



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
August 15, 2018
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present via teleconference and called the meeting to order at 9:38 A.M. Commissioner Bramante was also present via teleconference. Commissioners Penny, Ajello and Cascudo were present

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 18, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the July 18, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 19, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the July 19, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 23, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the July 23, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 25, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the July 25, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 27, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the July 27, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 1, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the August 1, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of August 8, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the August 8, 2018 minutes by a 5-0-0 vote. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Correspondence

No action taken.

Director Brandi remarked that the hotline ran all day yesterday from 6:00 am through 8:00 pm with the primary and the SEEC had close to 154 call throughout the day. It was a busy day for a primary.

Director Brandi noted that most notably for the commission, because of the win by Mr. Stefanowski there will be no general election grant going out for the republican candidate for Governor. At this point we have the general election for Governor with no participating candidates on either side. Where the SEEC had projected spending 6.5 million, this will now be a savings in the CEF.

Director Brandi reported that the SEEC is making a lot of progress on the grant cycle. In terms of grants 187 grants have been approved and 68 are pending. That puts the total at 255 applications that have come through the door. This is a pretty incredible pace for being in the middle of August.

In terms of budget, we are still pulling apart some details for reports that are going to be due.

Director Brandi advised that he will be providing for next weeks' meeting a copy of the draft audit by that was done by the State Auditors reflect back to 2011-2014 when the SEEC was under the auspices of the OGA and give you the findings that were in that report. Findings that have been carried forward, seven out of ten have been removed now from the actions taken by the Agency.

Director Brandi reported that staff is going to keep our focus on getting through the next several weeks of the grant cycle. The August 27th date is out there. That is the date by which any grants coming in after that date will start a reduction in the base grant amount. We expect in the next couple of weeks to still see an onslaught of applications for people trying to make sure that they get in before

the deadline. If qualifying candidates want a 100% grant they have to have a bona fide good faith application in our hands by August 27, 2018.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brian L. Duff, *et. al.*, Morris
File No. 2018-017
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-017. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-017. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

2. *In re: SEEC Initiated: Cassano for Senate – Audit Findings*
File No. 2018-035A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-035A. 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. 2018-035A. So voted by a vote 3-0-2. Commissioners Penny and Cascudo abstained.

3. *In re: SEEC Initiated: Cassano for Senate – Audit Findings*
File No. 2018-035B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-035B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-035B. So voted by a vote 3-0-2. Commissioners Penny and Cascudo abstained.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Berriault, New Britain
File No. 2017-049
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: James M. Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-049. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-049. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

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 Ajello at 9:57 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 and Bramante were present via teleconference. Commissioners Ajello, Cascudo and Penny were present. Staff members present were Joshua Foley, Evelyn Gratacos, Gilberto Oyola, Alfonso Vazquez, Scott Branfuhr, Kevin Ahern, Ryan Burns, William Smith, James Talbert Slagle, Douglas Frost, Linda Waterman, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:54 A.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel Regarding Petition for Declaratory Ruling on the Political Activity of Organized Groups as requested by Arnold F. Skretta (on behalf of Connecticut Compliance and Law Services LLC)

The matter is continued.

2. 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 July 12, 2018 and requested that seven (7) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to seven (7) complaints File Nos.: 2018-047, 2018-048, 2018-049, 2018-052 and 2018-053. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Shortell, New Britain
File No. 2017-055

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint of Mary Ann Orzell, Morris
File No. 2018-019

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of Attorney Shawn Wooden, Self Report, Hartford
File No. 2018-024

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

6. In The Matter of a Complaint by Gary Bolles & Mike Camillo, Newington
File No. 2018-052

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Kuja, Montville
File No. 2017-080A
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-080A. 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. 2016-087. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Kuja, Montville
File No. 2017-080B

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-080B. He recommended adoption of the Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in 14 days in File No. 2017-080B. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File No. 2016-038
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Daniel H. Bley (self-report), Westport
File No. 2018-045
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

11. In the Matter of a Referral by the Greenwich Registrars of Voters
File No. 2018-004

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jeffrey Caggiano, Bristol

File No. 2018-031

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

13. In the Matter of a Complaint by J.R. Romano, Branford

File No. 2016-087

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-087. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-087. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

VI. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

A. New Applications

1. "Arata 2018," Lou Arata

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Arata 2018," Lou Arata. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. "Brian for the 45th," Brian Lanoue

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Brian for the 45th," Brian Lanoue. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. "Dan Fox for State Rep 2018," Daniel Fox

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Dan Fox for State Rep 2018,” Daniel Fox. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. “Re Elect Carol Hall 59th,” Carol Hall

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Re Elect Carol Hall 59th,” Carol Hall. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. “Team Soto,” Christian Soto

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Team Soto,” Christian Soto. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. “Candy Perez 2018,” Althea Candy Perez

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for “Candy Perez 2018,” Althea Candy Perez. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. “Perillo 2018,” Jason Perillo

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Perillo 2018,” Jason Perillo. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. “Committee to Re-Elect Senator John A. Kissel,” John Kissel

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Committee to Re-Elect Senator John A. Kissel,” John Kissel. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. “Green for the 55th,” Robin Green

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Green for the 55th,” Robin Green. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

10. “Page for Change,” Frank Page

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Page for Change,” Frank Page. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. “Doug for CT,” Doug Dubitsky

