



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

July 16, 2020

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 July 16, 2020 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 the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Bagnoni (leaves the meeting early), Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Horton (arrives late), Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2020

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the minutes as to be amended. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 5-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Cleaver: I think you all received a copy of the letter that I sent. The reason I sent it as soon as I did was I realized that we meet on Thursday morning and County Council meets on Thursday evening and I wanted our Board to have an opportunity to review my comments; that was the first item. The second is I received answers back from the County Executive and the Council Chair. I didn't answer

because of the fact that I had indicated in discussion with most of these people that I was going to move forward with a resolution that we get included in the distribution of the Block Relief Grant.

That is where I am at now; I don't know if you want me to put that resolution forward now and find out if it will be approved or not.

Mr. Paris: I think we'll wait to do that under New Business and we can talk more about it at that point.

Mr. Cleaver: Okay, that's fine.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Paris has no comment at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public on the call for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Erie Center for Arts & Technology – Daria Devlin and Brian Polito from the Erie School District

Ms. Devlin: Good morning. Thank you for allowing me this time and I want to thank Brian for joining us, too. I'll kick it off and just let you know briefly why we're here speaking with you today, and then if you have anything to add Brian, certainly pop in.

The purpose of the meeting today was to give you an update on the Tech After Hours program. I think you are all familiar with the program and if you will recall it was initially funded by ECF and ECGRA a number of years ago – I believe it started in 2015. The Erie School District has been running that program successfully for the last number of years. However, when I was at the District and was getting ready to leave to take on this new endeavor with the Erie Center for Arts & Technology, I had had a conversation with Superintendent Polito about whether the District wanted to continue to operate this program or whether it had grown into something that was a bit out of their sphere. I don't want to speak for Mr. Polito, but I think there was a sense that the District really needed to focus on K-12 and if they could find another organization to partner with on Tech After Hours they would be interested in doing so.

The Superintendent and I started talking about one year ago about what this could look like and we came up with this proposal which would basically involve eCAT taking over management of the program. The program would remain with the same name – Tech After Hours, the instructors would continue to be the school district instructors who currently operate the program, they would continue to be paid by the Erie School District; so there would be no change to the instructors. They have done an excellent job; we have walked through with them. The courses would remain the same so we would continue to operate in machining, construction trades, and then of course in welding.

The only real difference would be that eCAT would take over the student enrollment, the recruitment, the marketing, and the student support. To our knowledge, we believe that those are maybe some of the weak spots that the program has had to date. Again, I don't think this is something that the school district wants to put a lot more time and effort into and

so if we can help with that recruitment and marketing, we think we can hopefully make the program more successful.

I spoke with Perry Wood a number of months ago about this and our proposal would be – we believe there is one grant payment outstanding to the program which is roughly \$66,000. What we are asking is that the final distribution be made to the Erie School District as has been intended and that the District would then use the funds to pay the instructors, pay for any supplies, cover any sort of equipment and rent costs for as long as those funds were available. And when those funds were expended, then eCAT would take over the financial responsibility for the program.

So, what we're really asking for today is for your thoughts on this approach, whether you would be in favor of this, and again making that final grant distribution, and allowing us to try something a little new in running the program. That's my overview. Brian, did you have anything to add there as well?

Mr. Polito: Daria, as usual you summarized that very well. The District's focus really is on the Pre-K to 12 education. While we think that this is a very worthwhile program, our administrative resources are stretched very thin. We haven't been able to allocate the necessary resources to run the program properly, so I think this is a win-win for everybody.

Ms. Devlin: Thanks, Brian. I am happy to answer questions. Perry, if you had anything you wanted to add there. We're hoping that today we can get your permission to move forward in this direction.

Dr. Wood: Before the Board asks questions, I just want to briefly summarize that Tom and I have looked at this proposal and we do believe that this is the best direction for the future of Tech After Hours. Just so the Board knows, there is just over \$66,000 remaining in the original grant to the School District. We all know this program was absolutely fantastic when it first started out, but it's hit some bumps in the road. That's fine because that happens all the time in grant-making. The Erie Center for Arts & Technology, under Daria's leadership, can breathe some new life into it.

