



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
20 Trinity Street Hartford, Connecticut 06106—1628

MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2008

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Commissioners Jenkins, Gerrantana and Bozzuto were present. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- A. *Approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2008 Regular Meeting*
- B. *Approval of the Minutes of the February 20, 2008 Emergency Meeting*

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2008 regular meeting and the February 20, 2008 emergency meeting. So voted.

Chairman Cashman called upon Commissioner Bozzuto to read a resolution received from Governor M. Jodi Rell to Mr. Garfield congratulating him and honoring his 30 years of service to the State of Connecticut. The Commissioners and staff congratulated him. Mr. Garfield thanked them for the honor to be recognized by the Governor, Commission and staff.

Commissioner Cashman stated that he would like to move the administrative reports first on the agenda in order for some staff members to leave the meeting for other commitments. The Commission proceeded with the administrative reports.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Garfield stated that the agency has been working very hard to proceed to the full implementation of the new laws that the Governor and the General Assembly has given the agency to implement for the 2008 campaigns. He said that the two new guides for participating and non participating candidates are nearly complete. Training on the new electronic filing system and the Citizen's Election Program are being conducted. Mr. Garfield introduced the newest staff member, Shannon Keif, Legal Compliance Director. The Commission welcomed her.

Mr. Garfield informed the Commission that there is an agreement with the Appropriations Committee regarding the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The recommendation is that the four positions requested will be added to the budget. He briefly summarized the future needs of the agency and summarized the progress of the SEEC's proposal to the General Assembly. He introduced Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Communications, Legislative Affairs and Candidate Services to give an update.

Ms Nicolescu gave a brief summary and overview of some of the forty bills that are currently being tracked that directly or indirectly impact the agency. She will be leaving the meeting to attend a GAE Public Hearing where some of the bills are being discussed. She said she is carefully monitoring the bills and proposed amendments that concern the agency.

The Commission and staff discussed the bills and their concerns. Ms Andrews pointed out that she proposed an amendment to the optical scan bill that will give this agency jurisdiction to enforce the SOTS' regulations and make our jurisdiction over the new voting machines clear, with the Secretary's agreement.

Ms. Rotman briefly gave an update on the Public Campaign Financing Program and summarized her memo to the Commissioners. She stated that staff has been working on perfecting their procedures for last minute submissions and activity that might require immediate attention.

Lastly, Mr. Garfield stated that several staff members attended the oral argument for the cross summary judgment motions in Bridgeport before Judge Underhill concerning the lobbyist and contractor contribution and solicitation bans.

III. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joan B. Taf, Naugatuck
File No. 2007-226
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Mary Lou Sharon
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint stating the Respondent has indicated that she does not want to sign the proposed agreement and she would like the matter to be heard at a hearing.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana that the Commission finds reason to believe that Respondent Mary Lou Sharon violated Connecticut General Statutes §§9-236b and 9-262 and that a hearing officer be designated. So voted.

Chairman Cashman designated Attorney Albert P. Lenge to be hearing officer for this matter.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Luther G. Weeks, Glastonbury
File No. 2007-370
Proposed Findings and Conclusions
Investigator: Attorney William B. Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Findings and Conclusions. She stated that there is a small amendment to the decision that was enclosed in the Commission's packet. A copy of the amended decision has been provided to the Commissioners for their review. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerrantana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the amended proposed Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2007-370 dismissing the matter for the reasons stated. So voted. A copy of the Findings and Conclusions is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Torrenti, Old Saybrook
File No. 2007-373
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Donald Brodeur, Jr.
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order with respect to Mr. Brodeur. She stated that two Consent Agreements with other respondents in this complaint were adopted by the Commission at the last meeting. She stated that Respondent Brodeur has signed the agreement and paid the civil penalty of \$500. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Gerrantana and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2007-373. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Andre Grandbois, Plainville
File No. 2007-377
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Carol Skultety
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the proposed Consent Agreement and Order. She stated that Respondent Skultety has signed the agreement and she recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-377. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by John J. Ahern, III, Windsor Locks
File No. 2007-378
Reason to Believe Findings and Designation of Hearing Officer

Respondents: Eleanor H. Leonard
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Chairman Cashman requested that this matter be temporarily passed over and moved to executive session for further discussion.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Janice D. Zackeo, New Fairfield
File No. 2007-387
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Martin Andrews
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order. She stated that Respondent Martin Andrews has signed the agreement and she recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-387. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brett Hasbrouck, Middletown
File No. 2007-410
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondent: Catherine M. Johnson
Investigator: John Neumon, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement and Order. She stated the Respondent Johnson has signed the agreement and has paid the civil penalty of \$250. She recommended its adoption.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement and Order in File No. 2007-410. So voted. A copy of the Consent Agreement and Order is attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Norman S. Douglas, Milford
File No. 2007-411
Proposed Consent Agreement and Order
Respondents: Stanley J. Mieczkowski & Michael J. Petrucelli
Investigator: Attorney William B. Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Ms. Andrews summarized the above referenced complaint and the two proposed Consent Agreements and Orders with Respondents Mieczkowski and Petrucelli. She stated that both Respondents have signed their agreements and she recommended their adoption.