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Doug for CT,” Doug Dubitsky. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

12. “Serra for State Representative,” Joseph Serra

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for “Serra for State Representative,” Joseph Serra. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. “Siegrist 2018,” Robert Siegrist

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Siegrist 2018,” Robert Siegrist. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

14. “Steinberg for State Rep,” Jonathan Steinberg

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Steinberg for State Rep,” Jonathan Steinberg. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

15. “Stephanie Thomas for CT,” Stephanie Thomas

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Stephanie Thomas for CT,” Stephanie Thomas. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

16. “Abercrombie for State Rep.,” Catherine Abercrombie

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Abercrombie for State Rep.,” Catherine Abercrombie. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

17. “Billie Miller 2018,” Patricia Billie Miller

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Billie Miller 2018,” Patricia Billie Miller. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

18. “DeCaprio4CT48th,” Mark DeCaprio

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “DeCaprio4CT48th,” Mark DeCaprio. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

19. “Demicco 2018,” Michael Demicco

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Demicco 2018,” Michael Demicco. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

20. “Eric Berthel for Senate,” Eric Berthel

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Eric Berthel for Senate,” Eric Berthel. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

21. “Govert for 34,” Theresa Govert

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Govert for 34,” Theresa Govert. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

22. “Jennifer4CT,” Jennifer Fiereck

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Jennifer4CT,” Jennifer Fiereck. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

23. “Save our Towns: Walsh 2018,” David Walsh

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Save our Towns: Walsh 2018,” David Walsh. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

24. “Coderre 2018,” David Coderre

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Coderre 2018,” David Coderre. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

B. Continuation of prior applications awaiting additional information to qualify for a grant

1. "Lopes for 24th," Rick Lopes

No action taken.

2. "NKD18," Nicole Klarides Ditría

No action taken.

3. "Team Eleni for CT," Eleni Kavros DeGraw

No action taken.

4. "Elect Dauphinais," Anne Dauphinais

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the grant application for "Elect Dauphinais," Anne Dauphinais. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. "Statchen 2018," Robert Statchen

No action taken.

6. "Will Haskell for CT," William Haskell

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Will Haskell for CT," William Haskell. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. "Hall 2018," Joshua Hall

No action taken.

8. "McLachlan 2018," Michael McLachlan

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "McLachlan 2018," Michael McLachlan. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. "Lucy2018," Lucia "Lucy" Dathan

No action taken.

10. "Simanski 2018," William Simanski

No action taken.

11. "Aimee4Ridgefield," Aimee Berger-Girvalo

No action taken.

12. "Cassano 4 Senate," Stephen Cassano

No action taken.

13. "Beth Bye 2018," Beth Bye

No action taken.

14. "Petit 4 CT," William Petit

No action taken.

15. "Bosak for Senate," Gerald Bosak

No action taken.

16. "Friends of Robin Comey," Robin Comey

No action taken.

17. "Friends of Ross Tartell," Ross Tartell

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Friends of Ross Tartell," Ross Tartell. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

18. "Larson for State Senate," Timothy Larson

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Larson for State Senate," Timothy Larson. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

19. "Cummings for the 74th," Stephanie Cummings

No action taken.

20. "Elect Wendy," Wendy Tyson-Wood

No action taken.

21. "Hwang4Senate," Anthony Hwang

No action taken.

22. "Lawson 2018," David Lawson

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Lawson 2018," David Lawson. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

23. "Re-Elect Piscopo 2018," John Piscopo

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Re-Elect Piscopo 2018," John Piscopo. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

24. "Steve Baleshiski for House Representative," Steven Baleshiski

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Steve Baleshiski for House Representative," Steven Baleshiski. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

25. "Elect Rick Hayes," Ricky Hayes

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Elect Rick Hayes," Ricky Hayes. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

26. "Leslee Hill for the 17th District," Leslee Hill

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the grant application for "Leslee Hill for the 17th District," Leslee Hill. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

27. "Monica for CT Senate," Monica Brill

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Monica for CT Senate," Monica Brill. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

28. "Pearson for CT," Daniel Pearson

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Pearson for CT," Daniel Pearson. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

29. "Kate 2018," Kate Donnelly

No action taken.

30. "DeLucia 2018," Nick DeLucia

No action taken.

31. "McGorty 2018," Ben McGorty

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "McGorty 2018," Ben McGorty. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

32. "O'Brien for New Milford," Thomas O'Brien

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the grant application for "O'Brien for New Milford," Thomas O'Brien. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

33. "Sharon2018," Sharon Beloin-Saavedra

No action taken.

34. "Tanski for 31st," Lillian Tanski

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Tanski for 31st," Lillian Tanski. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

35. "Tweedie for CT," Mark Tweedie

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Tweedie for CT," Mark Tweedie. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

36. "Witkos 2018," Kevin Witkos


It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for "Witkos 2018," Kevin Witkos. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

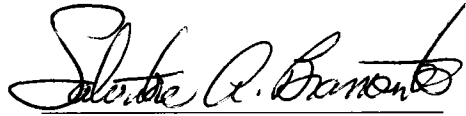
VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante at 12:24 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 19th day of September, 2018 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Salvatore A. Bramante
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is August 22, 2018 at 3:30 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.