



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

5th Floor Conference Room

March 20, 2013

9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Anthony Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M. Commissioners Stephen Cashman, Joan Jenkins and Patricia Stankevicius were all present, agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 20, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2013 as amended. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi reported that the hiring freeze has left three open SEEC positions unfilled. SEEC staff continues to meet with legislative leadership, and testifying before the GAE and Appropriations Committees. Cutting the budget of a watchdog agency like SEEC would impact its autonomy and ability to ensure integrity in Connecticut's electoral process, as well as reduce public financing for qualified candidates to statewide offices and the General Assembly.

SEEC staff responding to eleven thousand inquiries last year only emphasizes the importance of watchdog agencies. Great customer service is provided by specialized attorneys and staff, which allow for the responses to be quick and efficient.

Mr. Brandi reported that SEEC's internship program was progressing, giving interns, on various levels, hands-on experience by assisting attorneys and staff.

Mr. Brandi updated the Commission that Microsoft Surface tablets were disbursed and are being used. The use of the tablets should be more effective and timely in allowing Commissioners to receive agenda and packets than through the mail.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Myrna E. Watanabe, Harwinton
File No. 2011-140A
Proposed Consent Agreement
Respondents: Bonnie Schaff Attorney: Patrick J.
Lamb Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-140A. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-140A. So voted. The proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Myrna E. Watanabe, Harwinton
File No. 2011-140B
Proposed Consent Agreement
Respondents: Michael Criss
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-140B. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-140B. So voted. The proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Myrna E. Watanabe, Harwinton
File No. 2011-140C
Findings and Conclusions
Respondents: Jon Truskauskas and Lisa Luciano
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-140C. He recommended adoption of the Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by

Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-140C. So voted. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by William L. Jenkins, Chaplin
File No. 2012-140
Proposed Consent Agreement
Respondent: Michael J. Grabel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-140. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-140. So voted. The proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Karen Jackson, Bridgeport
File No. 2012-171
Findings and Conclusions
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-171. He recommended adoption of the Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-171. So voted. The Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Minnie Gonzalez, Hartford
& Complaint by Ramon Arroyo, Hartford
File No. 2012-081 & File No. 2012-082
Proposed Consent Agreements
Respondent: Olga Iris Vasquez
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb, in place of Attorney Ahern, summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreements in File No. 2012-081 & File No. 2012-082. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreements in File No. 2012-081 & File No. 2012-082. So voted. The proposed Consent Agreements are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Susan Lavelli-Hozempa, Enfield
File No. 2010-070

Proposed Findings and Conclusions

Respondents: Mary Ann Turner and Jason Jones
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb, in place of Attorney Ahern, summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2010-070. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2010-070. So voted. The proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary-Ellen Vollemans, Bridgeport
File No. 2012-142

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondents: Alma L. Maya
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb, in place of Attorney Ahern, summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreements in File No. 2012-142. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreements in File No. 2012-142. So voted. The proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas C. Appleby, Norwalk
File No. 2012-165

Proposed Findings and Conclusions

Respondents: Richard Lowenstein, Bob Lasprogato and
Maria Cowden
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Lamb, in place of Attorney Ahern, summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No.

2012-165. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-165. So voted. The proposed Findings and Conclusions are 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 Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 9:55 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4) and (10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Castagno, Cashman, Jenkins and Stankevicius and were present. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Shannon Kief, Evelyn Gratacos, Lindsey Leung, Marianne Sadowski, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Patrick Lamb, Gilberto Oyola, Lisa Nightingale, Nancy Staniewicz, Paige Adams, Scott Branfuhr, Matt Pribula, Jamie McGee, Mann Hasen, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 11:22 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

1. In Re: SEEC Initiated “Daviddenvir 2010,” Hartford
File No. 2011-144
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charles Urso

This matter is continued.

2. In Re: SEEC Initiated “Knapp 109,” Hartford
File No. 2011-145
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charles Urso

This matter is continued.

3. In Re: SEEC Initiated “Friends of Gerry Garcia,” Hartford
File No. 2012-072

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator: Charles Urso

This matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lesa C. Peters, Woodbury
File No. 2012-001

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lesa C. Peters, Woodbury
File No. 2012-002

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lesa C. Peters, Woodbury
File No. 2012-003

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Martin Murray, Ridgefield
File No. 2013-006

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith

This matter is continued.

8. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination
pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48
§300

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by
Commissioner Jenkins to move to make a determination that it is

necessary to investigate violations relating to 15 complaints in File Nos.: 2013-007, 2013-008, 2013-009, 2013-010, 2013-011, 2013-012, 2013-014, 2013-015, 2013-016, 2013-017, 2013-018, 2013-019, 2013-020, 2013-021; and that it is no longer necessary to investigate File No. 2013-037, and no further action will be taken. So voted.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carolyn Thornberry, West Hartford
File No. 2012-122

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2012-122. He recommended adoption of proposed Recommendation of Counsel.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2012-122. So voted.

10. Non-Filer Investigations and Prosecutions

- a. General Settlement Authorization for Supplemental Filers for the 2012 General Election Cycle and a Determination that Such Filers are Necessary to Investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to provide a general authorization to settle non-filer and candidate non-filer matters as detailed in the memorandum dated July 19 2012. So voted.

11. In a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2012-187

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

VI. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 11:26 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is April 17, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.