



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2018, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

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

The following Board members were present:

Dena Castricone, Chair
Mary Bigelow
Charles F. Chiusano
Beth Cook
Jason Farrell

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Richard Lang
Cheryl Lipson
Nichelle Mullins

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Carol Carson, Executive Director
Barbara Housen, General Counsel
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Education &
Communications
Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel

Mark Crayton, Assistant Ethics Enforcement
Officer
Mark Wasielewski, Deputy Ethics Enforcement
Officer
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the November 15, 2018 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0), with Mr. Farrell and Ms. Mullins abstaining, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the November 15, 2018 Regular Meeting.

2. Chair Castricone reported on the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL") conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 9-12, 2018.

3. Associate General Counsel Lewandowski presented proposed amendments to the Regulations.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the proposed amendments to the Regulations.

4. Associate General Counsel Lewandowski presented 20 legislative proposals, 15 of which had been previously approved by the Board along with five new proposals. After discussion, the Board suggested amendments to proposals 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15 and 19.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve legislative proposals 2, 5-9, 12-14, 16-18 and 20 and to approve, as amended, proposals 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15 and 19.

5. Ms. Bigelow provided an update on the work of the Municipal Ethics Sub-Committee. Eight individuals representing various stakeholders appeared before the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee distributed a survey to all 169 of Connecticut's municipalities and received responses from 130. The Sub-committee will meet one more time to finalize its recommendation that the Board submit to the General Assembly a recommendation that all municipalities adopt core ethics provisions in their ethics codes.
6. General Counsel Housen presented the Legal Division Report.
7. Director of Education and Communications Nicolescu presented the Education and Communications Reports.
8. Ethics Enforcement Officer Jones presented the Enforcement Division Report. Ms. Cook volunteered to serve as the Hearing Officer for January UAPA hearings.
9. Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer Crayton presented lobbyist audit reports for Rome Smith & Lutz and Kowalski Group. There were no adverse findings in either report.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to approve the audit reports for Rome Smith & Lutz and Kowalski Group.

10. Executive Director Carson discussed the 2018 COGEL conference. Ms. Carson reported on the status of the budget, which she projected would end the year in a \$12,000 deficit, based on the first five months of the year. The Office of State Ethics has promulgated for several years the message that its budget is one hearing away from a deficit; the Board is currently involved in such a hearing. She noted that the deficit is not related to attendance at the COGEL conference. Chair Castricone and Mr. Chiusano as well as five staff members, most of whom were presenters at the conference, paid for their own expenses because they recognize the value of the conference. Ms. Carson stated that she will work to ensure that future budgets include funds to support attendance at the conference. Ms. Carson noted that both Governor-elect Lamont and Lt. Governor-elect Byciewicz requested and received briefings on the Code of Ethics and the Office of State Ethics.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy and negotiations pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200 (6) (B) and 1-210 (b) (4) with respect to the appeal of the Superior Court decisions in Edsall et al. v. Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board et al. (Docket No. CV176039437) and University of Connecticut v. Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board et al. (Docket No. CV176039438).

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session:

Dena Castricone, Chair
Mary Bigelow
Charles F. Chiusano
Beth Cook
Jason Farrell

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Richard Lang
Cheryl Lipson
Nichelle Mullins

The following staff members were present for the Executive Session:

Carol Carson, Executive Director
Barbara Housen, General Counsel
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer

Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

Following the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in public session.

On the motion of Ms. Mullins, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to agree to an extension of the stay granted by the Superior Court in Edsall et al. v. Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board et al. (Docket No. CV176039437) and University of Connecticut v. Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board et al. (Docket No. CV176039438).

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted nine (9) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Carol Carson
Executive Director
Office of State Ethics

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