



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

5th Floor Conference Room

June 27, 2012

9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman was present and called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. Commissioners Anthony Castagno, Joan Jenkins were present and Commissioner Patricia Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 23, 2012

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 31, 2012

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2012

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the Minutes of the May 23, 2012 Regular Meeting, the May 31, 2012 Regular Meeting, the June 6, 2012 Regular Meeting and the June 13, 2012 Regular Meeting. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi updated the Commission on budget information. SEEC will be ending fiscal year 12 with a surplus, however will have a shortfall for fiscal year 13. Mr. Brandi advised that budget adjustments will have to address by the second quarter.

Mr. Brandi reported that SEEC has permission to hire 3 new accounts examiners. He anticipates hiring within the next day or two and have new hires start by July 13, 2012.

Regarding the Citizens Election Program, the number of registered candidate committees is 393, and almost 200 have filed as participating in the program. Mr. Brandi expresses that he is pleased with how the entire agency has been responding and been pulling together as a team during the 2012 application season.

Mr. Brandi advised that Shannon Kief has been participating with legislators and has been asked to respond to questions regarding the disclosure act.

IV. *Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund*

1. "Sue Brand For State Rep.," Susan R. Brand

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to approve the grant application for "Sue Brand For State Rep.," Susan R. Brand. So voted.

2. "Carpino 2012," Christie Carpino

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to approve the grant application for "Carpino 2012," Christie Carpino. So voted.

3. "Re-Elect Grogins 2012," Auden Grogins

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the grant application for "Re-Elect Grogins 2012," Auden Grogins. So voted.

4. "Committee to Elect Cheryl Lounsbury," Cheryl Lounsbury

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the grant application for "Committee to Elect Cheryl Lounsbury," Cheryl Lounsbury. So voted.

5. "Hampton 2012," John K. Hampton

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the grant application for "Hampton 2012," John K. Hampton. So voted.

6. "Elect Walko 2012," Stephen G. Walko

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the grant application for "Elect Walko 2012," Stephen G. Walko. So voted.

7. "Guy Darter for a Better Connecticut," Guy Darter

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Guy Darter for a Better Connecticut,” Guy Darter. So voted.

8. “Reynolds for Senate,” Tom Reynolds

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Reynolds for Senate,” Tom Reynolds. So voted.

Following a short recess, the Commission s

V. *Pending Complaints and Investigations*

A. *Public Session*

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jason Bartlett, Bridgeport

File No. 2011-107

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents: Santa I. Ayala

Attorney: Kevin Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Evelyn Cruz, Hartford

File No. 2012-029

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents: Clorinda Soldevilla

Attorney: Kevin Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-029. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-029. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by George H. Millerd, Kensington
File No. 2010-074
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Robert Weber
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-074. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-074. So voted. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

4. In the matter of a Complaint by Valerie Friedman, Washington
File No. 2011-074
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed a Reason to Believe finding in File No. 2011-074.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno that the commission finds a Reason to Believe Finding in File No. 2011-107. So voted.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by George A. Ruhe, Wethersfield
File No. 2012-047
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents:
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-047. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-047. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

6. Non-Filer Investigations and Prosecutions

- a. Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Proposed Findings for a Reason to Believe a Violation has been Committed Concerning Delinquent Filings, Violations Under Section 9-608(a) (1). Based upon referrals by the SEEC Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno that the Commission finds reason to believe that respondents violated Connecticut General Statute 9-908(a) and that a hearing officer be designated for File Nos. 2012-057NF, 2012-061NF and 2012-064NF. So voted. Chairman Cashman designated Michael J. Brandi as Hearing Officer for the above matters.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Devon Pfeifer, Fairfield
File No. 2010-131

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents: John Shannon, Treasurer
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-131. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-131. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Nancy W. Riella, Colchester
File No. 2011-095

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents: Timothy Gilman, Chair
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-095. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-095. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sonia Cruz, Hartford
File No. 2012-031
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents: Maria Ayala
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-031. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-031. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

10. In re: SEEC Initiated: "DeFronzo for State Senate"
File No. 2012-026
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Suzanne Bielinski
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-026. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2010-131. So voted. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

11. In re: SEEC Initiated: "Committee To Elect Romano" - Audit Findings
File No. 2012-036
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents: Brian J. Smith, Treasurer
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-036. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to adopt the proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-036. So voted. The proposed Consent Order & Agreement are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

VI. *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 Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno at 9:38 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 relating thereto, listed as items 1 through 9 and audit item 1 on the agenda. So voted.

Commissioners Cashman, Castagno and Jenkins were present and Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Lindsey Leung, Marianne Sadowski, William B. Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, John Neumon, Patrick J. Lamb, Charlie Urso, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Evelyn Gratacos and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:48 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session the Commission took the following action:

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the issuance of the aforementioned committee draft Audit Report 1 as Final Audit Report. So voted.

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lisa Carver, New Britain
File No. 2010-016
Request for Subpoena
Attorney: Kevin Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to authorize the Request for Investigatory Subpoena in File No. 2010-016. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Pasquale Salemi, East Hartford
File No. 2010-091
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents: Elvira Albert, George Ingraham and
Thomas Filomena
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by George A. Ruhe, Wethersfield
File No. 2012-045
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to move to dismiss the complaint in File No. 2012-045. So voted.

4. In re: SEEC Initiated, Bridgeport
File No. 2012-049
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard R. White, Trumbull
File No. 2011-142
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Burke, Bethel
File No. 2011-127
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Respondents: Matthew S. Knickerbocker
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Burke, Bethel
File No. 2011-128
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Respondents: Matthew S. Knickerbocker
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Burke, Bethel
File No. 2011-129
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Respondents: Matthew S. Knickerbocker
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

9. 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 Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to move to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to 6 complaints in File Nos.: 2012-067, 2012-073, 2012-074, 2012-075, 2012-076 and 2012-077. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to move to make a determination that no further investigation is necessary relating to 2 complaints in File Nos.: 2008-037NF and 2012-076. So voted.

Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. “The Committee to Re-Elect State Senator Eric D. Coleman,”
Treasurer: Martin John
Examiner: Salman Munir

VII. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(A), (B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(2)*
(Discussion of personnel matters)

No votes were taken.

VIII. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:51 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is July 5, 2012 at 4:00 P.M. via teleconference in the 5th Floor Conference room.