



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  
October 20, 2015  
9:00 A.M.

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. Commissioners Salvatore Bramante, Stephen Penny and Michael Ajello were present. 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 September 15, 2015*

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2015 regular meeting by a 5-0-0 vote.

***III. Administrative Reports***

Director Brandi introduced Doug Frost, the new Information Technology Manager for SEEC.

In terms of personnel, SEEC is fully staffed at a 35 complement. There are things to deal with related to an attorney who is on a leave of absence and adjust workflow amongst remaining attorneys. In the last two months SEEC has seen an increase in complaints and are trying to process them as quickly as possible.

Budget wise, SEEC is on target. We are keeping a close watch on our expenditures and operating budget. We are looking at 2017 to see if any changes are forthcoming. As of right now, we are watching all of our items, we are looking for the availability of bond funds for IT improvements. At this point in time we have been told that there are no bond funds available, so we will be looking at operating budget very closely to make sure that we can purchase the necessary items to keep our hardware infrastructure functioning and able to deliver for the public.

Staff is starting to gear up for the CEP season, we are starting to look at trainings, and all functions internally that will make this another successful year of the Citizens' Election Program. The American Prospect wrote an article about the success of the program over the past four elections, so we are very proud to see an article like that.

SEEC's IT group has been working very diligently to get everything moved to the new Groton Data Center. The move there has been an incredibly difficult process, but they have done an incredible job getting it done and making sure that we have not been down and that the systems have been available for the public and our internal processes. Amjad has been leading this effort over the past several months and Doug is now leading that effort and taking over those responsibilities.

Upcoming legislation, Commission Staff will have proposals for next month with recommendations for the Commission to adopt. A lot of them will be centered around the coordinated spender language which we tried to push through the committees last year and we will try to raise those issues again as well as any other proposals we see necessary to correct any issues relating to the program or campaign finance in general.

**IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Consideration of Hearing Officer's Report**

1. In the Matter of a Referral by a SEEC Elections Officer

File Nos. 2014-180NF and 2014-194NF

Proposed Final Decision

Respondent:

Allen Friedrich

Hearing Officer:

Michael J. Brandi

Prosecutor:

Ryan M. Burns

Hearing Officer Brandi summarized the above referenced report in File Nos. 2014-180NF and 2014-194NF. He recommended adoption of the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Final Decision in File Nos. 2014-180NF and 2014-194NF. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. The Final Decision will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

**B. Public Session**

2. In re: Audit of *Guglielmo for State Senate*, Hartford

File No. 2012-035

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Anthony Guglielmo

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-035. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-035. So voted

by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In re: Audit of *Miron 2010*, Hartford  
File No. 2012-051  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondents: David P. Fuller  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-051. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-051. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In re: Audit of *Keeley 2011*, Hartford  
File No. 2012-069  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Robert Keeley and Mary Jo Keeley  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-069. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2012-069. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ethan Book, Bridgeport  
File No. 2014-002  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondents: James A. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye and Jack O. Banta  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2014-002. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-002. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Zachary Sanders, Hartford  
File No. 2014-091

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:

Dianna J. Kulmacz and Denise L.  
Nappier

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter was marked off. No action taken.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Natalie B. Billing, Mystic  
File No. 2014-140

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:

John F. Scott and Susan K. Jones,  
Treasurer

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-140. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-140. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ashley M. Gillece, Pawcatuck  
File No. 2014-206

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Michael J. Spellman, George A.  
Crouse and Robert R. Simmons

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2014-206. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2014-206. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Orders & Agreements will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alfred P. Mayo, New Britain  
File No. 2015-005  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Peter J. Gostin  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-005. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-005. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Colchester Registrars of Voters, Dorothy A. Mrowka and Diana Giles, Colchester  
File No. 2014-070  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Bette J. Nicotera  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-070. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-070. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In re: SEEC Initiated Investigation based upon Findings Regarding Possible Straw Contributions by Employees of “Matt Smith”  
File No. 2014-165  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent:  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter was marked off. No action taken.

12. In the matter of a Complaint by Shane P. Reichle, Stafford Springs  
File No. 2015-008  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Edward Muska  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-008. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-008. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. Commissioner Penny recused himself from this matter. The Consent Order & Agreement 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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:47 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. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Kevin Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Marianne Sadowski, Lindsey Leung, Gilberto Oyola, William Smith, James Talbert-Slagle, Ryan Burns, Joshua Foley, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Doug Frost and Linda Waterman.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:29 A.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. Request for a Finding of Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes § 9-608, § 9-604 or § 9-712 Has Been Committed Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced request for a finding of reason to believe in four (4) non-filer matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to accept the findings and refer four (4) matters to a hearing in File Nos. 2015-108NF, 2015-109NF, 2015-112NF and 2015-075SF. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

