



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Draft Minutes
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

5th Floor Conference Room

May 15, 2013

9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Anthony Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Commissioner Stephen Cashman was present and Commissioners Joan Jenkins and Patricia Stankevicius were present via teleconference, agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Cashman to approve the Minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting as amended. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi reported that there is a surplus in SEEC's budget due to conserving purchases and staff vacancies, which is good news. More good news is that the Citizens Election Fund has over \$20 Million for future elections.

There is a special election being held in June in House District 52.

Mr. Brandi reports that personnel wise, there remains three unfilled SEEC positions. These positions include that of a Director of Finance and Disclosure, an Accounts Examiner and a Fiscal Administrative Officer. All of which SEEC is trying to fill.

The Information Technology team is working on an integrated audit function for the SEEC website. The team is also working on making more comprehensive information available to the public.

The legislative bill for a pilot program for municipal campaign filings has passed in the House and will be voted on in the Senate. Two other bills are awaiting the House and Senate for approval, which relate to prior bad acts and commissioner appointments.

SEEC staff is working closely with the Secretary of the State's Office staff on election bills and trying to move them forward.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Consideration of Hearing Officer's Reports

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Disclosure and audit Unit of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

File No. 2012-211 NF

Hearing Officer: Michael J. Brandi

Respondent: Jonathan Kastner

Prosecutor: Patrick J. Lamb

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report and proposed final decision in File No. 2012-211 NF. Attorney Lamb recommended an amendment to change all three reports regarding the wording of precisely who represented the state in these matters. He also recommended adoption of the proposed final decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the amendment in File No. 2012-211 NF. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to add a line to the proposed final decision for File No. 2012-211 NF, which stated that upon satisfaction of the signed final decision, SEEC will not refer the case to the Attorney General's Office for civil penalty enforcement. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed final decision in File No. 2012-211 NF. So voted. The final decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Disclosure and audit Unit of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

File No. 2012-231 NF

Hearing Officer: Michael J. Brandi

Respondent: Wayne H. Knight

Prosecutor: Patrick J. Lamb

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report and proposed final decision in File No. 2012-231 NF. He recommended adoption of the proposed final decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Cashman to adopt the proposed final decision in File No. 2012-231 NF. So

voted. The final decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Disclosure and audit Unit of the State Elections Enforcement Commission
File No. 2012-220 NF
Hearing Officer: Michael J. Brandi
Respondent: Stephanie L. Savoy
Prosecutor: Patrick J. Lamb

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report and proposed final decision in File No. 2012-220 NF. He recommended adoption of the proposed final decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Cashman to adopt the proposed final decision in File No. 2012-220 NF. So voted. The final decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

B. Public Session

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by John S. McGinnis, Bridgeport
File No. 2012-172
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Respondent: City of Bridgeport
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-172. 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. 2012-172. So voted. The Proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lesa C. Peters, Woodbury
File No. 2012-003
Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements
Respondents: T.J. Brennan and Susan Scott
Attorney: William B. Smith

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreements in File No. 2012-003. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreement in File No. 2012-003, as related to T.J. Brennan. So voted. The Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreement in File No. 2012-003, as related to Susan Scott, upon receipt within 10 days of the signed Consent Order & Agreement. So voted. The Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jonathan Pelto, Storrs
File No. 2012-150
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Respondent: Lillian Wade
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-150. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-150. So voted. The Proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In Re: a Referral by Therese Pac, Town Clerk Bristol
File No. 2012-163
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondent: Nicole Douglin
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-163. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Cashman to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-163. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In Re: a Referral by John T. Coffindaffer, Oxford
File No. 2012-075
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Nicole Douglin
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-075. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-075. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Janice A. Gionfriddo, Middletown, Registrar of Voters
File No. 2013-015
Proposed Findings and Conclusions

Respondent: Dawn R. Wilson Jones
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-015. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-015. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Deborah Evangelista, West Haven
File No. 2010-039
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Michelle Hufcut
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-039. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-039. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Evelyn Louziotis, New London
File No. 2011-152

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-152. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-152. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

12. In Re a Referral of the Wilton Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters

File No. 2012-168

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondent:

John F. Hartner

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-168. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Agreement upon receipt within 10 days in File No. 2012-168. So voted. The Proposed Consent Agreement will be available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

13. In Re a Referral of the Secretary of the State, Hartford

File No. 2012-187

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondent:

George M. Souto, Moderator

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-187. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-187. So voted. The Proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

14. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ruth Sussler, New London
File No. 2011-153

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Edward DeMuzzio
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2011-153. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2011-153. So voted. The Proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Phoebe Sussler Pilj, New London
File No. 2011-154

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Edward DeMuzzio
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2011-154. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2011-154. So voted. The Proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carole Dmytryshak, Salisbury
File No. 2012-197

Proposed Findings and Conclusions

Respondent: Vivian Nasiatka
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-197. He recommended adoption of the updated Proposed Findings and Conclusions, replacing the older version.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to vacate the older version of the Proposed Findings and Conclusions, and adopt the updated Proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2012-

197. So voted. The updated Proposed Findings and Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

17. In re Audit of “*Friends of Gerry Garcia*,” Hartford

File No. 2012-072

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondents: Ronald Petronella
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-072. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-072. So voted. The Proposed Consent Agreement is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

18. In re Audit of “*Friends of Gerry Garcia*,” Hartford

File No. 2012-072

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondents: Gerry Garcia
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2012-072. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Agreement upon receipt within 10 days in File No. 2012-072. So voted. The Proposed Consent Agreement is 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 Stankevicius at 10:10 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 and Cashman were present and Commissioners Jenkins and Stankevicius were present via teleconference. Staff members present were, Kevin Ahern, Michael Brandi, Shannon Kief, Evelyn Gratacos, Lindsey Leung, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Patrick Lamb, Hy Ly, Gilberto Oyola, Paige Adams, Charlie Urso, Scott Branfuhr, Matt Pribula, Mann Hasen, and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:40 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

1. In Re: OTS Referrals Killingly Town Clerk and Stratford Town Clerk
File Nos. 2012-166 & 2012-167
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patrick Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carmen Cordero, Hartford
File No. 2011-141
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary Rydingsward, Bristol
File No. 2012-135
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Hector Lopez, David A. Bedell, et al,
New Canaan
File No. 2013-018
Request for Order
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola & Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Request for Order in File No. 2013-018. He recommended adoption of the Request for Order.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Request for Order in File No. 2013-018. So voted.

The Request for Order is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lesa C. Peters, Woodbury
File No. 2012-004
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

6. 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 Stankevicius to move to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to three complaints in File Nos.: 2013-040, 2013-041 and 2013-042. So voted.

VI. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Cashman and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:43 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this _____ day of June, 2013 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Anthony J. Castagno
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is June 19, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.