The staff has reviewed this proposal, we think it makes sense, and we did ask them to come to the Board and give an update on it because I know many of you Board members believe in the premise of the program and how it's rolled out. It's absolutely great that you are able to be here to give us an update on it. I will turn it over to the Board members to ask some questions or get some feedback.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Daria and Dr. Polito, for attending the meeting. I have a couple basic questions. Daria, at present, how many courses are being run through Tech After Hours?

Ms. Devlin: There are three: construction trades, machining, and welding.

Mr. Lee: Do you know what the enrollment numbers are for those programs?

Ms. Devlin: These are numbers that Superintendent Polito provided and then I've also spoken with the instructors; it looks like there were approximately four machining students last year, four construction trade students, and six welding students. Now, I don't know if they all completed since the school year ended so abruptly. There were also six machine apprentices; there is an apprenticeship program that's running in machining there as well. So, you have a total of about 20 students that were enrolled last year.

Mr. Lee: Thank you. Now with COVID-19 going on, we don't know when this is going to materialize as far as individuals being able to come back full-time in the classroom. Has there been any thought given since these are hands-on type of courses, has there been given any thought as far as how you're going to execute this fall and even into the spring?

Ms. Devlin: Let me answer and then I'll ask the Superintendent to pipe in as well. Our thought is that if the Erie School District opens, then we would certainly go back to that in-person instruction. We also had a conversation that the size of the labs, the physical space of these rooms, and the number of students that are enrolled that I just mentioned really will allow for good social distancing. So, we don't see any worry with overcrowding; we think we can maintain the safety regulations of the district. The district has also asked us to provide a COVID-19 plan as part of our agreement with them. We believe that if the school district opens, we can operate this program in person.

Mr. Polito: Right now we are finalizing our district Health & Safety Plan, and although we're asking eCAT to provide their own, we're going to ensure that they follow ours as well. One of the things that we did prioritize in that plan is our trades programs within the district, our tech programs, because we know that they are hands-on. We want to make sure that those students have the opportunity to come in and participate in those shops; so, those will be up and running whenever we have in-person instruction in the district and they will be available also for eCAT for the After Hours program.

Mr. Cleaver: What was the beginning amount of this grant to start with?

Dr. Wood: \$200,000.

Mr. Cleaver: And there is a balance of \$66,000?

Dr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Sample: I commend you for the program because I have been here since the very beginning and I realize there is a tremendous need for these trades. Daria, you're going to be taking over the marketing and stuff, but I wonder what would be the maximum amount of students that could take part? And my second question is that I remember in the beginning that there were people that really qualified the students well to make sure that they had the ability and the desire to complete the courses.

Ms. Devlin: That's an excellent question. In speaking with the instructors, I believe that you are right that in the beginning that is what was happening. But the whole idea of this program was that grant funds would get it started and then tuition would make it sustainable. In order to make it sustainable and to get that tuition in so that instructors could be paid and the program could run, my sense from the instructors was that a lot of students were being enrolled to keep the tuition up and to keep the program going. They were enrolling students on a rolling basis; so you would have a student start today, you'd have a student start next week. So the instructors expressed to me that that had gotten a little looser than perhaps they would like.

We intend to tighten that up because there will be no tuition now. Because of the way eCAT operates, we will not require that tuition, we will not force students to go through Career Link; we will handle all that through our own funding sources. We think that we will be able to

ask more of the students; we're going to ask for a tight commitment from them that they will show up every day and that they will stay until the end of the program. So, we think on the front end that we will be able to get not a financial commitment, but a time commitment from the students and really make sure that they are the right fit for the program. So, we think that will improve.

The first question you asked about capacity – I think about 15 students is as high as we would want to go with one instructor per class and to abide with social distancing; I think that we would need to stick to between 10 and 15 in each class.

Mr. Sample: Thank you.

Mr. Polito: If I could just add something too. Career Link's process was very cumbersome so that became a bottleneck for us when we were trying to recruit students. We would get students that were interested in the program, but they would ultimately lose interest in the program as they worked through the program to get their tuition paid for.

Mr. Sample: Again, I commend you for this because I realize the need for these jobs and these people can actually have a sustainable living because of it. There are a lot of people who don't like filling out paperwork, they don't like government, they don't want people looking at their lives so sometimes they will pass up a tremendous opportunity. But with eCAT, I think you can be a good buffer for them and maybe not let them get so concerned.

