



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
Via Webex
April 3, 2024
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist, Sonia Asare, Michael Ajello and Greg Piecuch 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 March 20, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2024. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Administrative reports were provided during executive session.

IV. Public Session

1. Discussion of Agency Organization, Staff Roles and Internal Process

Commissioners discussed scheduling an in person meeting for April 24, 2024 for 9:30 AM at the office of the SEEC. Chair Penny directed Legal Program Director Shannon Kief to disseminate meeting materials to the Commissioners by the April 17th regularly scheduled meeting.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Self-Report by Michael Pohl, Manchester.

File No. 2024-004

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorney:

Michael Pohl

William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2024-004. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File No. 2024-004. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Penny abstaining.

VI. *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 Piecuch at 9:41 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, Asare, Ajello and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Executive Director & General Counsel Michael Brandi, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Director of Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir, Staff Attorneys William Smith, James Heffernan, Johnny Ross, III, Joshua Foley, Patricia Mwilwa, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Ron Perry, Information Technology Analyst Renata Rydzewski, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Stephen Palmer.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:17 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 March 28, 2024 and requested that 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. 2024-027 and File No. 2024-028. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. Recommendation of Counsel: Progress Report on Cases Handled by the SEEC Regarding the 2023 Bridgeport Primary

No formal action needed on progress report.

3. In re. SEEC Initiated Investigation into “*Weber for CT*,” Brock Weber
File No. 2022-036
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit and Disclosure Unit of the SEEC re
“*Rogers 2018*,”
File No. 2023-008
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

5. In re. Referral by Troy Mitchell, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Bloomfield
File No. 2022-009
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James B. Heffernan
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Tuttle, Fairfield
File No. 2023-026
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is marked off.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lawrence M. Riefberg, Danbury
File No. 2023-095
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

8. Draft Audit Reports

Attorney William B. Smith provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission refer to the enforcement unit numbers 1 & 2. So moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch by a vote of 5-0-0.

1. "Statchen for Connecticut," Robert Statchen
Attorney: William B. Smith
2. "Re-elect B. McGee," Brandon McGee
Attorney: William B. Smith
3. "Carla for CT," Carla Volpe
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

Director of Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final item number 3. So moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch by a vote of 5-0-0.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch at 11:22 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

April 17, 2024

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)