

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
April 25, 2012
9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Cashman called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. Commissioners Jenkins, Castagno, and Stankevicius were present. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 15, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to Approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2012 Regular Meeting. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Mr. Brandi updated the Commission and staff that the SEEC has been successful in getting OPM to refill our vacant positions. Mr. Brandi introduced 3 new SEEC employees, Kristina Corbett, our new Accounts Trainee and Patricia Anderson, our Office Assistant. He also introduced Accounts Trainee Matthew Lombardi, explaining that he started last Friday. SEEC is awaiting additional approvals from the legislature for the two additional Accounts Examiners positions.

SEEC is trying to get 2 permanent part time positions approved, once the new positions are approved for July 1, 2012, we will re-class them into full time positions. This will give us a couple months head start in training.

Mr. Brandi updated commission staff that we have the approval finally for the Director Campaign Disclosure position, the position will require an exam announcement and will then be posted. We do not expect that to be completed until the middle of June.

Also, some internal reorganization. Shannon Kief is taking over the duties of the former CEP director. She will run the CEP Program, compliance attorneys as well as the elections officers. The Enforcement Unit has been severed off from Compliance and will be handled by Mr. Brandi.

Mr. Brandi updated the Commission and staff regarding pending legislation. Of the bills that are pending, the most egregious bill is HB 5528, which they have re-crafted the bill from 117 to 48 pages still working with legislators

Also, pending is SB 437, SEEC is looking to see if we can sever out the Commissioner terms. We are pushing on every end to move that agenda forward.

Mr. Brandi updated the Commission and staff as to construction on the first floor. Unfortunately the latest bids that came in were excessively high. DPW is going back out for more bids and see if they can come up with better numbers. The problem we have is with timing. We can't have the move going on during the CEP Program being implemented. It's a possibility that the construction will be delayed until fall.

Mr. Brandi reported, that from our disclosure unit there are 950 registered committees, 216 registered candidate committees for the 2012 election cycle while 30 committees have submitted back up documentation for the CEP Program. The Election Officers have been making great strides trying to encourage candidates to file early and file often. We are hoping to smooth out the spikes in the system so that we have a better chance to achieve our goal of 100%.

Mr. Brandi advised that, one positive is with the legislative change regarding the postmark date, which has encouraged more people to become eCRIS filers and that number was up to 48% for filing on eCRIS which is a 10% increase. We are trying to encourage as much electronic filing as possible.

Resolution Expressing Commission's Gratitude to Accounts Examiner Linda Waterman

Departing Accounts Examiner, Linda Waterman was recognized and thanked for her 5 years of service to the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jeffrey Shorts, Coventry
File no. 2010-125
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondent: Joan Lewis
Attorney: James Talbert Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney James Talbert Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-125. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

Commissioner Castagno made his concerns regarding this case known for the record. Commissioner Castagno agreed with the no further action, but did not think the SEEC should be dictating to a candidate what constitutes an advertisement. It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-125. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Christopher Healy, Wethersfield
File No. 2010-120

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Denise Nappier
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. 2010-120. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2010-120. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jason Bartlett, Bethel
File No. 2011-107

Proposed Consent Agreement

Respondents: Santa I. Ayala
Attorney: Kevin Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-107. He recommended adoption of the proposed Consent Agreement upon receipt within 10 days.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the proposed Consent Agreement in File No. 2011-107 upon receipt within 10 days. So voted. The Consent Agreement will be available on our website upon receipt under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jonathan Searles, East Hartford
File No. 2011-110

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent: Victoria Brinius
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb

Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Patrick J. Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-110. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-110. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions 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 Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 9:24 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4) and (10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records relating thereto, listed as items 1 through 3 and audit items 1 through 15 on the agenda. So voted.

Commissioners Cashman, Castagno, Jenkins and Stankevicius were present. Staff members present were James Talbert-Slagle, Lisa Zaccagnino, Sarah Poulin, Lindsey Leung, Gilberto Oyola, William B. Smith, Paige Adams, Kristina Corbett, Kevin Ahern, Patrick J. Lamb, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Mann Hasen, Nancy Staniewicz, Linda Waterman, Jennifer Montgomery, Evelyn Gratacos and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:03 A.M. to return to public session. So voted.

