernan summarized the above referenced complaint and
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2019-123. He
recommended adoption of the following motion: “Pursuant to its authority
under General Statutes § 9-7b, the Commission authorizes counsel to refer to
the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney evidence of possible criminal
violations undertaken by Alfredo Castillo, Wanda Geter-Pataky, and Nilsa
Heredia, as it relates to the election, primary, or referendum violations
discovered in the investigation of matter 2019-123”.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner
Cascudo to adopt the above referenced motion in File No. 2019-123. So
voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin Saythany, Norwich
File No. 2023-006
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James B. Heffernan
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

This matter is continued.

5. Recommendation of Counsel: Possible Resolutions for Voluntarily Settled
Complaints

This matter is continued.
6. Draft Audit Reports – 2020 Election Cycle

   Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

2. “NR20,” Noel Rodriguez
   Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

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

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

   It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at
   10:43 A.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 by,

Sheri-Lyn Laguex
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

July 19, 2023
Date approved
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)