

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Robert Bechta,

FINAL DECISION

Complainant

Docket #FIC83-108

against

January 9, 1984

Stafford Board of Finance,

Respondent

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on September 7, 1983, at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record the following facts are found:

1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. Between April 5, 1983 and April 18, 1983 the respondent held a series of workshop meetings to discuss the budgets of the Stafford boards of selectmen and education.
3. By letter of complaint filed with the Commission on April 21, 1983 the complainant alleged that on or about April 6, 1983 he had been unable to obtain a copy of the respondent's agenda for a meeting held that night.
4. The complainant was unsure as to whether the meeting date had been April 5, 1983 or April 6, 1983.
5. The schedule of regular meetings filed by the respondent pursuant to §1-21, G.S. indicates that a series of workshop meetings would be held March 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and April 5, 6, 12, 14, 19, 20, 26, 27, at 7:00 p.m. "to study the Budget Proposals submitted and to prepare the Budget Document for recommendation to the Annual Budget Town Meeting."
6. No agendas were filed for the April 5 and April 6, 1983 meetings, nor for any of the other workshops listed on the respondent's schedule of regular meetings.
7. The respondent claims that no agendas for the meetings listed on its schedule of regular meetings were necessary, since the schedule indicated that the meetings would be held to discuss budget matters, although at no time was the complainant referred to the schedule of regular meetings, nor given any indication that such schedule constituted an "agenda".

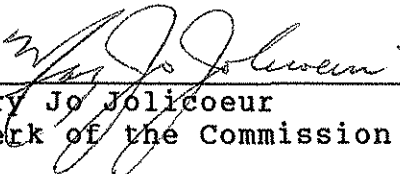
8. It is found that the filing of the respondent's schedule of regular meetings does not satisfy the requirements of §1-21, G.S. regarding the filing of agendas of regular meetings.

9. It is therefore concluded that the respondent violated §1-21, G.S. when it failed to file agendas for its April 5, 1983 and April 6, 1983 meetings.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint.

1. Henceforth the respondent shall act in strict compliance with the requirements of §1-21, G.S. regarding the filing of agendas.

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of December 28, 1983.



Mary Jo Jolicoeur
Clerk of the Commission