



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex

Additional Methods to Attend This Meeting Include:

For public access please click: <https://facebook.com/ctseec/live>

WebEx Call-In Number: 1-401-418-9388

December 18, 2024

9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. Commissioners Ajello, Bergquist and Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

Commissioner Penny moves to amend the agenda to add a personnel matter. It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the adding a personnel matter onto the agenda. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 4, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 4, 2024. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Legal Program Director Kief advised that the compliance unit is sending out the last wave of post-election notices. These will include those committees not selected and completes the notices.

Kief reviewed that our documents are located on the SEEC website under “quick links” with information as to the bell curve and how districts were selected for the post-election lottery.

Kief announced that the Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi will be taking an early retirement to address ongoing health issues. Staff are all very sorry to see him go and wish him the best.

1. 2025 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the 2025 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

Commissioner Penny discussed the retirement of Executive Director Brandi. At the next meeting of January 8, 2024, the Commission will have to appoint an interim executive director for the agency. Penny advised that he has asked Charla Vincent, Human Resource Generalist 2, to speak to the Commission at the January 8th meeting as to what the procedure would look like in terms of identifying a replacement executive director.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to appoint Shannon Kief for a time period of January 1 to January 7 as interim executive director. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0

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 Piecuch at 9:42 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: Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Disclosure and Audit Director Salman Munir, Staff Attorneys William Smith, Zachary Jazlowiecki, Johnny Ross, III, Patricia Mwilwa, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Legal Investigator, Ron Perry, Information Technology Manager Mann Hasen, Analyst Renata Ryzewski, Election Officers Evelyn Dillon, Melissa Moore-Ward, Ashley Socquet and Commission Clerk Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 10:14 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 December 13, 2024 and requested that five (5) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to

five (5) complaints, File No. 2024-139; File No. 2024-153; File No. 2024-154; File No. 2024-155 and File No. 2024-156. So approved by the Commission 4-0-0. So voted.

Commissioner Penny advised (4) complaints, File No. 2024-129; File No. 2023-130; File No. 2024-131 and File No. 2024-135 are continued.

2. In re: a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2024-095

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to a henceforth in File No. 2024-095. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2024-095. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Tracy Barclay, Norwalk
File No. 2024-045

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2024-045. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2024-045. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In re. Referral by Avon Registrars of Voters, Ann Clark and Maria Mozzicato
File No. 2022-068

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Erin Cowles, Southington

File No. 2023-014

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The record reflects that Commissioner Picuch recused himself and was not present during the executive and public session discussions.

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-014. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Shannon Bergquist to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-014. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Picuch abstaining.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Laura Von Stein, Bridgeport

File No. 2023-055

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2023-055. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2023-055. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. In re: Referral by the Town Clerk, Waterbury

File No. 2024-096

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

8. In re: Referral by the Town Clerk, Glastonbury

File No. 2024-100

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jolene Lusitani & Kevin McCauley, Bristol
File No. 2024-153

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Withdrawal in File No. 2024-153. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Withdrawal.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to Withdraw File No. 2024-153. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

10. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Fishbein for Connecticut," Craig Fishbein
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany
2. "Andy 2022," Andrew Gottlieb
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany
3. "Rachel for CT149," Rachel Khanna
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany

Director of Campaign Audit and Disclosure Salman Munir provided an overview of the recommended draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make numbers 1 through 3 final audit reports. So moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. SEEC Legislative Proposals for the 2025 Legislative Session

Legal Program Director Kief provided a brief summary and overview of the legislative proposals. The matter is continued.

VI. *Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session*

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch at 10:46 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

January 8, 2025

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)