

[01]

Approve Minutes

August 08, 2024
October 24, 2024
October 30, 2024
December 31, 2024

ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 29, 2024

A regular meeting of the Alaska Public Offices Commission came to order at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The meeting was held at the Anchorage APOC office at 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Room 128, Anchorage, Alaska.

Brackets [] indicate an agenda item number and that an information packet is included in the meeting binder. Asterisks * indicate that no information was included in the meeting binder.

In Attendance:

Commission: Richard Stillie - Chair
Lanette Blodgett - Commissioner
Eric Feige – Commissioner (remote)
Dan LaSota – Commissioner
Walt Monegan – Commissioner (remote)

Hearing Officer: John Ptacin

Staff: Heather Hebdon, Executive Director
Mike Sargent, Campaign Disclosure Coordinator
John Whitlock, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal
Dyane Chung, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal
Ben Wolfe, POFD Paralegal
Heather Dalberg, Lobbying Paralegal (remote)

Dept. of Law Robert Kutchin, Assistant Attorney General
Kimber Rodgers, Assistant Attorney General
Robert Bacaj, Assistant Attorney General

Attendees: **Candidate Civil Penalty Appeals**
James Arlington, Candidate
Brandy Pennington, Candidate (remote)

Group Civil Penalty Appeals and Referrals
Cheryl Markwood, Member Interior Republicans (telephone)

POFD Civil Penalty Appeals
Steve Ramos, Chief Health Administrator (remote)

Complaint 24-01-CD, McDonald v. Josephson
Jay MacDonald (remote)

Rep. Andy Josephson (remote)

Complaint 24-02-CD, Goforth v. Friends of the Palmer Public Library

Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez, Friends of the Palmer Public Library

Benjamin Farkash, Friends of the Palmer Public Library

Joe Miller, Representative for Goforth (remote)

Jacquelyn Goforth, Complainant

Prudence McKenney, Friends of the Palmer Public Library (remote)

Andree McCloud, Public (remote)

Carol Lewis, Public (remote)

Advisory Opinion 24-04-CD, 907 Initiative

Amber Maltbie

Commission Review of Rejected Complaint

Sam Gottstein, Alaskans for Better Elections

Scott Kendall, Alaskans for Better Elections (remote)

ON RECORD: 9:00 a.m.

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda [*]

Commissioner LaSota moved to approve the meeting agenda.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Consent Agenda, Candidate Civil Penalty Appeals [1]

Dyane Chung presented the consent agenda for Candidate civil penalty appeals.

Commissioner Feige requested item 1 be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Lasota moved to remove item 1 from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to remove item 1.

Commissioner LaSota moved to approve item 2 on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to approve item 2 on the consent agenda.

Candidate

LATE REPORT

MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY

STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

James Arlington

2024 State Primary Election Year Start Report

\$4,830

\$2,425

Waive

Dyane Chung presented staff's recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

James Arlington gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Heather Hebdon gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

**Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.
Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.**

Consent Agenda, Group Civil Penalty Appeals and Referrals [2]

John Whitlock presented the consent agenda for Group civil penalty appeals and referrals.

Interior Republicans requested item 1 and 2 be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner LaSota requested item 4 be removed from the consent agenda.

**Commissioner LaSota moved to remove items 1, 2 and 4 from the consent agenda.
Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 5-0 to remove items 1, 2 and 4.
Commissioner LaSota moved to approve item 3 on the consent agenda.
Commissioner Blodgett Seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 5-0 to approve items 3 on the consent agenda.**

Group	Interior Republicans
LATE REPORT	30 Day Campaign Disclosure
MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY	\$900
STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY	\$450
STAFF RECOMMENDATION	Reduce to \$450

John Whitlock presented staff's recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

Cheryl Markwood gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

**Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.
Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.**

Group	Interior Republicans
LATE REPORT	Independent Expenditure Report
MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY	\$4,750
STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY	\$2,350
STAFF RECOMMENDATION	Reduce to \$2,350

John Whitlock presented staff's recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

Cheryl Markwood gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Heather Hebdon gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

**Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.
Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.**

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

OFF RECORD: 10:15 a.m.

ON RECORD: 10:21 a.m.

Group

LATE REPORT

MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY

STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Alaskans for Honest Elections

2024 1ST Quarter Report

\$250.00

\$250.00

Refer to AGO

John Whitlock presented staff's proposed findings and order and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to amend the report to correct a typo and forward to the Attorney General's Office.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to amend the report and forward to the Attorney General's Office.

Consent Agenda, POFD Civil Penalty Appeals and Referrals [3]

Ben Wolfe presented the consent agenda for POFD civil penalty appeals and referrals.

Ben Wolfe requested items 8, 11, 13, and 14 be removed from the consent agenda as the penalties had been paid in full.

Steve Ramos requested item 3 be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner LaSota requested item 15 be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner LaSota moved to remove items 3, 8, 11, and 13 - 15 from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to remove items 3, 8, 11, and 13 - 15.

Commissioner LaSota moved to approve items 1, 2, 4 - 7, 9, 10 and 12 on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blodgett Seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to approve items 1, 2, 3, 4 - 7, 9, 10 and 12 on the consent agenda.

