



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Draft Minutes
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

5th Floor Conference Room
September 18, 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. Commissioners, Patricia Stankevicius, Salvatore Bramante and Stephen Penny were present, agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno introduced and swore in Salvatore A. Bramante as a Commissioner of SEEC. Commissioner Bramante thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 21, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2013 Regular Meeting. So voted. Commissioner Bramante abstained from voting.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi reported that all SEEC positions have been filled. Linda Waterman has started as Director of Campaign Disclosure & Audit, and Henry Herschkorn has started as SEEC's Fiscal Administrative Officer. SEEC will now be moving forward to fill one vacancy just created.

Mr. Brandi advised that regarding the budget SEEC is on target. SEEC is looking to additional savings and monitor line items very closely. Staff raises go into effect for all union personnel this month. SEEC is looking to other capital items that may need to be purchased especially in the IT department.

Mr. Brandi updated that the October filings are upcoming in the next few weeks.

Mr. Brandi and staff attended the recent town clerk's association conference. SEEC's Municipal Program concept was discussed again and was well received by the town clerks. This will be added to the legislative session again this year.

Mr. Brandi updated that the legislative agenda is being compiled and moving forward. SEEC staff will have a brief legislative agenda for the Commission to review at the October meeting. This is a short session and there are some items that came out of the public finance bill that we're going to look to and see if we can clarify.

Mr. Brandi reported on the primary election day hotline. The hotline worked well and served for the 22 cities and towns that were holding primaries. It was well received by the public.

The Audit Unit has been working hard to complete the 2012 audits and remaining 2010 audits including the Gubernatorial audits. There was a little bit of a lag due to lack of personnel and the size of the statewide campaigns. The team is working diligently to get these done.

IT has been working on continual improvements to eCRIS.

Motion to add Declaratory Ruling *Administration of Independent Expenditure Disclosure Requirements* to the agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to add the Declaratory Ruling to public session of the agenda as item *IIIa*. So voted.

IIIa. Attorney Kief summarized the Consideration of Proposed Declaratory Ruling – *Administration of Independent Expenditure Disclosure Requirements*. She recommended proceeding and opening the Declaratory Ruling for public comment.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to initiate a proceeding for Declaratory Ruling on how to interpret the phrase “90 days before the day of a primary or election” as it relates to the disclosure and disclaimer provisions of public act 13-180 when it not always possible to know whether there will be a primary within the specified time period. The comment period for the Declaratory Ruling will run from September 18, 2013 to November 6, 2013. So voted.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Tina Gardner and Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Wilton, File No. 2012-175
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent:
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jonathan Pelto, Storrs,
File No. 2012-190
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent:
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stanley Heller and Lou Ann Villani,
West Haven
File No. 2013-017
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent:
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Scott Branfuhr and Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

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 Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 9:36 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, Bramante, Stankevicius and Penny were present. Staff members present were, Kevin Ahern, Michael Brandi, Shannon Kief, Evelyn Gratacos, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Patrick Lamb, Josh Foley, Scott Branfuhr, Charlie Urso, Linda Waterman and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 11:12 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session the Commission took the following action:

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Darlene F. Burrell and Lynn F. Joyal,
Suffield

File No. 2013-075
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigators: Scott Branfuhr and Gilberto Oyola

This matter is continued.

2. *In re: SEEC Initiated* “Aldarondo 2010,” Hartford
File No. 2012-025
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter is continued.

3. *In re: SEEC Initiated* “Robles 2010,” Hartford
File No. 2012-037
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter is continued.

4. *In re: SEEC Initiated* “Kearny 2011,” Hartford
File No. 2012-068
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jonathan Gilman, Bozrah
File No. 2012-095
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter is continued.

6. *In re. SEEC Initiated* “Friends of Farah,” Hartford
File No. 2012-122
Request for a Hearing Date and Appointment of Hearing Officer

Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above Request for a Hearing Date and Appointment of Hearing Officer in File No. 2012-122. He requested a hearing date be set and hearing officer be appointed.

The following motion was approved in public session. It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to appoint Commissioner Stephen Penny as Hearing Officer and a hearing date be set in accordance with the schedule of Commissioner Penny in File No. 2012-122. So voted.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Peter Bass, New Milford
File No. 2012-157
Proposed Consent Order and Agreement

Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Peter Bass, New Milford
File Nos. 2012-158 & 162
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File Nos. 2012-158 & 162. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

The following motion was approved in public session. It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File Nos. 2012-158 & 162. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Adrean Rodriguez, East Hartford
File No. 2012-233
Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-233. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

The following motion was approved in public session. It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2012-233. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Arthur J. Scialabba, Norwalk
File No. 2013-005
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-005. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

The following motion was approved in public session. It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-005. So voted. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In the matters of File Nos. 2013-113NF and 2013-115NF, pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, a Request for a Finding of Reason to Believe Violations of General Statutes § 9-608 Have Been Committed.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius that the Commission finds reason to believe that respondents violated Connecticut General Statutes § 9-608 for File Nos. 2013-113NF and 2013-115NF. So voted.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Santino, Hamden
File No. 2013-042
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and the matter is continued.

In addition, Attorney Ahern made a Request to Expand the Existing Investigation to include possible violations committed by Voters for Good Government, Inc., a registered Delaware Corporation.

The following motion was approved in public session. It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt pursuant to its authority under General Statutes 9-7b, and authorize the Request to Expand the Existing Investigation to include Voters for Good Government, Inc., a registered Delaware Corporation as a respondent in File No. 2013-042. So voted.

13. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) as included in the memorandum dated September 11, 2013.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to eleven complaints in File Nos. 2013-111, 2013-112, 2013-116, 2013-117, 2013-118, 2013-119, 2013-120, 2013-121, 2013-122, 2013-123 and 2013-124 as included in the memorandum dated September 11, 2013. So voted.

Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the issuance of the following committee draft Audit Report numbers 1-20 on this agenda as Final Audit reports. So voted.

1. "Campaign McCrory 2010," Douglas McCrory
Examiner: Salman Munir
2. "Friends of Gerry Garcia," Gerald Garcia
Examiner: Salman Munir
3. "Merrill For Secretary Of The State," Denise W. Merrill
Examiner: Salman Munir
4. "Genga 2012," Henry J. Genga
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Betsy Ritter 2012," Elizabeth B. Ritter
Examiner: Karen Moreira

6. "Siragusa 2012," Tony Siragusa
Examiner: Karen Moreira
7. "Kiner 2012," David W. Kiner
Examiner: Karen Moreira
8. "David Aldarondo 2012," David Aldarondo
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
9. "Betts For 78th State Rep.," Whit Betts
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
10. "Friends of Brendan '12," Brendan Sharkey
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
11. "Winfield 2012," Gary A. Winfield
Examiner: Karen Moreira
12. "Gentile 2012," Linda M. Gentile
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
13. "Committee To Elect Mitch For Newtown State Rep. 2012," Mitch Bolinsky
Examiner: Karen Moreira
14. "Billie Miller 2012," Patricia Billie Miller
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
15. "Friends of Altobello," Emil "Buddy" Altobello
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
16. "The Committee to Elect Mary Fritz," Mary G. Fritz
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
17. "Committee To Re-Elect David Baram," David A. Baram
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
18. "Simanski 2012," William J. Simanski
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
19. "Guy Darter For a Better Connecticut," Guy F. Darter
Examiner: Kristina Corbett
20. "Thompson 2012," Chad Thompson
Examiner: Kristina Corbett

VI. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 11:20 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is October 16, 2013 in the 5th Floor Conference room.