



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**March 9, 2016**  
**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Salvatore Bramante, Stephen Penny and Michael Ajello were present. Commissioner Patricia Stankevicius was absent. Agency staff was also present.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to add item numbered 28: File No. 2014-171 to the Executive Session, by a 4-0-0 vote.

***II. Approval of the Minutes***

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2016*

Commissioner asked for one administrative change to be made to the minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2016 regular meeting, as amended, by a 4-0-0 vote.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Executive Director Brandi updated the commission on how the staff is closely watching the state budget and its inevitable impact on the agency. Mr. Brandi is having meetings with legislators to explain how the SEEC has already handled a series of budget cuts. The staff has implemented LEAN principles, made processes electronic and trained to serve the Commission in multiple capacities. The staffing and budget have been cut as far as the SEEC could possibly manage.

For personnel, the SEEC has 2 vacancies, but there has been no movement at the Office of Policy and Management to fulfill requests to post for exams or for the openings.

Executive Director Brandi also attended an Editorial Board meeting with the leaders of State Ethics and the Freedom of Information Commission at the New Haven Register.

For the 2016 election cycle, the SEEC has 157 Candidate Committees registered and 65 have already declared that they intend to participate in the Citizens' Election Program.

The staff are also closely monitoring the 2016 Legislative Session. The staff submitted proposals which address the coordinated spender language, require electronic filing, and creates a study to include candidates for Judge of Probate in the Citizens' Election Program. All 3 of these proposals, as well as potential changes to agency structure and authority have been included in bills that may eventually go before the House or Senate.

There have been 21 applications from towns and cities to participate in the Municipal Pilot Program, with one still waiting for the local governing body's approval. The applicants provide a diverse collection of large cities to small towns, all with varying types of local government. The commission staff is pleased to recommend these 20 municipalities to participate in the Commission's Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings for the 2017 election cycle: Cheshire, Colchester, East Haddam, East Haven, Hamden, Killingworth, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, Monroe, New Britain, New Hartford, Norwich, Pomfret, Scotland, Simsbury, Stonington, Trumbull, West Hartford, and Westport. The Town of Durham shall serve as an alternate pending legislative body approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the 20 towns, plus the 21<sup>st</sup> as an alternate, to participate in the 2017 Municipal Pilot Program. So approved by a 4-0-0 vote.

#### ***IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations***

##### ***A. Public Session***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Claire D'Appolonio, Windham  
File No. 2015-148

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:	Steven Dunn
Attorney:	William B. Smith
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-148. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-148. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In re: SEEC Initiated Kearney 2011

File No. 2012-068  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Respondent: Andrew V. Bivens  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-068. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-068 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. 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 Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny at 10:47 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.

Commissioners Castagno, Bramante, Ajello and Penny were present. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Kevin Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Ryan Burns, Sarah Clark, Joshua Foley, Evelyn Gratacos, Shannon Kief, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Lindsey Leung, Gilberto Oyola, James Talbert-Slagle, Marianne Sadowski, William Smith and Linda Waterman.

The Commission returned to public session at 1:45 P.M.

Following a short recess the Commission took the following actions in public session:

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Janet L. Aiken, Clinton  
File No. 2015-181  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-181. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-181 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria Pereira and Claude Young, Bridgeport  
File No. 2014-093

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-093. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-093. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria Valle, Bridgeport  
File No. 2013-137

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

6. In the matter of a Complaint by Curtis W. Dowling, Andover  
File No. 2015-028

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

7. In re: Referral of the Ledyard Town Clerk  
File No. 2013-002

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

8. In re: SEEC Initiated John Console for 28<sup>th</sup> District  
File No. 2014-015

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Danelle L. Feeley, East Haven  
File No. 2015-122  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2015-122. He recommended the addition of a respondent to the case investigation.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to add Michael J. London and Associates as a potential respondent to File No. 2015-122. So voted by a vote 3-0-1, with Commissioner Castagno abstaining.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jerry Labriola, Wallingford  
File No. 2014-126  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

11. In re: SEEC Initiated: Christina Ayala and Santa Ayala, Hartford  
File No. 2012-237  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

The matter is continued.

12. In re: Referral of the Secretary of the State, Hartford  
File No. 2014-156  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Commissioner Bramante recused himself from discussion on this matter.

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2014-156. He recommended the Commission expand and initiate further investigation.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to expand the investigation to include an inquiry into whether the registrars of

voters failed to perform their duties under 9-322a and 9-228a in the 2014 general election. So voted by a vote 3-0-1, with Commissioner Bramante abstaining.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to initiate an investigation whether the Hartford head moderator failed to perform the duties of the head moderator under 9-322a in the 2014 general election. So voted by a vote 3-0-1, with Commissioner Bramante abstaining.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Tracy Morrissey, West Haven  
File No. 2013-170B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-170B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-170B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

14. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Tyszyka, Simsbury  
File No. 2014-132

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Smith, Milford  
File No. 2014-133

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lawrence Brick, West Hartford  
File No. 2014-134

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

17. In the Matter of a Complaint by Catherine Thomas, Grosvenordale  
File No. 2014-137  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

18. In the Matter of a Complaint by Edward Sabatino, East Haven  
File No. 2014-138  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

19. In the Matter of a Complaint by Eileen Cranney, Prospect  
File No. 2014-139  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

20. In the Matter of a Complaint by Danielle Palladino, Torrington  
File No. 2014-141  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

21. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sheila Hayes, Norwich  
File No. 2014-142  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

22. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arleen Kline, Farmington  
File No. 2014-136, File No. 2014-144, and File No. 2014- 149  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

23. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ernie DiPietro, Cheshire  
File No. 2014-150  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

24. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Mazurek, Wolcott  
File No. 2014-170  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

25. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mark Dumas, Milford  
File No. 2015-088  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

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

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated February 25, 2016. He requested that one (1) matter be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No.: 2016-007. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

27. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "ARCE 2014," Angel Arce  
Examiner: Amit Shah
2. "Brycki for 45<sup>th</sup> District," Paul Brycki  
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
3. "Candelora for State Rep.," Vincent Candelora  
Examiner: Amit Shah
4. "Switch to Rich," Richard Fredette

Examiner: Karen Walauskas

5. "French for Senate 2014," John French

Examiner: Dinorah Collade

6. "Godfrey 2014," Bob Godfrey

Examiner: Krysta Holmes

7. "Tim Legeyt for the 17<sup>th</sup> District," Tim Legeyt

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

8. "Arthur O'Neill State Representative," Arthur O'Neill

Examiner: Ergys Guni

9. "Simanski 2014," William Simanski

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

10. "Stallworth for State Representative," Charles Stallworth

Examiner: Salman Munir

11. "Stoddard for State Representative," Patty Stoddard

Examiner: Krysta Holmes

12. "David Watts 2014," David Watts (Exploratory Committee)

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

13. "David A. Watts 2014," David Watts

Examiner: Matthew Lombardi

14. "Terrie Wood 2014," Terrie Wood

Examiner: Karen Walauskas

15. "Mark Z for CT," Mark Zydanowicz

Examiner: Krysta Holmes

16. "Rodriguez for State Rep. 2014," Ruben Rodriguez

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audits and recommended that the Commission make audits numbered 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 final, so moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

Attorney Talbert-Slagle proposed item 16 be referred to the Law Enforcement Unit for investigation. So moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

28. In the Matter of a Complaint by Gregory Cann Stratford  
File No. 2014-171  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

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

All action as noted in Section V. above.

**VII. *Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 1:57 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016 at Hartford, Connecticut.

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Anthony J. Castagno  
By Order of the Commission