



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
June 15, 2016
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present and called the meeting to order at 9:39 A.M. Commissioners Bramante, Penny and Ajello were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was absent. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno noted that in item numbered 126 in Executive Session “Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizen’s Election Fund,” the following changes needed to be made:

- Sub item 14 should be removed from the agenda
- Add sub items:
 - 16. “Pereira for Progress,” Maria Pereira
 - 17. “Berger 2016,” Jeffrey Berger
 - 18. “David T Wilson for 66th,” David Wilson
 - 19. “Betts for State Rep,” Whit Betts
 - 20. “Cummings for the 74th,” Stephanie Cummings
 - 21. “Randy Klein 2016,” Randell Klein

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 25, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 2, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2016

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the all four sets of minutes by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director Brandi advised the Commission that the SEEC is less than 2 weeks away from regaining status as a standalone agency. Over the last two months he and agency staff have worked and researched to ensure a smooth return to functioning independently – especially in regards to IT, Human Resources, asset management, payroll, etc. and identifying what we will need from DAS for support.

For the agency budget, we will only have \$101,000 over our personnel costs to run the agency for the coming year. The SEEC is not anticipating any additional layoffs

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and we have handled one bump in our audit staff. This tight operating budget has the agency looking ahead for any and all ways to save money and still meet all our core functions. This diligent work has allowed the SEEC to finish this fiscal year with a surplus.

The SEEC is looking forward to Governor Malloy signing the mandatory electronic filing bill into law.

Currently we have about 370 committees filed with the commission and after today we will have potentially approved 42-45 grants. 2016 has been a banner year for participation in the Citizens' Election Program, including candidates in numerous primaries.

Staff are preparing for the August Primary, including readying the Election Day Hotline. CEP and eCRIS trainings still happening both individually and en masse.

The Citizens' Election Fund balance is at approximately \$12.5 million, and we are awaiting the next deposits. We are expecting about another \$11.5 million which will be sufficient to sustain the campaigns through the 2016 election cycle. While \$7.75 million was swept from the fund, and there have been concerns about additional funds being swept, there is a statutory guarantee that we will have enough money to fund all grants.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Blaine Isakson, Killingworth
File No. 2015-102
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and explained that the complainant has asked to withdraw his complaint.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to accept the withdrawal of File No. 2015-102. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Fuller, Stratford
File No. 2014-172B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2014-172B. 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. 2014-172B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In In re: Referral by New Haven City Clerk, Linda Whitley
File No. 2013-149B
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-149B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions to dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2013-149B and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be 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 10:02 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 Ajello were present. Staff members present were Michael Brandi, Kevin Ahern, Sarah Clark, Joshua Foley and Shannon Kief. Also, Maura Murphy-Osbourne and Perry Zinn-Rowthorne from the Attorney General's office were invited into Executive Session.

Maura Murphy-Osbourne and Perry Zinn-Rowthorne exited the Executive Session, Commissioner Penny joined Executive Session and the following staff joined Executive Session: Scott Branfuhr, Ryan Burns, Douglas Frost, Evelyn Gratacos, Shannon Kief, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, James Talbert-Slagle, William Smith and Linda Waterman.

The Commission returned to public session at 1:03 P.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jerry Labriola, Wallingford
File No. 2014-126
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2014-126. He recommended the Commission approve two resolutions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Castagno to approve the following two resolutions:

The commission resolves that as concerns the two pending superior court matters related to File No. 2014-126, the commission authorizes the chair to execute an agreement on behalf of the commission to settle the matters upon terms contained in said agreement subject to non-substantive and confirming changes.

Further, the Commission resolves to authorize staff, including staff of the Attorney General's office, to take whatever steps necessary to effectuate the settlement in resolution of the matters before the Superior Court related to this case.

So voted by a 2-1-1 vote, with Commissioner Ajello voting no and Commissioner Penny abstaining.

Commissioner Penny recused himself for discussion of this matter.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint of Robert Kissel, Hamden
File No. 2012-234
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Sharon Wyatt-Giesing, et al, New London
File No. 2015-092
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-092. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions to dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-092 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Cheryl Haase, Higganum
File No. 2015-115
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Lead Legal Investigator: Charlie Urso

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-115. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions to dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-115 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Godbout, East Lyme
File No. 2015-161
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-161. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions to dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-161 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Godbout, East Lyme
File No. 2015-162
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-162. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions to dismiss the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-162 and dismiss the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In re: the Matter of a Complaint by Gary Schaffrick, Bristol
File No. 2012-188
File No. 2012-194
File No. 2014-041
File No. 2014-087
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigators: Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

8. In re: Referral of the East Haven Town Clerk
File No. 2013-111A
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

9. In re: Referral of the East Haven Town Clerk
File No. 2013-111B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

10. In re: Referral of the East Haven Town Clerk
File No. 2013-111C
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

11. In re: Referral of the East Haven Town Clerk
File No. 2013-111D
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

12. In re: Referral of the East Haven Town Clerk
File No. 2013-111E
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

The matter is continued.

13. Request for Finding of Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes 9-608 or 9-604 Has been Committed Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced request for a finding of reason to believe in one (1) non-filer matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to accept the findings and refer one (1) matter to a hearing in File Nos. 2016-009NF. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

Commissioner Ajello will serve as the Hearing Officer for this matter.