It was moved by Commission Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Consent Agreements and Orders in File No. 2007-411. So voted. Copies of the Consent Agreements and Orders are attached and incorporated herein as part of these minutes.

B. Executive Session per C.G.S. 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(3) and (4)

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana 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)(3) and (4) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records relating thereto, listed as Item 5 and Items 9 through 20 on the agenda. So voted. Commissioners Cashman, Jenkins, Gerrantana and Bozzuto were present. Staff members present were: Mr. Garfield, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Smith, Mr. Crayton, Ms. Bergquist, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Oyola, Ms. Blackburn, Ms. Stratton, Talbert-Slagle, Mr., Ms. Rizzo, Ms. Zaccagnino, Mr. Cascudo and Mr. Neumon.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 11:10 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

The Commission took the following action:

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by John J. Ahern, III, Windsor Locks
File No. 2007-378
Respondent: Eleanor H. Leonard
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

9. Consideration of whether to initiate investigations pursuant to Section 9-7b(a), Connecticut General Statutes of individuals listed as officers of multiple committees, for possible violations of C.G.S. §9-605(e).

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins that the Commission initiate investigations into the seven individuals who are listed on the February 26, 2008 memo from Nancy Staniewicz as officers of more than one political committee in possible violation of C.G.S. §9-605(e). So voted.

10. Consideration of whether to initiate investigations pursuant to Section 9-7b(a), Connecticut General Statutes of committees who failed to properly complete registration, in possible violation of C.G.S. §9-605.

It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins that the Commission initiate investigations into the three committees listed on the March 5, 2008 memo from Nancy Staniewicz who may have failed to properly complete registration forms in possible violation of C.G. S. §9-605. So voted.

11. Consideration of whether to initiate investigations pursuant to Section 9-7b(a), Connecticut General Statutes of committee Treasurers who failed to file itemized forms in possible violation of C.G.S. §9-608.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana that the Commission initiate investigations into the first three treasurers who may have failed to file the proper itemized financial forms as described in the March 3, 2008 memo from Nancy Staniewicz in possible violation of C.G.S. §9-608. So voted.

12. Consideration of whether to initiate investigation pursuant to Section 9-7b(a), Connecticut General Statutes of Treasurer David Larkin for possible violation of C.G.S. §9-607.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana that the Commission initiate enforcement action against Treasurer David Larkin for possible violation of C.G.S. §9-607. So voted.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Carl Ruggiero, East Haven
File No. 2007-368
Investigator: Gilberto Oyola, Lead Legal Investigator
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

14. In the Matter of a Complaint by Irene M. Curtis, East Hampton
File No. 2007-407
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Santa Mendoza, New London
File No. 2007-415
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

16. In the Matter of a Complaint by August A. Palmer III, Oxford
File No. 2007-422
Investigator: Attorney William B. Smith
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

17. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary Adams, New London
File No. 2008-002
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern

Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

18. In the Matter of a Complaint by George Pleau, Harwinton
File No. 2008-011
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

19. In the Matter of a Complaint by Lisa Chambers-Williams, Windsor
File No. 2008-013
Investigator: Attorney Shannon Bergquist
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

20. In the Matter of Complaint by Joaquina R. Abner, Bridgeport
File No. 2008-029
Investigator: Attorney Kevin Ahern
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

This matter was continued.

IV. Non-Filer Compliance

File No. 2007-362PNF
VEND PAC

Respondent: Lawrence Lathrop, Chairman
Investigator: Attorney Marc W. Crayton
Managing Attorney: Joan M. Andrews

Compliance with Connecticut General Statutes §§9-602, 9-603 and 9-605

It was moved by Commissioner Gerrantana and seconded by Commission Jenkins that the Commission takes administrative notice of compliance with the statutes indicated, and accepts, as full settlement the payment of \$100 to the State of Connecticut and will take no further action with respect to this matter. So voted.

Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerrantana at 11:15 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 9:00 A.M., 5th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted

Lois E. Blackburn
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 9th day of April, at Hartford, Connecticut.

Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission