



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
July 14, 2015
9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Commissioners Salvatore Bramante, Stephen Penny and Michael Ajello were present. Commissioner Patricia Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno added the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 25, 2015 and removed item number 2 from public session.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2015 regular meeting. Commissioner Penny noted specific edits were needed to the minutes, and the motion was tabled until the August Meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 25, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve, as amended, the Minutes of the June 25, 2015 special meeting by a 3-0-2 vote, with Commissioners Penny and Stankevicius abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Brandi noted that we have begun the new fiscal year. There were several items in the implementer bill passed during Special Legislative Session impacting the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

In Fiscal Year 2016 \$2.25 million will be moved from the Citizen's Election Fund to the General Fund and to the Secretary of the State. In Fiscal Year 2017 an additional \$7.75 million will be moved from the Citizen's Election Fund to the General Fund.

The removal of monies from the Citizen's Election Fund will not prevent the agency from fully funding the grant program for the 2016 election, which will serve only the

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state legislature, however it will affect the funding for the General Assembly and the statewide candidates in the 2018 election. While the surpluses help increase the fund, the General Assembly will need to take the appropriate actions prior to the 2018 election cycle to replace the funds and allow the agency to fully fund the Citizen's Election Program.

Mr. Brandi provided the Commission with a general operations update. The agency is trying to fill the vacancy for the Information Technology Manager position as well as seek out any solutions for the lost attorney position with Patrick Lamb working full time as a chief union steward.

He congratulated the Auditors for making excellent progress on the audits of the 2014 election cycle and the Information Technology staff for completing a successful move of our servers and equipment from East Hartford to the new Groton state facility allowing us to close out the July 10th filing period seamlessly. Also, Enforcement has two cases with the chief state's attorney, dealing with Christina Ayala and Ernie Newton.

The agency is working with advocates and groups like ROVAC to get citizens and the necessary officials up to speed on the newest law changes and prepared for the rollout of the Municipal Pilot Program.

Commissioner Bramante noted that the amount swept from the Citizen's Election Fund is about equal to a Gubernatorial Candidate Grant.

IV. 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. 2014-104NF
Hearing Officer: Michael J. Ajello
Respondent: Jason Walsh
Prosecutor: Ryan M. Burns

Hearing Officer Ajello summarized the above referenced report in File No. 2014-104NF. He recommended adoption of the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Final Decision in File No. 2014-104NF. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello abstaining. The Final Decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Mallozzi, Stamford

File No. 2012-151

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Philip Balestiere, Cort Wrotnowski

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

This matter was continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Raymond Baldwin, Jr., Trumbull

File No. 2015-009

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-009. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-009. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be 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 Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 9:22 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, Ryan Burns, Sarah Clark, Evelyn Gratacos, Shannon Kief, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Lindsey Leung, Gilberto Oyola, James Talbert-Slagle, William Smith, Charlie Urso and Linda Waterman.

The Commission returned to public session at 12:06 P.M.

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

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ernest Stone, Monroe
File No. 2014-010
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

This matter was continued.

5. In re SEEC Initiated Guglielmo for State Senate
File No. 2012-035
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter was continued.

6. In re Audit Report for Kearney 2011
File No. 2012-068
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter was continued.

7. In re SEEC Initiated Jim Miron for State Senate
File No. 2012-051
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter was continued.

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

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced request for a finding of reason to believe in non-filer matter 2014-200NF.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to accept the findings and refer the matter to a hearing. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. The findings are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Raymond Ingram, Branford
File No. 2014-148

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2014-148. He noted that while the campaign is currently subject to a post-election audit, this matter will not impact the outcome. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Recommendation of Counsel and dismissal of the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2014-148 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Recommendation of Counsel will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Ethan Book, Bridgeport
File No. 2014-002

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

This matter was continued.

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

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter was continued.

12. In re: SEEC Initiated: Investigation Based Upon Findings Regarding
Contributions by Employees of "Matt Smith"

File No. 2014-165

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

This matter was continued.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alan S. Bruce, West Hartford
File No. 2014-168

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and referenced Recommendation of Counsel in the above matter. He recommended the Commission accept the Recommendation of Counsel and dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to accept the Recommendation of Counsel for File No. 2014-168 and dismiss the matter. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

14. In the Matter of a (Self-Reported) Complaint by Curtis Robinson, Southington
File No. 2014-169

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter was continued.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alfred P. Mayo, New Britain
File No. 2015-005

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

This matter was continued.

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by Shane P. Reichle, Stafford Springs
File No. 2015-008

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Commissioner Penny recused himself for discussion and action on this matter.

This matter was continued.

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

Attorneys Smith and Ahern summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated July 2, 2015 and requested that File No. 2015-047 not be moved to investigate because the complaint was previously handled in paragraph 35 of the already dismissed File No. 2014-118A. There is no need to investigate further.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No. 2015-047 and that it is

necessary to investigate violations relating to three (3) complaints File Nos.: 2015-048, 2015-049, and 2015-050. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

18. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Committee to Re-Elect David Baram," David Baram
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
2. "Friends of Mike Cartier," Michael Cartier
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
3. "Enslow For The 47th District," Noah Enslow
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
4. "Formica for Senate," Paul Formica
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Genga 2014," Henry Genga
Examiner: Amit Shah
6. "Giegler 138," Janice Giegler
Examiner: Ergys Guni
7. "Laura Hoydick for State Representative," Laura Hoydick
Examiner: Karen Walauskas
8. "Kwas for the 59th," Robert Kwasnicki
Examiner: Ergys Guni
9. "Kelly for State Representative," Kelly Luxenberg
Examiner: Ergys Guni
10. "Molgano 2014," Michael Molgano
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
11. "Oberlander for Greenwich," Jill Oberlander
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
12. "Re-Elect Piscopo 2014," John Piscopo
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
13. "Danny Rovero for State Rep," Daniel Rovero
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
14. "Ryan 2014," Kieran Ryan
Examiner: Amit Shah

15. "Jim for the 56th," James Tedford
Examiner: Ergys Guni
16. "Vicino For State Representative," Tom Vicino
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

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

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to accept the above referenced audits as final. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0.

VII. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(A) and 1-210(b)(1)
(discussion of personnel matters)

Commissioners Castagno, Bramante, Ajello and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Shannon Kief, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Linda Waterman.

No action was taken on this matter.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

All action as noted in Section VI. above.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 12:14 P.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 18th day of August, 2015 at Hartford, Connecticut.

Anthony J. Castagno
By Order of the Commission