



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS 165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1200, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Chair of the Board, Dena Castricone, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Dena Castricone, Chair (virtual)
Nichelle Mullins, Vice Chair (virtual)
Mary Bigelow
Charles Chiusano

Karen Christiana (virtual)
Jason Farrell (virtual)
Laura Schuyler (virtual)

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director
Brian O'Dowd, General Counsel
Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Marianne Sadowski, Deputy General Counsel (virtual)
Diane Buxo, Assistant General Counsel (virtual)
Al Alaaeldin, IT Analyst II

Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer
Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer (virtual)
Michael Morrissey, Legal Investigator
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal, Enforcement Division

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 Regular Meeting.

2. The minutes of the May 19, 2022 Special Meeting for the Subcommittee on Municipal Ethics were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Bigelow, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted two to zero to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 Special Subcommittee Meeting.

3. Chair Castricone presented her Chairperson's report, reminding the Board of Mr. Chiusano's upcoming Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ("UAPA") Hearing Officer service on July 14, 2022, and that there is no need for an August Hearing Officer, as no hearing is scheduled for that month.
4. General Counsel O'Dowd made a comprehensive training presentation on the Code's gift provisions. This was a detailed oral presentation, accompanied by a PowerPoint summary.
5. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He noted that the Attorney General's office has not yet issued an opinion in response to OSE's request for one, involving the Connecticut Port Authority and the filing of Statements of Financial Interests ("SFIs") by certain members of its board of directors, and that the Legal Division will notify the Board once it receives the opinion.
6. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. He highlighted that the Division has finished addressing all first quarter lobbyist matters and noted that there are currently six UAPA matters concerning SFIs. He also said a few words about Mike Morrissey, Legal Investigator in the Enforcement Division, who is about to retire after many years' service.
7. Before the Board's discussion of counteroffers in three UAPA matters involving the late SFI filings, Board member Chiusano, who is scheduled to be the July 14 Hearing Officer, left the room, and Deputy General Counsel Marianne Sadowski, who is Counsel to the Hearing Officer, also left the meeting.
 - a. In the first UAPA matter, Beatrice Fevry appeared virtually on her own behalf. Assistant Enforcement Officer Jennifer Montgomery noted that this is a matter she is handling, and that materials for all three counteroffers were included in last week's Board package. After discussion, the Board authorized the Enforcement Division to settle the matter with a civil penalty of \$70.
 - b. The second UAPA matter, also being handled by Attorney Montgomery, involved Jonathan Hermanot, who did not appear. The Board recommended that his counteroffer not be accepted.
 - c. The third UAPA matter, being handled by Deputy Enforcement Officer Crayton, involved Joan Nakano, who did not appear. After discussion, the Board recommended that the civil penalty be waived.
8. Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Education and Communications report, noting that the office continues to be busy in providing educational trainings, although summer months usually have a less busy calendar for these.

9. Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting the following items:
 - a. Executive Director Lewandowski made remarks concerning the upcoming retirement of Michael Morrissey, legal investigator in the Enforcement Division, who has served with distinction for over 15 years. He commended Mr. Morrissey for his service, which was critical to the function of Enforcement Division.
 - b. Concerning personnel matters, OSE commenced the hiring process to find a candidate for Michael Morrissey's legal investigator position. Also, in collaboration with Executive Director Colleen Murphy of the Freedom of Information Commission, DAS has been requested to re-work the red-circled Director of Education and Communications position to find a classified position that will encompass the required tasks of training and information the two agencies need.
 - c. The State Auditors of Public Accounts commenced an audit of the Office of State Ethics for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and 2021.
 - d. In addition, Mr. Lewandowski provided an update on the vendor for cafeteria services; discussed the upcoming semi-annual telework period; and informed the Board about the 2022 Annual COGEL Conference in Montreal, Canada.
10. Mr. Morrissey spoke to the Board, stating that after a 30-year career in Law Enforcement, he truly enjoyed working with his colleagues at OSE and advancing OSE's mission. Chair Castricone then read aloud a Resolution of Commendation for Michael Morrissey.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Mullins, the Board voted seven to zero to approve this Resolution.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted seven to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane P. Buxo
Acting Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics

Date approved
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)