Ms. Devlin: Absolutely. The one thing I want to add, and we kind of say it's a secret sauce, is our first hire in this organization other than myself is a woman by the name of Tomeka Craig. Tomeka is the wife of Daryll Craig who is the leader of the Blue Coats; you might know him. We hired Tomeka as our adult student specialist; she really has a deep connection to a lot of the neighborhoods, a lot of the folks that we're trying to reach, and using her to both recruit and support students throughout, I think, will really help do exactly as you're mentioning. That's another way that we think we can be successful.

Mr. Paris: Are there any other questions? If not, thank you Daria and Brian for being here today. We appreciate you presenting us with this information.

Dr. Wood: Daria and Brian, thank you very much. We will be transferring the remainder of the funds over to the school district.

Ms. Devlin: Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Barney: I will be reporting last month's and this month's financials. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. I am going to start with the Profit & Loss. As is noted on the last month's Profit & Loss, which was the second month of the new fiscal year, that was when we received the first payment of the calendar year money, which is indicated in the year-to-date. The only other money that came in was the interest from savings and Bridgeway Capital, both the Erie Growth and Inclusive Funds. Expenses don't show anything out of the ordinary. When we move down to Other Income and Expenses, last month I would have indicated to everybody that the payments were made for the Municipal Settlements;

you'll see that there was a payment made this month for the Municipal Settlements as well, but that was a smaller amount because we had to pay Greene Township late since they hadn't provided us with their banking information. We weren't able to pay that last month, so it is indicated for this month. The Small Business Financing shows \$245,000 and that is for the Beehive commitments. That was second round payments to Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst. After that you see the Renaissance Block payments and it should be noted that that is for the first round of payments to seven different entities and they are listed on the Grant Reserve Report. The Anchor Building payment of \$80,000 is the second round to eCAT and Mercy Center for Women. Next you will see the COVID funding of \$70,000 and that is also indicated by name on the Grant Reserve Report.

Moving on to the Balance Sheet, there is nothing out of the ordinary there. You'll see the amount in our checking, committed funds, restricted funds, and savings. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to ask me and I'll get more precise. The next page is the Statement of Cash Flow which shows a negative because we wrote a lot of checks as I had previously indicated.

Budget vs. Actual – if we were to look at last month's report, I would've pointed out that under Government Relations, that was the last payment made to Ridge Policy; that line item will be zero from here on out for Government Relations. Professional Services is kind of high but that is two payments – one for the regular monthly services they provide, and one is for the annual report. If you go further down under Books, Subscriptions, and Dues it may seem kind of high but when we get to the Check Detail Report you will see all the payments there; \$675 is for the Nonprofit Partnership membership, \$119 is for Amazon Prime, \$31 is for a book, \$32 is for the Corry Journal, and \$42 is for the Erie Times. That makes up for the \$897 line item and as I had indicated, those are all recorded on the Check Detail Report. The Bank Fee is for the electronic transfer token rental. As you go farther down, you will notice nothing out of the ordinary.

The next page is the Schedule of Grant Reserve and you will see the Committed and Uncommitted Funds and you'll also see the first quarter disbursements. The first grants you see are the Immediate Human Relief grants that we made listed there and please note under the Project Face Shield, we may have projected more than we are going to use. The Urban Erie Community Development Corporation shows that payment and it should be noted that that is their second payment; they have one more drawdown. As I mentioned under the Settlement Payments, you'll see Greene Township was paid and that all the rest were paid last month. Next you will see the Anchor Building payments that I talked about and then the Renaissance Block payments; it should be noted that those payments are one of two drawdowns for everybody other than Our West Bayfront which was a payment in full. The next page shows the second round of funds to the Beehive Network with payments to Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst. The last two pages are just a review of all the people we have already talked about and the drawdowns they have received and if there are any amounts remaining.

The next thing is the Check Detail Report which shows all the checks we had written; there is nothing out of the ordinary there. Are there any questions about it? I know it seems like a lot but it's things we have done with COVID along with our regular expenses. Then you will see the Visa statement with the regular charges such as Office Supplies, Postage, Phone/IT, and then the expenses for the book, the membership to the Nonprofit Partnership, the Amazon membership, the Times News subscription, and the Corry Journal subscription. Basically, you don't see anything out of the ordinary.

