



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 FEBRUARY 28, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2019, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Chair Dena Castricone called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

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

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair (via
teleconference)
Richard Lang
Cheryl Lipson
Nichelle Mullins

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Carol Carson, Executive Director
Brian O'Dowd, Acting General Counsel
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Marc Crayton, Asst. Ethics Enforcement Officer

Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal Specialist
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the January 24, 2019 Special Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted nine to zero to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 Special Meeting.

2. Mr. Johnston volunteered to serve as the hearing officer for UAPA hearings scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019.
3. Acting General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion from Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted nine to zero to consider the Petition for Advisory Opinion from Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

- Associate General Counsel Peter Lewandowski presented a legislative proposal regarding municipal ethics, which resulted from the work of the Municipal Ethics Sub-Committee of the Board.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted nine to zero to approve the legislative proposal on municipal ethics.

- Chair Castricone noted reports from Acting General Counsel O'Dowd, Director of Education and Communications Nicolescu, and Ethics Enforcement Officer Jones. There were no questions from the Board regarding these reports.
- Mr. Jones presented the lobbyist audit report for Wheeler Clinic, Inc. There were no adverse findings.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted nine to zero to approve the audit report for Wheeler Clinic, Inc.

- Chair Castricone tabled to the March 21, 2019 Board meeting agenda items 6, Discussion of Advisory Opinion No. 2006-8 (re: Board's settlement authority), and agenda item 7, Report on the University of Connecticut's Compliance with **General Statutes** 1-84 (r), Faculty Consulting.

On the motion of Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted nine to zero 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 offers in pending UAPA matters; 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); and, to discuss the employment of Brian O'Dowd and Diane Buxo, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-200 (6) (A).

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
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Marc Crayton, Asst. Ethics Enforcement Officer

Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel
Malissa Hurry, Paralegal Specialist
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

Mr. Johnston left the executive session at 3:45 p.m.

The Board returned to public session to begin deliberations on Docket No. 2017-15, the Matter of a Complaint against Charmane Thurmand, pursuant to General Statutes § 1-82 (b) .

Following discussion and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Lang, the Board voted eight to zero to find that Charmane Thurmand violated General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted eight to zero to find that Charmane Thurmand violated General Statutes § 1-84 (a).

On the motion of Ms. Mullins, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted eight to zero that Ms. Thurmand's spouse may be liable for knowingly receiving a financial advantage resulting from Ms. Thurmand's violation of General Statutes §§ 1-84 and 1-85, and directed the staff to inform the Attorney General of that possibility, pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-88 (d).

The Board took a brief break between 4:25 and 4:30 p.m.

Following further discussion and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted eight to zero to accept the recommendation of the Enforcement Division to impose a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for Charmane Thurmand's violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted eight to zero to accept the recommendation of the Enforcement Division to impose a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for Charmane Thurmand's violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (a).

Following discussion on the process of issuing findings of fact, the Board agreed to use the proposed finding of facts submitted by the Enforcement Division as the template for its findings. The Board noted that Charmane Thurmand did not submit a proposed finding of facts. The Board provided direction to Acting General Counsel O'Dowd and scheduled a special meeting of the Board for March 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. to review a draft finding of facts.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted eight to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol Carson
Executive Director
Office of State Ethics

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