



Minutes of the April 30, 2025 Meeting of the
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine

Present: William Schneider, Esq., Chair; Dennis Marble; David Hastings, Esq. (by Zoom); Sarah LeClaire, Esq. (by Zoom) and Beth Ahearn, Esq. (by Zoom)

Staff: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director; and Jonathan R. Bolton, Assistant Attorney General
Commissioner Schneider convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the February 26, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Marble moved to ratify the February 26, 2025 minutes. Ms. Ahearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Penalty for Failure to File Campaign Finance Report – 2020 Candidate John DeVeau

John DeVeau was a traditionally financed legislative candidate in 2020. Since January 2021, he has been required to file semiannual campaign finance reports, because his reported campaign balance exceeded \$100. He has yet to file the semiannual report that was due on January 15, 2025. Commission staff recommended assessing a penalty of \$500 for the failure to file this report.

Mr. Bolton explained the Commission could refer the collection of penalties to the Attorney General's (AG) office. The AG's office can collect three times the amount of the penalty imposed by the Ethics Commission. The Commission could also make a criminal referral to the AG's office, which would decide whether charges should be pursued.

Mr. Hastings asked if this would need to be addressed again in July 2025 when the next report was due. Mr. Wayne said, if the Commission does not object to this course of action, he had already recommended to Candidate Registrar Erin Gordon that if the Commission assessed a \$500 penalty, the staff would terminate Mr. DeVeau's 2020 account in the Commission's E-Filing system and would not continue to expect semiannual campaign finance reports.

Mr. Schneider moved to find the January 2025 campaign finance report was unfiled, assess a penalty of \$500 and refer the case to the Attorney General's office for further consideration. Ms. Ahearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Executive Session

Mr. Schneider moved pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(4) to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 1013(3-A) to discuss whether to pursue a legislative ethics complaint. Mr. Marble seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 at 9:25 a.m.

The Commission met in executive session until 10:10 a.m., when it reconvened in public session. Mr. Schneider moved that no investigation was required and to take no further action on the matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marble. The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

Mr. Marble chaired a working group meeting on April 29, 2025 to re-examine 24-Hour and Independent Expenditure reporting deadlines. He provided an update to the Commission on the April 29 meeting. The working group consists of two legislators, representatives of PACs, a government reform advocate, a former candidate, and Commission staff and counsel. At the April 29 meeting, Mr. Wayne focused the group's attention on reporting thresholds and deadlines, which resulted in a productive conversation on ideas to improve the current procedures. Mr. Wayne will compile an update memo for the group and will schedule a second meeting to prepare a recommendation for the Commission's consideration.

Adjournment

Mr. Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Marble seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director