Public Official

LATE REPORT

MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY

STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Steve Ramos

2024 Initial POFD Statement

\$90

\$67.50

Reduce to \$33.75

Ben Wolfe presented staff's recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

Steve Ramos gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Public Official

John Reeves

LATE REPORT

2024 Annual POFD Statement

MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTY

\$940

STAFF ASSESSED PENALTY

\$470

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Uphold

Ben Wolfe Presented staff's recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to accept staff's recommendation as drafted.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to accept staff's recommendation as drafted.

Executive Director's Report [4]

Heather Hebdon presented her report and answered questions from the Commission.

OFF RECORD: 10:35 a.m.

ON RECORD: 10:40 a.m.

Complaint 24-01-CD, MacDonald v. Josephson [5]

Complainant Jay MacDonald gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Heather Hebdon presented the proposed consent agreement and answered questions from the Commission

Andy Josephson gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Stillie moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner LaSota seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Complaint 24-02-CD, Goforth v. Friends of the Palmer Public Library [6]

Joe Miller, counsel for complainant, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Complainant Jacquelyn Goforth gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Mike Sargent presented staff's investigation report and answered questions from the Commission.

Benjamin Farkash and Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez, counsel for respondents gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Prudence McKenney, respondent, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

OFF RECORD: 12:32 p.m.

ON RECORD: 12:40 p.m.

Public Comment Period [*]

Brandy Pennington, candidate for house district 9, gave public comment and answered questions from the Commission.

Andre McCloud gave public comment.

Jacquelyn Goforth gave public comment.

Carol Lewis gave public comment.

OFF RECORD: 1:30 p.m.

ON RECORD: 1:45 p.m.

Advisory Opinion 24-04-CD, 907 Initiative

Heather Hebdon presented staff's advisory opinion and answered questions from the Commission.

Amber Maltbie, counsel for 907 Initiative, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commission Review of Staff's Rejection of Complaint, *Alaskans for Better Elections v. Alaskans for Honest Elections* [8]

Sam Gottstein gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Heather Hebdon gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner LaSota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner Blodgett seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Chair Stille moved to adjourn.

OFF RECORD: 2:53 p.m.

Adjourn

ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2024

A special meeting of the Alaska Public Offices Commission came to order at 10:00 A.M on October 24, 2024. The meeting was held at the Anchorage APOC office at 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Room 128, Anchorage, Alaska.

Brackets [] indicate an agenda item number and that an information packet is included in the meeting binder. Asterisks * indicate that no information was included in the meeting binder.

In Attendance:

Commission: Richard Stillie - Chair (remote)
Lanette Blodgett – Commissioner (remote)
Eric Feige – Commissioner (remote)
Dan LaSota – Commissioner (remote)
Walt Monegan – Commissioner (remote)

Hearing Officer: John Ptacin

Staff: Heather Hebdon, Executive Director
Mike Sargent, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal (remote)
Dyane Chung, Campaign Paralegal (remote)
John Whitlock, Campaign Paralegal (remote)
Ben Wolfe, POFD Paralegal (remote)

Dept. of Law Robert Kutchin, AAG (remote)
Robert Bacaj, AAG

Attendees: Noah Star, Counsel for 907 Initiative
Aubrey Wieber, 907 Initiative
Richard Moses, Counsel for Families of the Last Frontier (remote)
Stacey Stone, Counsel for Families of the Last Frontier (remote)
Kenneth Jacobus, Complainant
Thomas Amodio, Counsel for Alaskans for Better Elections and No on 2
Heather Dalberg (remote)
Iris Samuels (remote)
Jason Brandeis (remote)
Robert Buchanan (remote)
Juli Lucky (remote)
Matt Buxton (remote)
Paula DeLaiarro (remote)

Eric Stone (remote)

ON RECORD: 10:00 A.M.

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting to order.

Chair Stillie announced that the purpose of the special meeting is to address two items: a request for expedited consideration of complaint 24-08-CD, 907 Initiative v. Families of the Last Frontier; and Commission review of staff's rejection of a complaint filed by Kenneth Jacobus against Alaskans for Better Elections and No on 2.

Hearing Officer John Ptacin gave a brief overview of the hearing procedures.

Noah Star appeared in person on behalf of complainants, 907 Initiative, presented the complaint and answered questions from the Commission

Robert Moses appeared remotely on behalf of respondent, Families of the Last Frontier, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Lasota moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Commissioner Monegan seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under advisement in executive session.

Chair Stillie noted that the Commission would recess until 11:00 to hear the next matter on the agenda. The Commission would then deliberate in executive session and return to the record at approximately 11:45 to announce their decision on whether to grant expedited consideration of complaint 24-08-CD.

OFF RECORD: 10:50 A.M.

ON RECORD: 11:00 A.M.

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting to order.

Chair Stillie announced the next matter on the agenda was the Commission review of staff's rejection of a complaint filed by Kenneth Jacobus against Alaskans for Better Elections and No on 2.

Hearing Officer John Ptacin gave a brief overview of procedures.

