

# 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 15, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Friday, June 15, 2023.

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)  
Mary Bigelow  
Charles Chiusano  
Karen Christiana (virtual)

N. Beth Cook  
Jason Farrell (virtual)  
Cheryl Lipson

#### 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)  
Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement  
Officer

Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics  
Enforcement Officer (virtual)  
Carol Langevin, Associate Accounts Examiner  
Sarah Clark, Director of Education &  
Communications  
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal  
Melissa Hamilton, Paralegal and Clerk of the  
Board

#### The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the May 18, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

**On the motion of Ms. Christiana, seconded by Mr. Farrell, with Ms. Lipson abstaining, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2023 Regular Meeting.**

2. The Chairperson's report was presented by Chair Dena Castricone. Chair Castricone noted that due to the annual suspension of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ("UAPA") hearings

during the month of August, no hearing officer is required at this time, and that a hearing officer will be selected during the July meeting for September hearings. Ms. Cook, the alternate hearing officer for July, will now serve as the July 13, 2023 UAPA Hearing Officer. Finally, Chair Castricone reported that the administrative lobbying training that was scheduled for today has been postponed until the July Board meeting to allow for the full Board's attendance.

3. General Counsel Brian O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Christine Marques, an employee of the Department of Economic and Community Development, who asked whether her proposed post-state employment with a Connecticut municipality is permissible under General Statutes § 1-84b (f). Mr. O'Dowd recommended that the Board grant Ms. Marques' Petition and opine on whether her proposed post-state employment is permissible under § 1-84b (f).

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Christine Marques.**

4. Mr. O'Dowd discussed Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2023-3, issued in response to the Petition submitted by Christine Marques concerning her proposed post-state employment with a Connecticut municipality. Specifically, the petitioner asked whether her proposed post-state employment with a Connecticut municipality is permissible under General Statutes § 1-84b (f). Mr. O'Dowd explained that, based on the facts presented by the petitioner and the analysis and decision of a prior informal staff opinion (See, Request for Advisory Opinion No. 3232 (2003)), the petitioner, a state employee who was ministerially (but not substantially) involved in the award of state contracts to a Connecticut municipality, may accept post-state employment with that municipality without violating General Statutes § 1-84b (f), but in engaging in such employment, she must abide by the three other post-state employment provisions noted.

The petitioner was present at the meeting and expressed thanks to the Board for its time and consideration of her Petition.

Chair Castricone thanked Mr. O'Dowd for the thorough explanation and well-written draft of opinion.

**On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2023-3.**

5. OSE Legal Division's report was presented by General Counsel Brian O'Dowd, adding that the second half of the technical revisions to OSE's Regulations became official earlier this week; therefore, completing the phase I of revisions made to OSE's Regulations. Mr. O'Dowd mentioned that the substantive review, phase II, will soon commence.

Ms. Cook inquired whether there is a great deal of revisions to take place, including the removal of Regulations, during phase II of the Regulation overhaul, and Mr. O'Dowd answered that there are quite a few to update, listing examples.

6. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report, highlighting that there are currently seven (7) pending matters with respect to late filings of Statements of Financial Interests. He noted that notices of hearing for July 13, 2023 were issued in these matters.
7. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton and Associate Accounts Examiner Carol Langevin presented the client lobbyist audit report for the CT Chapter National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials and requested approval of the audit and its findings. Ms. Langevin reported that the audit contained three findings: 1) an understated payment totaling \$1,833.44, in 2020; 2) an overstated payment totaling \$563.78 in 2021; and 3) an overstated payment totaling \$0.30 in 2022. Once the variances were brought to the client lobbyist's attention, the respective ETH-2D financial reports were amended to correct the overstated and understated payments.

**On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for the CT Chapter National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.**

8. Director of Education & Communications Sarah Clark presented the Education and Communications report, highlighting the accomplishments made this past month and her priorities for the immediate future. Notably, Ms. Clark detailed the reconfiguration of information on OSE's website, the reformatting of the monthly Ethics Liason newsletter and the redesigned training slides, as well as the new headshot of OSE's Executive Director. Ms. Clark stated that the next step on the mission of accessibility and transparency is overhauling lobbyist materials and increasing the awareness of accessibility to Connecticut's municipalities' Codes of Ethics.

