



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 MAY 16, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2019, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Chair Dena Castricone called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

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

Jason Farrell
Richard Lang
Cheryl Lipson

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Carol Carson, Executive Director
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board
Diane Buxo, Paralegal Specialist
Marc Crayton, Asst. Ethics Enforcement Officer
Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel

Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Education & Communications
Brian O'Dowd, General Counsel
Mark Wasielewski, Acting Ethics Enforcement Officer

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted five to zero, with Mr. Lang and Ms. Lipson abstaining, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting.

2. Chair Castricone appointed Ms. Cook to serve as the Hearing Officer for the UAPA hearing scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2019.

3. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Patrick M. Ahlquist.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted seven to zero to consider the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Patrick M. Ahlquist.

4. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Amended Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Robert W. Clark.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to consider the Amended Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Robert W. Clark.

5. Associate General Counsel Lewandowski presented Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2019-2, Petition from Robert W. Clark.

On the motion of Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted seven to zero to approve Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2019-2.

6. On the recommendation of General Counsel O'Dowd, the Board tabled Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2019-3 to the June meeting due to the lack of a quorum to act on this matter.
7. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He expressed appreciation for Paralegal Specialist Buxo's efforts related to completing the memorandum summarizing staff opinions, noting that she had a very brief time this month to complete the nine-page memo summarizing more than 100 requests for advice completed between April 10, 2019, and May 7, 2019. He reported that the deadline for Ms. Charmane Thurmand, the respondent in Docket No. 2017-15, to pay her civil penalty is Monday, June 10, 2019.
8. Director of Education & Communications Nicolescu presented the Media and Training Reports. She reported on the status of training for the General Assembly.
9. Acting Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report, noting that there are no matters scheduled for the May 23, 2019 UAPA hearing.
10. Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer Crayton presented the lobbyist audit report for the Connecticut State Golf Association, noting that there were no adverse findings.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the audit report for the Connecticut State Golf Association.

11. Executive Director Carson updated the Board on pending personnel changes. She announced that Brian O'Dowd is officially the General Counsel and Mark Wasielewski will be the Ethics Enforcement Officer as of June 7, 2019. She noted that these changes have provided the opportunity to re-organize some of the responsibilities for staff in order to achieve greater efficiency. She discussed the status of the filing of Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs), noting that as of this week, all but 24 of the 2,552 required filers have filed, representing 99 percent of total filers, and

that approximately 98 percent of the SFIs were filed electronically. Finally, she reported on the progress of the case management system.

12. Executive Director Carson discussed the status of the Board’s legislative proposals.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted seven to zero to enter into a Closed Session to discuss the status of matters that are confidential pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-82a and 1-93a.

Richard Lang was required by General Statutes § 1-80 (j) to recuse himself from the matter under discussion and left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

The following Board members were present for the Closed Session:

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

The following staff members were present for the Closed Session:

Carol Carson, Executive Director	Brian O’Dowd, General Counsel
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board	Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel
Marc Crayton, Asst. Ethics Enforcement Officer	Mark Wasielewski, Acting Ethics Enforcement Officer

Upon return to public session and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted six to zero to approve the Joint Motion for Leave to Withdraw Complaint and Waive Confidentiality in Docket No. 2018-30.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six to zero to approve the Joint Motion for Leave to Withdraw Complaint and Waive Confidentiality in Docket No. 2018-29.

On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol Carson
Executive Director
Office of State Ethics

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