



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Special Meeting
held by the Board of Directors
March 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on March 11, 2020 in the Board Room; 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 the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are also present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dr. Wood: I just want to take a few minutes of your time and talk about the coronavirus. There are two items I would like to address.

1. This thing is accelerating really quickly. We just talked about how Edinboro University has moved to an online system based on this and schools are potentially cancelling. We don't know what's going to happen; we've seen what's happened in other cities and other states. For our April Board meeting, we will have the option available for you, especially if you're over 55 and you're most vulnerable to this, to call in or video-skype in from the Board Effect site. I will be here with a phone and technology so we obey the Sunshine Law, but you will be able to participate that way. It is our Annual meeting and it's an important one; we don't want to miss that. If you're comfortable using the technology, we will make sure that it's available to you.

Mr. Cleaver: That's not mandatory, right? I could come here physically?

Dr. Wood: Yes, absolutely. The next item I wanted to bring up is

2. I printed out an article for you here from the Nonprofit Times. The issue of the coronavirus has overtaken a lot of communication about what's going on in the government and the nonprofit sector. If you look at what's happening in other communities, nonprofits are financially tenable if not going bankrupt in some cases, and it's because they rely upon being able to meet in person to provide their services. I'm going to reach out to multiple organizations; I've already

reached out to the Community Foundation, the Health Department, and Bridgeway Capital to get a perspective of the small business community, local government, and the nonprofit sector to see what we can do to help, if anything. If we come up with any kind of tactics, I'll bring them up to the Board next Thursday. It may be necessary to create a loan fund for some of these organizations to succeed or to be able to bridge this gap. It may be necessary to provide unexpected funding to some of the nonprofits that are on the front lines of containing this. The food bank comes to mind, for example. This is an organization that provides for people who can't leave still have access to food and certain services. I just threw that out there.

I think we need to have multiple conversations with multiple funding agencies about how to do the Delphi Method – you know, we go to the oracle and yell into the cave and see what comes back.

Mr. Sample: If we create a loan fund, will these organizations have the ability to repay or would it be a grant?

Dr. Wood: I don't know the answer to that, but it ought to be part of the conversation. Are there any observations or questions for me?

You know, I wasn't taking this seriously until just a few days ago when I realized this is in Pennsylvania and is a threat and we are one of the organizations that can help deal with it.

Chairman Mike Paris calls an Executive Session at 8:34 a.m.