2. Request that Matters be Authorized for Referral to the Attorney General for Nonpayment of Outstanding Civil Penalties

File No. 2014-104NF

Respondent:

Jason Walsh

Attorney:

Ryan Burns

Non-Compliance with Final Decision

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced matter. Attorney Burns recommended the Commission authorize a referral to the Office of the Attorney General for collection of outstanding civil penalties in File No. 2014-104NF.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to refer File No. 2014-104 to the Office of the Attorney General. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

Attorney Burns summarized File Nos. 2014-175NF and 2014-021NF. Attorney Burns recommended the Commission Move to Dismiss, without prejudice File Nos. 2014-175NF and 2014-021NF.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to dismiss without prejudice File Nos. 2014-175NF and 2014-021NF. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

Attorney Burns summarized Consideration of Draft Audit Report item 13.15, "Citizens for Lee Whitnum," Lee Whitnum. Attorney Burns recommended the Commission authorize an investigation based upon the audit findings presented, but based on the unique facts in this matter and the limited agency resources available, also direct that such case be dismissed without prejudice.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the recommendation of counsel authorizing an investigation and dismiss without prejudice Draft Audit Report item 13.15. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Eric Fanwick, Wilton  
File No. 2014-146  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-146. Attorney Ahern presented as an information only item in which no votes were taken.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kirk Carr, Clinton  
File No. 2015-032  
Recommendation of Counsel of Findings & Conclusions  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-032. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-032. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, Middletown  
File No. 2015-048  
Recommendation of Counsel of Findings & Conclusions  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-048. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-048. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In re: SEEC Initiated: Christina Ayala and Santa Ayala, Hartford  
File No. 2012-237

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern

This matter is continued. No action taken.

7. 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

This matter is continued. No action taken.

8. Request that Matter be Authorized for Referral to the Attorney General for  
Non-Payment of Outstanding Reimbursements to Citizens' Election Fund and  
Civil Penalties

File No. 2010-114

Respondents: Angel Morales and Jason Lopez

Attorney: James Talbert Slagle

Non-Compliance with Final Decision

Attorney Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced matter. Attorney Talbert-Slagle recommended the Commission authorize a referral to the Office of the Attorney General for collection of outstanding civil penalties in File No. 2010-114.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the recommendation of counsel and refer File No. 2010-114 to the Office of the Attorney General. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Frank Capone, East Haven  
File No. 2015-106

Recommendation of Counsel of Findings & Conclusions

Attorney: William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-106. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-

106. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sean Murphy, Woodbury  
File No. 2015-033  
Recommendation of Counsel of Findings & Conclusions  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-033. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-033. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In re: SEEC Initiated Non-Filer Citizens for Lee Whitnum, Hartford  
File Nos. 2014-175NF and 2015-021NF  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Respondent: Jason Walsh  
Attorneys: William B. Smith/Ryan Burns

*See Sec. V.2. as these matters were combined.*

12. 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 October 15, 2015 and requested that 15 matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to fifteen (15) complaints File Nos.: 2015-120, 2015-121, 2015-122, 2015-123, 2015-124, 2015-125, 2015-126, 2015-127, 2015-128, 2015-129, 2015-132, 2015-133, 2015-134, 2015-135 and 2015-136. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

13. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Jepsen 2014," George Jepsen  
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
2. "Vote Musto 2014," Anthony Musto  
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

3. "Benjamin - 2014," Benjamin Aponte  
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
4. "Ray Vitali 2014," Raymond Vitali  
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
5. "Reelect Ryan," Kevin Ryan  
Examiner: Ergys Guni
6. "Norman for State Rep.," Stuart Norman  
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
7. "Jesse 2014," Jesse MacLachlan  
Examiner: Matthew Lombardi
8. "Osgood for CT," Whit Osgood  
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
9. "People for Ortiz," Anthony Ortiz  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
10. "Hall 138," Henry Hall  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
11. "Edward Colon for State Representative," Edward Colon  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
12. "Christine Rosati for State Representative," Christine Rosati  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
13. "Kie Westby for Attorney General," Kie Westby  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
14. "Noele Kidney for State Representative," Noele Kidney  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
15. "Citizens for Lee Whitnum," Lee Whitnum  
Examiner: Linda A. Waterman  
*See also Sec. V, Item 2, 11*

Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audits and recommended that the Commission make audits 1-8 final, as there were few or no findings.

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle requested that audits 9-14, be referred to the Law Enforcement Unit for investigation

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to accept the audits numbered 1-8 as final and audits 9-14 be referred to the Law Enforcement Unit for investigation. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

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

**VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 11:53 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagueur  
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Anthony J. Castagno  
By Order of the Commission