Kenneth Jacobus appeared in person, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

Heather Hebdon appeared in person on behalf of APOC staff, gave a brief statement regarding the rejection of the complaint and answered questions from the Commission.

Thomas Amodio appeared remotely on behalf of Alaskans for Better Elections and No on 2, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

**Commissioner Stillie moved to uphold the staff's decision to reject the complaint.
Commissioner Feige seconded the motion.
The Commission voted 5-0 to uphold the staff's decision to reject the complaint.**

OFF RECORD: 11:15 A.M.

Executive Session/Deliberations

ON RECORD: 12:40 P.M.

Chair Stillie announced the Commission's decision to expedite consideration of complaint 24-08-CD with the exact time and date to be determined.

ADJOURNED: 12:43 P.M.

ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 2024

A special meeting of the Alaska Public Offices Commission came to order at 10:00 am on, October 30, 2024. The meeting was held at the Anchorage APOC office at 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Room 128, Anchorage, Alaska.

Brackets [] indicate an agenda item number and that an information packet is included in the meeting binder. Asterisks * indicate that no information was included in the meeting binder.

In Attendance:

Commission: Richard Stillie - Chair (remote)
Lanette Blodgett – Commissioner (remote)
Eric Feige – Commissioner (remote)
Dan LaSota – Commissioner (remote)
Walt Monegan – Commissioner (remote)

Hearing Officer: John Ptacin

Staff: Heather Hebdon, Executive Director
Mike Sargent, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal (remote)
Dyane Chung, Campaign Paralegal (remote)
John Whitlock, Campaign Paralegal (remote)
Ben Wolfe, POFD Paralegal (remote)
Michelle Melgar, Law Office Assistant

Dept. of Law: Robert Kutchin, Assistant Attorney General
Robert Bacaj, Assistant Attorney General (remote)

Attendees: Noah Star, Counsel for 907 Initiative
Aubrey Wieber, 907 Initiative
Richard Moses, Counsel for Families of the Last Frontier
Stacey C. Stone, Counsel for Families of the Last Frontier (remote)
Paula DeLaiarro (remote)
Sean (remote)
Eric Stone (remote)
Matt Buxton (remote)
Jason Brandeis (remote)
Emily (remote)
Iris Samuels (remote)
Jeremy B. (remote)
Kim Jones (remote)

ON RECORD: 10:01 A.M.

Chair Stillie announced that the purpose of the special meeting was for purposes of conducting an expedited hearing on the merits of complaint 24-08-CD, *907 Initiative, et al. v. Families of the Last Frontier, et al.*

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting to order.

Hearing Officer John Ptacin gave a brief overview of the hearing procedures and designated the complainant as a party to the hearing.

Noah Star appeared in-person on behalf complainants, 907 Initiative, provided arguments in support of the complaint's allegations, and answered questions from the Commission.

Richard Moses appeared in-person on behalf of respondent, Families of the Last Frontier, provided testimony against the complaint's allegations, and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Lasota moved to take the matter under executive session.

Commissioner Monegan seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 5-0 to take the matter under executive session.

OFF RECORD: 11:49 A.M.

Executive Session/Deliberation

**ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION
MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

A [regular/special] meeting of the Alaska Public Offices Commission came to order at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. The meeting was held at the Anchorage APOC office at 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Room 128, Anchorage, Alaska.

Brackets [] indicate an agenda item number and that an information packet is included in the meeting binder. Asterisks * indicate that no information was included in the meeting binder.

In Attendance:

Commission: Richard Stillie - Chair (remote)
Lanette Blodgett – Commissioner (remote)
Eric Feige – Commissioner (remote)
Dan LaSota – Commissioner (remote)
Walt Monegan – Commissioner (remote)

Hearing Officer: John Ptacin

Staff: Heather Hebdon, Executive Director
Mike Sargent, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal (remote)
John Whitlock, Campaign Disclosure Paralegal (remote)
Ben Wolfe, POFD Paralegal (remote)
Robert Buchanan, (remote)

Dept. of Law Robert Kutchin, Assistant Attorney General (remote)
Robert Bacaj, Assistant Attorney General (remote)

Attendees: Michael Alexander (remote)
Kevin McCabe (remote)
Becca Koonce (remote)
A. Krom (remote)

ON RECORD: 10:08 A.M.

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider a request for expedited consideration of Complaint 24-12-CD, *Michael Alexander v. Kevin McCabe*.

Hearing Officer John Ptacin gave a brief overview of the hearing procedures.

Michael Alexander appeared remotely, presented the complaint and answered questions from the Commission.

Kevin McCabe appeared remotely, gave a brief statement and answered questions from the Commission.

**Commissioner Feige moved to take the matter under advisement in executive session.
Commissioner Lasota seconded the motion.**

OFF RECORD: 10:32 a.m.

ON RECORD: 10:45 a.m.

Chair Stillie took a roll call of the Commission and called the meeting back to order.

Chair Stillie announced that the Commission denied the request for expedited consideration and remanded the complaint to the executive director of the Commission for consideration by the Commission on a regular rather than on an expedited basis.

Commissioner Stillie moved to adjourn.

OFF RECORD: 10:46 a.m.

Adjourn