14. Request for Finding of Reason to Believe a Violation of General Statutes 9-12 and 9-170 Has been Committed Pursuant to Section 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns

Attorney Burns summarized the above referenced request for a finding of reason to believe in a referral received by the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to accept the findings and one (1) matter to a hearing in File Nos. 2013-002. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

Commissioner Penny will serve as the Haring Officer for this matter.

15. Referral of Juan Verdu, Registrar of Voters, City of New Britain
File No. 2016-004
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2016-004.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to refer evidence concerning a possible wilful violation of General Statutes § 9-140b in matter 2016-004 to the Chief State's Attorney. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

16. In re: SEEC Initiated: Ayala For State Rep.

File No. 2013-104

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

17. 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

The matter is continued.

18. In re: SEEC Initiated: Goff For The 34Th - Audit Findings

File No. 2014-011

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

19. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport

File No. 2014-042

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

20. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport

File No. 2014-044

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

James Talbert-Slagle

Lead Legal Investigator:

Charlie Urso

The matter is continued.

21. In the Matter of a Complaint by Matthew A. Paulsen, Bethel

File No. 2015-150

Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

22. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mark Dumas, Milford
File No. 2015-088
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

23. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Bland, Hartford
File No. 2015-119
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

24. 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 March 31,
2016 and requested that thirteen (13) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner
Stankevicius to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate
violations relating to thirteen (13) complaints File No.: 2016-026, 2016-027,
2016-028, 2016-029, 2016-030, 2016-031, 2016-032, 2016-033, 2016-034,
2016-036, 2016-037, 2016-038 and 2016-041. So approved by the
Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

25. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Switch to Rich," Richard Fredette
Examiner: Karen Walauskas

The matter is continued.

2. "French for Senate 2014," John French
Examiner: Dinorah Collado

The matter is continued.

3. "Stoddard for State Representative," Patty Stoddard
Examiner: Krysta Holmes

The matter is continued.

4. "Mark Z for CT," Mark Zydanowicz
Examiner: Krysta Holmes

The matter is continued.

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

1. "Stallworth 2016," Charlie Stallworth

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Stallworth 2016," Charlie Stallworth. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Gail Lavielle for State Representative," Gail Lavielle

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Gail Lavielle for State Representative," Gail Lavielle. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. "Hogan for State Rep," Beth Hogan

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Hogan for State Rep," Beth Hogan. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. "Friends of Betty Boukus," Elizabeth "Betty Boukus

It was moved by Commissioner Bramande and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Friends of Betty Boukus," Elizabeth "Betty Boukus So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. "Carpino 2016," Christie Carpino

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Carpino 2016," Christie Carpino. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. "Friends of Kim Rose," Kim Rose

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Friends of Kim Rose," Kim Rose. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. "Dunsby 2016," Adam W. Dunsby

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Dunsby 2016," Adam W. Dunsby. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. "Delnicki for South Windsor," Tom Delnicki

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Delnicki for South Windsor," Tom Delnicki. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. "Rosario 2016," Christopher Rosario

It was moved by Commissioner Pemy and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Rosario 2016," Christopher Rosario. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

10. "Re-Elect Senator Henri Martin," Henri Martin

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application of "Re-Elect Senator Henri Martin," Henri Martin. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. "Fred Wilms 2016," Fred Wilms

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the grant application for "Fred Wilms 2016," Fred Wilms. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

12. "Citizens for Christy Matthews," Christy Matthews

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application of "Citizens for Christy Matthews," Christy Matthews. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

13. "Mihaly for State Rep.," Serge G. Mihaly, Jr.

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application of "Mihaly for State Rep.," Serge G. Mihaly, Jr. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

14. "The Committee to Elect Wendy Tyson-Wood," Wendy M. Tyson-Wood

This item was removed from the agenda

15. "Laura Devlin for State Representative," Laura M. Devlin

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Laura Devlin for State Representative," Laura M. Devlin So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

16. "Pereira for Progress," Maria Pereira

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Pereira for Progress," Maria Pereira. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

17. "Berger 2016," Jeffrey Berger

Shannon Kief shared a memo was shared with commission. It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for ""Berger 2016," Jeffrey Berger. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

18. "David T Wilson for 66th," David Wilson

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the grant application for "David T Wilson for 66th," David Wilson. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

19. "Betts for State Rep," Whit Betts

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Betts for State Rep," Whit Betts. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Cummings for the 74th," Stephanie Cummings. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

21. "Randy Klein 2016," Randall Klein

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for "Randy Klein 2016," Randall Klein. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice all prior applications awaiting additional information to qualify for a grant. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

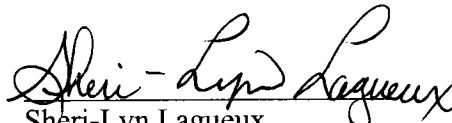
VI. *Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session*

All action as noted in Section V. above.

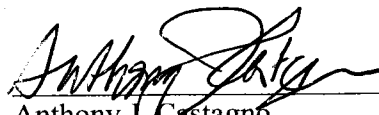
VII. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny at 1:31 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 13th day of July, 2016 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony J. Castagno
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is a telephonic meeting, June 22, 2016 at 4:00 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.