I would like to say that last month I didn't get a chance to share that last month \$82,000 was returned to us from the Borough of North East for their Multi-Municipal Collaboration grant

because the project was stalled. Everything is listed for you there. Are there any questions? Also, I haven't received calls from anybody pertaining to questions on the audit through Maher Duessel. As far as I am aware, Dr. Wood hasn't either nor has Maher Duessel reached out to me and let me know that anyone has had questions. Hopefully everyone is happy with their report and we will be able to move forward. That concludes my report at this time if there are no questions.

Dr. Wood: Mr. Treasurer, if I could just make one comment. I want to remind everybody because we had talked about this during a Committee meeting, but not a Board meeting; we were going to address it during last month's financials which we never got to it. I wanted to bring up the fact that we do have an unbudgeted expense in the Office Equipment category, of which we only have \$1,000 for that line item. However, we will be going over in that category by about \$800 in that category for a laptop. We will make that difference up by not spending it in another category. But if anyone has any objections to us funding that new laptop for Tom that we hadn't anticipated, let's talk about it now. Otherwise, we'll go ahead and make that expenditure.

Mr. Sample: To me, that's just a cost of doing business. If we need it to be functional as a business, then I don't have an issue with it.

Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Barney, and Mr. Paris all state that they are fine with that necessary expense.

Dr. Wood: I appreciate that support. Thank you.

Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 5-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Paris was unable to attend the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, so Dr. Wood gives the report.

Dr. Wood: At the meeting we reviewed grants for both Anchor Building and Multi-Municipal Collaboration. Normally we would have done them separately, but we only received one grant application for the Municipal Collaboration. The Board reviewed that grant and was in agreement with it as well as three Anchor Building grants. I talked about this at the committee meeting, but we are seeing in the short-term a decrease in the subscription to some of these grant programs. Hopefully, they will pick back up again, but there is a lot of uncertainty. We are going to be keeping an eye on those.

In the meantime, the Strategic Planning committee is recommending full funding to the three Anchor Building grants as well as the one Multi-Municipal grant, which are in the form of Resolutions Number 15 and 16.

Mr. Sample: Perry, do you feel that the reduction in applications is due to the fact that the community, with the COVID, are not sure that the match would be attainable, not knowing what's going forward?

Dr. Wood: I think right now there is so many programs floating around out there that people are waiting to look and see what those programs are; they're spending their time applying for those funds. I know that's particularly the case with the small business loans. This is an

unprecedented time; I have never seen so many federal grant programs flying around. Normally we are talking about how the feds are in gridlock; on these issues though, the money is flying. It is one of the rare times during the history of ECGRA where we have seen all the activism at the federal and state level as opposed to relying upon people at the local level to fulfill community and economic development needs.

- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Horton: First of all, I would like to thank you all for the relationship that we have enjoyed since my tenure here on County Council which dates back seven years. I have been the liaison to ECGRA for a number of years and I have always worked in a collaborative fashion. I like to see myself as an ally to ECGRA and its Board in its entirety.

But I have to tell you, the letter that was sent to the County Executive in which my name was invoked, along with Mr. Lee's was very troublesome to me for a number of reasons. Chief among them is all one had to do is pick up the phone; I have always made myself available. Secondly, the content of that letter had no merit and it was very . . . it was erroneous. It wasn't based on fact. It felt like emotion.

And my name, which I will never allow to be tossed around so frivolously, it basically amounted to a personal attack from my perspective. Someone else may see it differently. I feel that – well, I won't go into Mr. Lee's portion since he's capable of speaking for himself, and I haven't discussed or spoken to him about it but I believe I copied each and every one of you on my rebuttal to that letter. Really, if the ECGRA wanted to participate on a larger scale, all they had to do was ask or say so.

But to falsely suggest that the County has to include ECGRA in all of our planning and we have to pre-approve our other community partners through ECGRA is laughable at best, when I sit here and listen to the whole eCAT report. Maybe County Council should say, "Well how come we're not apprised of ECGRA's every move in light of everything we're doing with workforce development and job training (i.e. community college) as well?"

