

# 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 MAY 18, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Chair of the Board, Dena Castricone, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **The following Board members were present:**

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

Karen Christiana (virtual)  
N. Beth Cook  
Jason Farrell (virtual)  
Laura Schuyler (virtual) (arrived at 1:09 pm)

#### **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  
Diane Buxo, Assistant General Counsel (virtual)

Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer (virtual)  
Carol Langevin, Associate Accounts Examiner  
Sarah Clark, Director of Education & Communications (arrived at 2:11 pm)  
Melissa Hamilton, Paralegal and Clerk of the Board

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

1. N. Beth Cook, an appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, was sworn in as a member of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board by its Chair, Dena Castricone.
2. The minutes of the April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

**On the motion of Ms. Christiana, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, with Ms. Cook abstaining, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting.**

3. The Chairperson's report was presented by Chair Dena Castricone. Chair Castricone reminded the Board that Mr. Chiusano will serve as the June 8, 2023 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ("UAPA") Hearing Officer, and noted that she will serve as the hearing officer for the July 13, 2023 UAPA hearings. Ms. Cook volunteered to serve as an alternate hearing officer should scheduling conflicts arise.
4. General Counsel Brian O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report, reaffirming the approval of the technical revisions to OSE's Regulations, phase I; the substantive review, phase II, will now begin. Chair Castricone expressed appreciation to the division, especially Deputy General Counsel Marianne Sadowski, for its hard work on the matter.
5. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report, highlighting that the division is continuing its initiative to enforce the first quarter lobbyist financial reports, ETH-2Ds. Currently, there is one matter on the June 8, 2023 UAPA hearing calendar; however, it is anticipated to settle before the hearing date. Additionally, the division is enforcing the late filings of Statements of Financial Interests ("SFIs"). The grace period that was provided to first-time non-compliant filers, as a one-time courtesy, expired on May 16, 2023, and as a result, 12 matters will be noticed for hearing on July 13, 2023; one matter has already been noticed for the June 8, 2023 hearing. Moreover, there is one confidential lobbying matter on today's agenda for discussion during Closed session.

Chair Castricone thanked the Enforcement Division for its work generally, and for the entire agency for informing SFI filers of their obligations to file an SFI by a date certain. As a result, the number of non-compliant filers was low this year.

6. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton and Associate Accounts Examiner Carol Langevin presented the lobbyist audit report for Arcimoto, requesting approval of the audit. It was reported that the audit had no findings.

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Arcimoto.**

7. Executive Director Peter Lewandowski presented the Education and Communications report, first noting some bittersweet news: that this is his final Education and Communications report to the Board because the Director of Education and Communications, Sarah Clark, has returned from leave. Second, Mr. Lewandowski provided an update concerning mandatory ethics training for the General Assembly. He noted that OSE provided ten training sessions since December 2022: four training sessions were held for specific Caucuses; and six training sessions were open to all members regardless of party affiliation. It was also noted that out of the 187 General Assembly members, only 3 members did not attend a training session: 1 Senator and 2 Representatives. OSE continues to schedule ethics training sessions with state agencies and quasi-public agencies; in fact, the office will be providing an extensive training on the Code of Ethics and its enforcement to all state prosecutors during their annual conference on June 8, 2023.

Mr. Lewandowski thanked Assistant General Counsel Diane Buxo for her dedication and assistance with the preparation of the media reports over the last year and a half, and shared that it is Ms. Buxo's last month preparing the media report, as the task will transfer to Ms. Clark.

Ms. Schuyler joined the meeting at 1:09 pm, during the Education and Communications report.

8. Concerning the Legislative Update, Executive Director Lewandowski reported that two of OSE's three bills passed unanimously in the Senate earlier this week and will now be placed on the House's calendar to be acted on. Those bills are **SB-1151**, *An Act Concerning Revisions to the State Codes of Ethics*, and **SB-1152**, *An Act Concerning Contracting with Quasi-Public Agencies under the State Code of Ethics*. The third bill, **HB-6828**, *An Act Concerning Conflicts of Interest due to an Employer other than the State under the State Code of Ethics*, remains on the House's calendar awaiting action.

Mr. Lewandowski thanked Ms. Hurry for her continued assistance with the monitoring of bills and the preparation of the monthly legislative report.

9. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his Executive Director's report, highlighting the following items:
  - (a) The SFI filing season went smoothly with approximately 98% on-time compliance as of May 2, 2023. There were 2,675 required filers this year, and only 60 current employees and public officials did not file an SFI by May 1, 2023. As of this date, that non-compliant list has decreased to 12.
  - (b) Concerning OSE expansion and preparation for the hiring of another staff attorney, the office received the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of Policy and Management's approval to increase the office's footprint, and now awaits the approval of the State Properties Review Board. Once the additional office space is obtained/approved by the State Properties Review Board, the hiring of the additional staff attorney will commence, which is anticipated to occur at the beginning of the new fiscal year.
  - (c) Finally, as mentioned by Mr. O'Dowd, OSE will soon commence the substantive review of the agency's Regulations, phase II.

#### 10. Closed Session

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Vice-Chair Mullins, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to enter a Closed Session to discuss status of matters that are confidential pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-82a and 1-93a.**

At 1:18 p.m., the Board proceeded into a Closed session.

The following Board members were present for the Closed Session:

Dena Castricone, Chair  
Nichelle Mullins, Vice-Chair  
Mary Bigelow  
Charles Chiusano

Karen Christiana (virtual)  
N. Beth Cook  
Jason Farrell (virtual)  
Laura Schuyler (virtual)

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  
Marianne Sadowski, Deputy General Counsel  
(virtual)  
Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement  
Officer

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

The Board exited the Closed Session at 2:08 p.m.

11. Approval of Consent Order

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, with Vice-Chair Mullins abstaining, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Consent Order in the Matter of a Complaint against Seabury PFRA, LLC aka Seabury Maritime (“Seabury”), Docket No. 2022-23.**

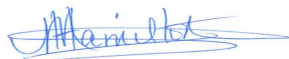
Ms. Clark joined the meeting at 2:11 pm, after the Consent Order Approval vote.

12. Adjournment

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

June 15, 2023

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