

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
March 23, 2018  
9:30 A.M.

**I. *Call to Order***

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Bramante and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno made a few changes to the agenda as follows: items numbered 14 and 15 in executive session are to be marked off.

**II. *Approval of the Minutes***

*Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 14, 2018*

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the February 14, 2018 minutes by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

**III. *Administrative Reports***

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi updated the commission on legislative session. Today at 11:00am, the Government Administration and Elections Committee will meet and handle 14 bills which affect the SEEC.

Welcome to Mark Severance, the newly hired Elections Officer who has hit the ground running and has already proven to be a great fit for the agency.

Interviews start Monday, March 26 for a legal investigator. There are 27 people to be interviewed of almost 120 qualified applicants.

There have not been any additional changes to agency funding. The predicted 2019 budget would leave the SEEC with \$45,000 over salaries and benefits to operate. At this point, the SEEC is forced to leave two staff vacancies open to preserve monies to support the operating budget. The Staff Attorney position the agency funds which actually serves as the Chief Steward for the state employee union is an enormous burden for the SEEC to handle. Mr. Brandi is looking to the Office of Policy and Managements for support through some kind of reimbursement of this cost.

To restate, the staff vacancies have provided the savings keeping the agency budget in the positive and those funds need to be put toward service agreements

and equipment purchases to support agency functions. The SEEC recently suffered a large equipment issue in Groton which thankfully was covered by our existing service agreements, which supports exactly why is it so imperative for those agreements to be renewed. The current budget status has put us on the brink of failure.

The United States Senate recently passed a bill to provide states with monies to enhance their security systems for elections and data, and while the majority of those funds would go to the Secretary of the State, there may be an opportunity to bolster funding to support our technologies.

The Audit Unit has been busy with Pre-Application Reviews (20 committees are in so far) and we are establishing a solic system/series of protocols prior to the 2018 grant application season. One major task being handled by agency staff is reviewing committees' online contribution websites. Mr. Brandi thanked Attorney Marianne Sadowski for her work along with other members of the compliance unit. As the public finance season picks up, Mr. Brandi shared his appreciation for all staff for stepping up and getting the work done.

#### ***IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations***

##### ***A. Public Session***

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Mazurek, Wolcott  
File No. 2014-170  
Respondent's Motion for Reconsideration

Respondents:

Joseph C. Markley, Barbara  
P. Roberts and Robert C.  
Sampson

Hearing Officer:

Michael Ajello

Prosecutors:

William B. Smith and James  
Talbert-Slagle

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi summarized request to reconsider the referenced report in File No. 2014-170. He recommended hearing the request to reconsider the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to deny the motion for reconsideration of the Final Decision in 2014-170. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Final Decision is available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In re: Referral by East Haven Town Clerk Stacy Gravino  
File No. 2013-134  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent:  
Attorney:

Salvatore Maltese  
William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William Smith summarized the referenced reports in File No. 2013-134. He recommended hearing the request to reconsider the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in 2013-134a and to dismiss the Consent Order & Agreement in 2013-134b. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Final Decisions are 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 Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 10:11 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 and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Ryan Burns, Kevin Ahern, William Smith, Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr, Evelyn Gratacos, Linda Waterman, Doug Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sarah Clark.

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

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

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

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated February 5, 2018 and requested that nine (9) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to nine (9) complaints File Nos.: 2018-004, 2018-005, 2018-006, 2018-007, 2018-008, 2018-009, 2018-010, 2018-011 and 2018-012. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

2. In re: SEEC Initiated "Committee to Elect Joseph Vollano"  
File No. 2016-079

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Harry A. Gagliardi, Jr., Hamden  
File No. 2017-042

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-042. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-042. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Cayenne L. Spremullo, Newtown  
File No. 2017-061

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-061. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-061. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Traynor, Self-Report  
File No. 2018-002

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Timothy Herbst, Trumbull  
File No. 2016-057

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-057. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-057. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Claude Holcomb, Hartford  
File No. 2017-011

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-011. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-011. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Loius DeCilio, Stratford  
File No. 2017-057

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-057. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-057. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Alseph, Waterbury  
File No. 2014-121

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-121. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2014-121. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Andrew Lockwood, New London  
File No. 2015-190  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-190. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-190. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dennis Machol, Newington  
File No. 2017-081  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-081. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-081. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Tony Barr, Bridgeport  
File No. 2018-003  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-003. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-003. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sean Byrnes, Westport  
File No. 2017-086  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

14. In the Matter of a Complaint by Elissa Ann K. Voccola, Hartford  
File No. 2014-095  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

The matter is marked off.

15. In the Matter of a Complaint by Wayne von Hardenburg, Wethersfield  
File No. 2014-123  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

16. In re: Audit of *Dru Georgiadis 2016*  
File No. 2017-089  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

17. In re: Audit of *Saavedra 2016*  
File No: 2017-090  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

18. In re: Audit of *Laura Devlin for State Representative*

File No. 2017-041

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

19. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas J. Banisch, Madison

File No. 2014-120

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

20. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony A. Cane, New Britain

File No. 2017-047

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-047. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-047. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

21. In re: Referral by Greenwich Registrars of Voters

File No. 2017-030

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

22. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mary Ann Jacob, Sandy Hook

File No. 2017-043

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr



Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-043. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-043. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

23. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bernice C. Bartlett, Middle Haddam  
File No. 2017-059  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

24. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sharlene A. McEvoy, Derby  
File No. 2017-045  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

25. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Theresa Conroy 2016," Theresa W. Conroy  
Examiner: Ergys Guni
2. "Will Duff 2016" William I. Duff  
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
3. "Fonfara 2016," John W. Fonfara  
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
4. "Rob Kane For Senate 2016," Robert J. Kane  
Examiner: Dinorah Collado
5. "Sharon for A Better CT," Sharon J. McLaughlin  
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
6. "Perillo 2016," Jason Perillo  
Examiner: Krysta Holmes
7. "Vargas 2016," Edwin Vargas  
Examiner: Nicole Petit

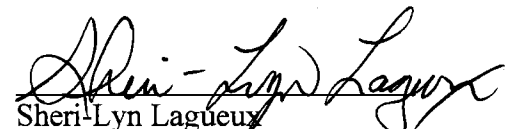
Linda Waterman provided an overview of the audit reports and recommended that the Commission make audit numbers 1-7 final. So moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0

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

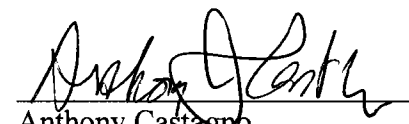
**VII. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 12:21 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
Anthony Castagno  
By Order of the Commission

***The next regular scheduled meeting is April 18, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.***