I look forward to putting all of this behind me, but the fact is the letter was based on information that hadn't even been shared with my colleagues, as it is a fluid document as with most things during this global COVID-19 pandemic. Everything is moving; the regulations are moving, the federal and state guidelines – they are making it up as they go along, and so are we. So, it is my hope that in the future, all one would have to do is pick up the damn phone. You can ask me or any member of the committee, of which I am one. It wasn't a committee that County Council formed; but myself as Chair and our Finance Chair are indeed a part of that committee.

In my summation, I pray that never happens again, especially to the point when you invoke my name without first speaking to me. I would like to thank you for this opportunity and all the good work that you do. I would like to continue to collaborate. I thought the COVID-19 Fund, along with many other community partnerships, that we are often on the same sideline. I'd like to see that continue. But it will not if those types of letters are sent putting my name and the County Executive can speak for herself as well. That wasn't right, it was mean-spirited, and I could say some other stuff, but I'll leave it there.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Andre. I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Horton: I would like to report on what we're doing. We're actually having our finance meeting this afternoon where we have distributed the letter through Google Drive or Dropbox and my colleagues have had it in their possession for the last couple days to peruse it. We'll be speaking about it at our 4:00 Finance Personnel meeting and we will also have a direct

presentation from Melinda, the grant writer, at that meeting and you are all welcome to join that meeting. Maybe you can glean some stuff from me and if there is a bigger, larger part of something that ECGRA wanted to do or they wanted to increase their row, then that's fine. As for the Erie Community Foundation, which it's really none of your business, but as for the Erie Community Foundation, Erie County will still be over those grants. The Community Foundation is housing or taking in the applications for us and they are not charging us a fee for it. That had not been determined; the money was place in one big basket. There was no breakdown on how that would be distributed. That's it.

Mr. Paris: Thanks again, Andre. We will move on to comments from the County Executive's office. Gary, how are you doing today?

- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Doing well, Mike. Thank you. I have been doing better. I'm going to speak for myself. On July 7th at 4:20 I contacted Dr. Wood to share with him that the task force for the CARES Funding Act was considering, and I used the word considering, the Erie Community Foundation to do the larger portion of the grants because they had the experience, knowledge, and expertise and they wanted to discuss with ECGRA about a proposal for special events. At that time, Dr. Wood said he welcomed that. He said that he thought that ECGRA could take on a larger role as far as some of the neighborhood things and some of the landscape in the city things and he said that he would be submitting a proposal. That's where he and I left off.

Nothing has been, even to this date, in writing. As Councilman Horton has stated, the Erie Community Foundation was being considered and is being considered, but nothing is in writing. At the end of the day, it's going to be the County's call if we want to come together and move forward.

To that degree, if ECGRA wanted to play a larger role, all they had to do was pick up the phone and contact me and say, "Gary, we think we can play a larger role. We feel we have the capacity. We would like to put forth a proposal." By all means, submit it and I will get it to the task force.

Now, let me get to the heart of things and this letter that Mr. Cleaver wrote. Upon reading that letter, I called Dr. Wood, was unable to reach him, left a message for him. I didn't call Mr. Cleaver but asked for a contact number via email; Mr. Cleaver responded and provided me a phone number. I talked to Mr. Cleaver the evening of the letter being released, which was Monday evening. He shared with me his thoughts; I shared with him my thoughts. I just didn't feel that it was the right thing to do. There was a lot of misinformation in there about what I've heard, what people have shared with me, what I am hearing. Now I can only speak from my perspective, but you cannot do things based on what you have heard. In my opinion, you've got to get the other side. I've shared with Mr. Cleaver that if there is a concern, you could have called me. After you got done talking with me, if you wanted to do a letter, by all means, do the letter.

What I would not agree to is put my personal business in there; my personal business is my personal business. That is what I did not like; it was mean-spirited . . . not only was it mean-spirited, only Mr. Cleaver and Dr. Wood knows why they did what they did. But I'm not pleased with it, the County Executive is not pleased with it, Councilman Horton spoke for himself and he so eloquently laid it out in his rebuttal – his letter – which I agree with.

I can tell you right now, we're living in a different day and time. This is not six years ago, this is not a year ago, this is not even six months ago. The misinformation, the accusations about me, were completely unprofessional, completely unacceptable. I am not saying anything that I have not shared with Dr. Wood and Mr. Cleaver; I have had two

conversations with them because what I am finding out as this goes on, more information, it becomes extremely disturbing to me – extremely disturbing to me.