Returning to Public Session the Commission took the following action:

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the issuance of the aforementioned committee draft Audit Reports 1-14 as Final Audit Reports. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to initiate an investigation regarding draft Audit Reports 15. So voted.

1. In Re: Referral by SOTS (Hartford)
File No. 2012-120
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

2. In Re: Referral by SOTS (Gary Allen), Bristol
File No. 2012-008
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jason Bartlett, Bethel
File No. 2011-115
Recommendation of Counsel: Request to Initiate
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to approve the request to initiate and investigate in File No. 2011-115. So voted.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jason Bartlett, Bethel
File No. 2011-115
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondent: Alma L. Maya and Ezequiel Santiago
Attorney: Patrick J. Lamb
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Patrick J. Lamb summarized the above referenced complaint and proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-115. He recommended adoption of the proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2011-115. So voted. The proposed Findings & Conclusions are available on our website under [Commission Decisions](#).

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Victor L. Harpley, Cromwell
File No. 2010-013
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael J. and Nancy Herling, Darien
File No. 2012-015
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

7. In Re: SEEC Initiated: "DeFronzo for State Senate"
File No. 2012-026
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charles Urso

The matter is continued.

8. In Re: SEEC Initiated: "Committee to Elect Romano"
File No. 2012-036
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Charles Urso

The matter is continued.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to move to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to 12 complaints in File Nos.: 2012-16, 2012-

038MNF, 2012-039, 2012-040, 2012-041, 2012-042, 2012-043, 2012-044, 2012-045, 2012-046, 2012-047 and 2012-048. So voted.

Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Roldan 2010," Treasurer: Mathew C. Sorokin
Examiner: Linda Waterman
2. "Farrell for CT," Treasurer: Christine Grochowski
Examiner: Monique Tusinski
3. "Lembo 2010," (Exploratory) Treasurer: Liza Jansen Petra
Examiner: Salman Munir
4. "Lembo 2010," Treasurer: Liza Jansen Petra
Examiner: Salman Munir
5. "Nappier for State Treasurer," Treasurer: Bruno W. Mazzulla
Examiner: Salman Munir
6. "We Back Jack 2010 ," Treasurer: Brian J. Smith
Examiner: Salman Munir
7. "Harp 2010 ," Treasurer: Alix Simonetti
Examiner: Salman Munir
8. "Dr. S For State Rep.," Treasurer: Madau Reddy
Examiner: Salman Munir
9. "Stallworth 2011," (2011) Treasurer: Loretta B.A. Williams
Fiscal/Administrative Officer: Sarah Poulin
10. "Dan Fox For State Rep.," (2011) Treasurer: Ernest Abate
Fiscal/Administrative Officer: Sarah Poulin
11. "Suzio 2011," (2011) Treasurer: David White
Fiscal/Administrative Officer: Sarah Poulin
12. "Carlos Silva for State Rep. 2011," (2011) Treasurer: Sandra Silva
Fiscal/Administrative Officer: Sarah Poulin
13. "Bruenn for State Senate," (2011) Treasurer: Diane Kubeck
Fiscal/Administrative Officer: Sarah Poulin
14. "Friends of Karen" (Amended) Treasurer: William R. Vayda
Examiner: Salman Munir

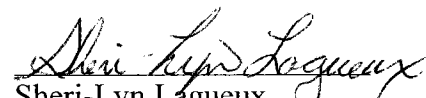
15. "Jim Miron For Senate," Treasurer: David Fuller
Examiner: Martin Paxi

VI. Adjournment

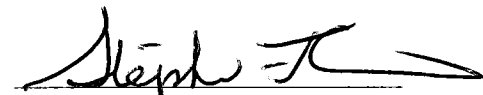
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius at 10:08 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 23rd day of May, 2012 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Stephen F. Cashman
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is May 23, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.