Because there is a lobbyist training scheduled in June, Ms. Cook asked whether OSE plans to invite all lobbyists, and Ms. Clark replied that because OSE is not the sponsoring entity of the training, it will not extend invitations to all lobbyists. However, there is an anticipated training for lobbyists statewide sponsored by a specific lobbying firm where OSE will make a presentation on the State Code of Ethics for Lobbyists.

9. Mr. Lewandowski delivered the final Legislative report of the 2023 session, stating that one of OSE's three bills (**SB-1151**, *An Act Concerning Revisions to the State Codes of Ethics*) passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor last week.

Concerning **SB-1152**, *An Act Concerning Contracting with Quasi-Public Agencies under the State Code of Ethics*, Mr. Lewandowski shared the passing of the bill in the Senate, but no further advancement. OSE's third bill, **HB-6828**, *An Act Concerning Conflicts of Interest due to an Employer other than the State under the State Code of Ethics*, did not progress in any manner.

Ms. Cook followed up on the Coach Edsall provision which was discussed at last month's meeting. Before responding, Mr. Lewandowski reminded the Board that the provision involved

nepotism. He stated that the provision can be explored and considered at the time of the 2024 legislative proposals discussion.

Mr. Lewandowski thanked Ms. Hurry for her assistance with the monitoring of bills and the preparation of the monthly legislative reports during the 2023 Legislative session.

10. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his Executive Director's report, highlighting the following items:

- (a) The State's budget was passed and signed by the Governor. OSE received the funding it requested to hire another attorney.
- (b) Concerning OSE's expansion in preparation for the hiring of another attorney, the State Properties Review Board approved OSE's request for additional office space and OSE has already submitted requests for furnishings, retrofitting, and installation of said furnishings.

Due to the passing of the State's budget and the approvals of OSE's expansion of office space, the OSE can now establish the attorney position, which will work in a hybrid role in the Legal Division by providing legal advice and assisting with training and educational initiatives. Accordingly, Mr. Lewandowski announced that Jennifer Montgomery of the Enforcement Division has expressed interest in the position and will assume the role. Ms. Montgomery is familiar with OSE's operation, is well-versed in the law, and is a very accomplished attorney.

To replace Ms. Montgomery's position in the Enforcement Division, the office has commenced the hiring of a new attorney, which it anticipates will begin shortly after the new fiscal year.

- (c) With respect to the second phase of OSE's Regulations revisions, Mr. Lewandowski confirmed Mr. O'Dowd's previous note that the substantive review of the agency's Regulations, phase II, will soon commence. In the meantime, he has asked the staff to review the Regulations and provide a list of suggestive amendments. Additionally, Mr. Lewandowski welcomes the Board to provide suggestions concerning any amendments.
- (d) Finally, the Subcommittee on Municipal Ethics met today, prior to this meeting, and discussed issues concerning the regionalization of Municipal Ethics initiatives. The staff provided recent developments and changes to the OSE website to include Municipal Ethics and links to each municipality's Code of Ethics.

11. Closed Session

**On the motion of Ms. Bigelow, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to enter a Closed Session to discuss the status of matters that are confidential pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-82a and 1-93a.**

At 1:30 p.m., the Board proceeded into a Closed Session.

The following Board members were present for the Closed Session:

Dena Castricone, Chair (virtual)  
Charles Chiusano  
Mary Bigelow  
Karen Christiana (virtual)

N. Beth Cook  
Jason Farrell (virtual)  
Cheryl Lipson

The following staff members of the OSE were present for the Closed Session:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director  
Brian O’Dowd, General Counsel  
Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer  
Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer

Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer (virtual)  
Carol Langevin, Associate Accounts Examiner  
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal  
Melissa Hamilton, Paralegal and Clerk of the Board

The Board exited the Closed Session at 1:39 p.m.

12. Approval of the Settlement Agreement

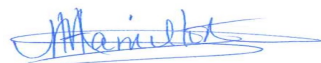
**On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Settlement Agreement in the Matter of a Complaint against Henry W. Juan, III, Docket No. 2022-01.**

13. Adjournment

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Melissa Hamilton  
Clerk of the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board  
Office of State Ethics

July 20, 2023

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