



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
February 14, 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, Penny and Ajello were present. Agency staff was also present.

Commissioner Castagno made a few changes to the agenda as follows: add items # 7 in public session for file number 2017-071 and item IV.A.2. file number 2014-143 moved to 1a in executive session.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 20, 2017

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to approve the December 20, 2017 minutes by a 3-0-1 vote with Commissioner Ajello abstaining. So voted.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 28, 2017

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the December 28, 2017 minutes by a 4-0-0 vote. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

1. SEEC 2018 Legislative Proposals

The 2018 Legislative Session opened February 7 and the State Elections Enforcement we are working with the legislature to preserve and possibly expand our funding. Legislative correspondence – we received a request from the Bridgeport Town Committee Primary – concerns about the absentee ballot procedure and overall process. There is a special election scheduled for April 10 and the SEEC and SOTS have been requested as elections monitors. SEEC has respectfully declined, since monitoring is in the purview of the SOTS. Director of Elections Peggy Reeves is confident the fail safes are in place

Legislative proposals, CEP forum last week which rendered a good discussion with Common Cause and Democracy Alliance. SEEC has submitted four

proposals which include: 1) Dark money and disclosure, 2) protection of the CEF, 3) an act restoring CEP and 4) an act concerning the establishment by Party Committees of compliant accounts. The proposals are focused on the fights we continue to wage to protect our campaign finance rules and regulations. Commission was provided with a summary. Proposals will be presented to the GAE Committee. The fight to repeal the 1 year provision continues. Legal Programs Director Shannon Kief explained in greater detail the proposals

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi updated the commission on the 2018 budget. SEEC been running on a shoestring budget, but on track. Mark Severance will be joining us as the new Elections Officer and the Legal Investigator position has been posted and we will be interviewing in the next couple months.

IV. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund for the Special Election of February 27, 2018

1. "Cabral for 120," William O. Cabral

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "Cabral for 120," William O. Cabral. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Phil Young for State Rep.," Phillip Young

It was moved by Commissioner Bramante and seconded by Commissioner Penny to approve the grant application for "Phil Young for State Rep.," Phillip Young. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

V. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Hearing Officer Reports

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Mazurek, Wolcott

File No. 2014-170

Respondents:

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

Hearing Officer:

Michael Ajello

Prosecutors:

William B. Smith and James
Talbert-Slagle

Hearing Officer Ajello summarized the above referenced report in File No. 2014-170. He recommended adoption of the Final Decision.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt 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 the Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Suchinski, Bristol
File No. 2014-143
Respondents: Gregg Cogswell and
Michael Cronin
Hearing Officer: Michael Ajello
Prosecutors: William B. Smith and James
Talbert-Slagle

This matter was moved to executive session as item 1A

B. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Steven Sheinberg, Fairfield
File No. 2016-077A
Request for a Reason to Believe Finding
Respondent: Anthony Hwang
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced matter. He recommended that the Commission find that there is a reason to believe that the named Respondent violated General Statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission and that the Chair of the Commission appoint a hearing officer for a hearing on the matter in File No. 2016-077A.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Request for Reason to Believe in File No. 2016-077A. Commissioner Ajello has been appointed as hearing officer on the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

- 1A. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bruce Suchinski, Bristol
File No. 2014-143
Respondents: Gregg Cogswell and
Michael Cronin
Hearing Officer: Michael Ajello
Prosecutors: William B. Smith and James
Talbert-Slagle

Hearing Officer Ajello summarized the above referenced report in File No. 2014-143. He recommended adoption of a Motion to Modify.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt a Motion to Modify in 2014-143. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Athena-Lee Maynard, Voluntown
In the Matter of a Complaint by Deborah Maynard, Voluntown
File Nos. 2016-096 & 2016-097
Request for a Reason to Believe Finding
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced matters. He recommended that the Commission find that there is a reason to believe that the named Respondent, Diana Ingraham, violated General Statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission and that the Chair of the Commission appoint a hearing officer for a hearing on the matter in File Nos. 2016-096 & 2016-097.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Request for Reason to Believe in File Nos. 2016-096 & 2016-097. Commissioner Penny has been appointed as hearing officer on the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Southbury Registrar of Voters
File No. 2017-023
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Ivan J. Blum
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-023. 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. 2017-023. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Elaine H. Watson, Stratford
File No. 2017-053
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents: Rick Marcone and
Lou Decilio
Attorney: William B. Smith

Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-053. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-053. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Aaron G. Charney, West Haven
File No. 2015-103S

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Jaryn Travers
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-103S. 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. 2015-103S. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Aaron G. Charney, West Haven
File No. 2015-103P

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Ulish K. Booker
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2015-103P. 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. 2015-103P. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joshua Fedeli, Stamford

File No. 2017-071

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

William Jenkins

Attorney:

Ryan M. Burns

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-071. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-071. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Proposed Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

VI. *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 10:26 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, Ajello, Bramante and Penny were present. Staff members present were Ryan Burns, Kevin Ahern, William Smith, Gilberto Oyola, Scott Branfuhr, Evelyn Gratacos, Joshua Foley, Marianne Sadowski, Linda Waterman, Doug Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Sarah Clark and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 12:10 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 seven (7) 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 six (6) complaints File Nos.: 2017-085, 2017-086, 2017-087, 2018-

001, 2018-002 and 2018-003, 2017-082, 2017-083 and 2017-084. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Bramante to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint File No.: 2017-088. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-1 with Commissioner Castagno abstaining. So voted

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Thomas J. Daly, Jr., North Haven
File No. 2017-040
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to table matter numbers 3-18 in executive session to a later meeting. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0. So voted.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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 has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

12. 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 has been tabled.

13. 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 has been tabled.

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

The matter has been tabled.

15. In re: Audit of *Saavedra 2016*
File No: 2017-090
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr
The matter has been tabled.

16. 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

The matter has been tabled.

17. 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 has been tabled.

18. 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

The matter has been tabled.

19. Consideration of Draft Audit Reports

1. "Zoni for State Representative," David Zoni

Linda Wateman provided an overview of the audit reports and recommended that the Commission make audit number 1 final. So moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

VII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 12:12 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 14, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.