



## **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**

**April 15, 2021**

This meeting is held via Zoom due to Governor Wolf's orders to stay at home during the time of this COVID-19 crisis.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on April 15, 2021 via Zoom with a link that was provided to all Board members by the Executive Director. An agenda containing the Zoom link to this meeting was posted on the ECGRA website and at 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wood.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Dr. Wood: The April meeting of the ECGRA Board of Directors is our annual reorganization meeting where we fill the positions of officers and approve the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. At this time, I will conduct the election of officers and we will vote on the budget under New Business during the meeting.

Mike Paris makes a motion to nominate Dale Barney as Chairman. Dominic DiPaolo seconds the motion. Whitey Cleaver makes a motion to close nominations. Nominations are closed by unanimous vote. The motion for Dale Barney to become Chairman passes 7-0.

Mike Paris makes a motion to nominate Dominic DiPaolo as Vice-Chair. Dale Barney seconds the motion. Whitey Cleaver makes a motion to close nominations. Nominations are closed by unanimous vote. The motion for Dominic DiPaolo to become Vice-Chair passes 7-0.

Mike Paris makes a motion to nominate Whitey Cleaver as Treasurer. Dominic DiPaolo seconds the motion. Dominic DiPaolo makes a motion to close nominations. Nominations are closed by unanimous vote. The motion for Whitey Cleaver to become Treasurer passes 7-0.

Mike Paris makes a motion to nominate Perry Wood as Secretary. Dale Barney seconds the motion. Dave Sample makes a motion to close nominations. Nominations are closed by unanimous vote. The motion for Perry Wood to become Secretary passes 7-0.

## ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Sennett (filling in for Mr. Wachter), and Dr. Wood are also present.

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 7-0.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2021

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 7-0.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments at this time.

## COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would just like to thank you all for the confidence you have in me to elect me as the Chairman. I look forward to working with you all and to continue to move this organization forward. Thank you, again.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public on the call for comments.

## PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations at this time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: I have had the opportunity to review both the financials for the last month of our fiscal year and the proposed budget with Dr. Wood. I did have a few questions, but Perry answered those for me, so I do not see any problems with what has been presented. Everything looks good to me.

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Sample seconds the motion.

Mr. Lee: I did have a couple of questions on the financial report as well as on the budget. First of all, can you explain to me the travel expense line item?

Dr. Wood: Yes. You can see that the travel expense was budgeted at \$7,000 for the year but the actual year-to-date amount was \$357.00. That was a decrease due to COVID.

Mr. Lee: Okay. Second, I notice there is a \$4,000 increase in Professional Services. Can you explain what that covers and why the increase?

Dr. Wood: The Professional Services covers, solely at this time, the work done by Parker Philips and since we are on a cash basis budget, the increase is just one payment that is overlapping from the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Lee: Great. Lastly, I notice there is a decrease in the Legal Services line item. Why would that be?

Dr. Wood: We based that new number on the actual from previous years, so we were able to decrease that.

Mr. Lee: Thank you.

There are no further questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 7-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: There was no meeting held so there is nothing to report.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Anderson is not present to give an update.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Good morning, everyone. I want to give you an update as far as the Summer Jobs Program. The final report for the Summer Jobs 2020 was issued, and after some review and changes, the report that was issued on April 5, 2021 is the corrected and final report for the 2020 program.

Let me explain the changes that needed to be made and why. It is not uncommon for the government to try and categorize people and try to keep them in a box by using certain terms. The terms like "underprivileged", "disadvantaged", and "at risk" are some of the terms that have been used in the past to describe the youth that we serve through this program. We at the County no longer want to use these terms that have negative connotations for our youth; they are simply our youth. If we are going to use any adjectives to describe them, we want to use words like "outstanding", "future CEO", "future president", and terms that give encouragement. So, we went back through the report and removed all those negative categorizations with positive ones.

Moving forward this year, it looks like we will be serving about the same number of students that we did last year, which is about 90 students. However, we are prepared to serve more if need be. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we would serve between 160-170 students. Last year we did increase the rate to \$8.75/hr., which is one dollar higher than minimum wage. We hope to continue that wage this year as well.

Are there any questions about the Summer Jobs Program?

Mr. Barney: Gary, what does the employer percentage of inside the city versus outside the city look like? I know that has been a topic of discussion in the past and I wonder where that stands this year.

Mr. Lee: Good question. In previous years, inside the city has always had a higher percentage of employers than outside the city – we would see about 60% of the employers were inside the city and 40% of the employers were outside the city. Last year, that percentage actually changed to 40% of the employers inside the city and 60% of the employers outside of the city. So that was quite a change. We always strive to hit the goal of 50/50; that is our mark. I don't have an exact percentage for you this year, because it will depend on the number of employers willing to participate, and we are still in the early stages of compiling that data.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

Mr. Cleaver: Is there an age requirement for this program?

Mr. Lee: Yes, there is. This program is available to youth ages 16 to 21. They are required to reside within Erie County and there are also some income restrictions. Those income restrictions can be looked at and we try to make exceptions in certain circumstances in order to help these youth participate in this.

Mr. Cleaver: Thank you.

Mr. Lee: Are there any other questions pertaining to the Summer Jobs Program? If not, that concludes my report, Chairman Barney.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everyone. I'll be brief and quickly review the contents of the Executive Director's Report in your packet. The first thing you will see is the article that was released to the media exactly one year after the implementation of the COVID-19 Response Fund. This article highlights that ECGRA was nationally recognized as a first responder during the pandemic and highlights some of the specific grants that were made in the early phases of the pandemic. It then goes on to give information about the report that I showed you at last month's meeting with the timeline of grants. That is available, by the way, on our website.

The next item you will see is the American Rescue Plan Discussion, which is led by County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. There have been two meetings so far and there is one more meeting that I will be attending coming up soon. Following that, you will see the meetings that are being held by County Council regarding COVID, which we for ease just call the COVID Task Force. I conduct the meetings on behalf of Chairman Anderson and Co-Chair Kim Clear. The meetings have been extremely insightful, and we will be compiling a report on the outcomes that we see coming from this committee.

Next you will see a letter of recognition from the Police Athletic League as well as a thank you from Gary Bukowski from Sarah Reed. Those letters are followed up by various media clippings that have discussed things that ECGRA has been able to be a part of. That is my report. Are there any questions for me at this time? If not, thank you for your time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sennett: I want to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing me to be here today. I have some good news and some bad news. As some of you may be aware, Tim Wachter recently was found to have a heart condition and had open heart surgery yesterday, as a matter of fact. He will be taking a 6-8 week leave of absence, so I will be the point of contact for you here at the Knox Law Firm. I will be handling all matters that pertain to ECGRA and will be attending the meetings as necessary until Tim is able to return.

The good news is Tim's wife contacted the firm last night to let us know that Tim's procedure went well, and they expect a full recovery. We are all very thankful for that.

Mr. Cleaver: Please send him our best.

Mr. Sennett: I will. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no Old Business to cover at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 2, 2021 – Resolution to adopt the 2021-22 Budget

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paris moves to adjourn.