



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING**  
**Via Webex**  
**May 1, 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 Ajello, Bergquist, and Picuch 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 April 17, 2024*

Chairman Penny noted two edits to the minutes, appearing in Executive Session Items #7&8.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2024 as amended. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

*2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 24, 2024*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 24, 2024. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi provided two administrative updates to the Commission. First, SEEC staff continue to prepare for the forthcoming CEP grant application season. Upon review by staff, the Citizens' Election Fund has received all legally mandated deposits to date. Lastly, SEEC staff continue to monitor the legislative session. There is one week left until constitutional adjournment. Additionally, consensus revenue forecast came in significantly higher than anticipated.

**IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert H. Ficeto, Wolcott  
File No. 2023-019  
Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements

Respondents:

Joseph Gervase and  
Dawn Maiorano

Attorney:

James B. Heffernan

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney James B. Heffernan summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2023-019. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2023-019, pending receipt within 10 days. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Orders & Agreements will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin W. Coughlin, Branford  
File No. 2023-023  
Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements

Respondents:

James Cosgrove and  
Dennis Flanigan

Attorney:

James B. Heffernan

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney James B. Heffernan summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2023-023. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2023-023, pending receipt within 10 days. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Consent Orders & Agreements 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 Bergquist at 9:52 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, Bergquist, and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director & General Counsel, Shannon Clark Kief, Legal Program Director, Salman Munir, Director of Audit & Disclosure, Krysta Palozie, Renata Rydzewski, James B. Heffernan, Johnny Ross, III, William B. Smith, Stephanie Fish, Ronald Perry, Joshua Foley, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Melissa Moore-Ward, Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:19 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 April 26, 2024 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two (2) complaints, File No. 2024-033 and File No. 2024-035. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of the Senate Republican Leadership Committee  
File No. 2018-118

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-118. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-118. So

voted by a vote of 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by Troy Mitchell, ROV, Bloomfield  
File No. 2022-009  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James B. Heffernan  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

4. In re. Commission Initiated Investigation “Gibson PAC, Bobby Gibson, Jr.  
SEEC File No. 2024-029  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2024-0029. He recommended an expansion of the investigation.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the following motion: The scope of the initiated investigation into In re. Commission Initiated investigation into “Gibson PAC,” Bobby Gibson, Jr,” SEEC File No. 2024-029, shall be expanded to include exploration of the Gibson PAC’s operations, including, but not limited to, all activities involving contributions and efforts to comply with financial disclosure statement reporting requirements and to terminate the Gibson PAC. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

## ***VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session***

**VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 10:27 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

**May 15, 2024**

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)