



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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 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
Beth Cook

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Jason Farrell
Cheryl Lipson

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
Brian O'Dowd, Deputy General Counsel

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 August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.
2. **On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted five (5) to zero (0), with Ms. Bigelow abstaining, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting.**
3. Mr. Farrell presented the slate of officers of Dena Castricone as chair and Kevin Johnston as vice-chair who were chosen unanimously by the Nominating Sub-Committee, which met by teleconference on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Chair Castricone asked for further nominations and, there being none, stated that Ms. Castricone and Mr. Johnson were elected by acclamation for two-year terms beginning on October 1, 2018 for chair and vice-chair, respectively.

4. Associate General Counsel Lewandowski presented Draft Advisory Opinion (AO 2018-3) in response to a petition from Raul Pino, Commissioner, Department of Public Health (DPH). Attorney Stacy Schulman, the DPH Ethics Liaison, provided comments regarding the Draft. The Board tabled the matter to later in the meeting to allow staff to prepare responses to questions raised by members of the Board.
5. Deputy General Counsel O'Dowd presented Draft Advisory Opinion (AO 2018-4) in response to a petition from Attorney Donald R. Seifel, Jr. on behalf of his client Dr. Julian Ford. Attorney Seifel provided comments regarding the Draft.

Following discussion and on the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adopt draft Advisory Opinion 2018-4.

6. Director of Education and Communications Nicolescu presented the Education and Communications Reports.
7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Jones presented the Enforcement Division Report. He reported that there were four matters scheduled for UAPA hearings on Thursday, October 25, 2018.
8. Mr. Crayton presented the audit report for The Devon/Stratford Merchants & Citizens Coalition, LLC. There was one adverse finding in this matter.

On the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for The Devon/Stratford Merchants & Citizens Coalition, LLC.

9. Executive Director Carson confirmed four dates for a Board hearing in the matter of Charmane Thurmand and she highlighted the role of Nancy Nicolescu at the OSE.
10. General Counsel Housen presented the Legal Division Report.
11. The Board returned to the consideration of Draft Advisory Opinion (AO 2018-3).

Following discussion and on the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adopt draft Advisory Opinion 2018-3, as amended to (1) eliminate number five of the five part test discussed on page seven of the Draft and make amendments throughout the draft to make it consistent with this amendment; and (2) to add the following language to number three of the five part test on page seven: "In the event that the matter does come before the Board, the DPH Board member shall recuse himself or herself."

12. Associate General Counsel Lewandowski presented the proposed a) changes to the disclosure forms for Necessary Expenses, b) newly created forms for Gifts to the State, made necessary by the passage of Public Act 18-64. He thanked OSE staff members Nicolescu, Buxo, Morgan and Ali for their work on making the changes.

On the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the forms, which will be posted on the OSE website on Monday, October 1, 2018.

13. Ms. Castricone reported on the activities of the Succession Planning Sub-Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted six (6) 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 settlement counter-offers, and the pending court appeals of Advisory Opinion 2017-2.

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session discussion of settlement counter-offers:

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Mary Bigelow
Beth Cook

Jason Farrell
Cheryl Lipson

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session discussion of the appeals of Advisory Opinion 2017-2:

Dena Castricone, Chair
Mary Bigelow
Beth Cook

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Jason Farrell
Cheryl Lipson

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

Brian O’Dowd, Deputy General Counsel
Mark Crayton, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

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

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Carol Carson
Executive Director
Office of State Ethics

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