Again, I can't speak for the intent of why it was done; I'm just speaking about how it is received – not perceived, but how it is received by me. It is not received in a positive light. You know again the reason that you did it, but it was wrong. I don't care what anyone says – wrong is wrong. And I stand for what's right. And since I have been a part of working with ECGRA, we haven't agreed on everything, but I have always been forthright, I've always been honest, I've always gone to the source. Dr. Wood cannot say one time that I did not come to the source. There have been some things that I didn't agree with how the administration has handled some things and I came to Dr. Wood and told him I didn't agree. I even apologized on behalf of the administration in one incident that I agreed it had got out of hand. That's because of my integrity; that's because of the person I am. But to do this, and I don't care what anyone says, I'm just speaking for myself, was just malicious, it wasn't right.

In this day and time, and I'm going to end with this, people are looking for three things: they are looking for people to acknowledge what's going on – meaning being aware of what's going on; you have to be aware of what's going on in this country right now as it relates in inequity, as it relates to injustice, as it relates to the problems that we have ongoing. They are also looking for accountability, and I am the first to be accountable; I'm accountable for myself and I do what is right. The third thing is we are looking for action. Again, from my personal perspective because like I said I'm speaking on behalf of me, the County Executive wrote the response based on what the facts were and she did an excellent job in doing that; but I'm speaking on behalf of Gary Lee because I was invoked into this from a personal standpoint which was completely unprofessional and unacceptable and it just was not right.

Mr. Chairman, I'm done.

Mr. Paris: Thank you for your comments, Gary. I think I and all of us will take that to heart and we will deal with it. Hopefully we can move on and still work together and have a relationship.

Mr. Barney: Was Gary going to speak on the Summer Jobs or anything? Where are we at as far as that goes?

Mr. Lee: I would be more than happy to, Mr. Barney. Summer Jobs, as many of you know, we started June 29th with the first phase that went through with 50 students; on July 2nd we started the second phase with approximately 30 students. So, we're looking at about 80 students total. We have a total of 30 employers and organizations participating.

I can't say enough about GECAC as far as what they have done as far as coordinating and switching during this COVID-19 pandemic. They have done an outstanding job as far as moving things virtually, handling things virtually, working with the employers virtually, going onsite to make sure that the students are following the CDC and Department of Health guidelines as far as protective wear being masking, making sure there is hand sanitizer for the individuals, encouraging social distancing, just being proactive from that particular standpoint.

The program is moving along very successfully; we're at about half of what we usually do and that's to be expected from COVID-19 both from the employer and the student's participation perspective. I am very pleased.

I had shared the information and GECAC shared the information with Mr. Sample. He had brought up the questions and concerns about what was happening in Corry; they provided him a report. You should all have the report today as I asked Perry to include that for the rest

of the Board members to see. It is very positive as far as the relationships that they have developed. They have done what the County Administration has asked them to do which is to be more proactive in getting more students from outside the City of Erie for a better balance and they have done a remarkable job in doing that.

Everything is going well. We did make the decision that the students would receive a \$1.00 increase so the wage went from \$7.25 to \$8.25; that was predicated on information that GECAC provided the administration showing what other entities, whether it was Waldameer or some of the fast-food places, that they were paying more money so we wanted to be a little more competitive. Not only that, during this COVID-19 time, we really wanted to encourage the students to go the extra mile.

We're very pleased that the decision was made to go forward with the program. The students are enjoying it. It's a different year unlike any other year, but we're making it work. Thank you.

Mr. Horton: Gary, would you share that same information with County Council or send that information to Doug Smith so he can disseminate it and we can get it out at tonight's finance meeting too? As you know, we are on a summer schedule and our meetings are kind of spaced out. We would appreciate that information as well.

Mr. Lee: Absolutely, Chairman Horton.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Thank you. There is a section in your meeting book in the Executive Director's Report where you will see a letter from the Young People's Chorus, you'll see documentation from Empower Erie which they provided us along with the presentation that they gave to our Strategic Planning Committee, and then you'll see some praise in there from different media sources talking about various ECGRA programs. The bulk of the staff's activity in the last month has been in Resolution 14, which is the audit. The audit came back with no major findings. As the Treasurer mentioned, and I'll reiterate this, no one contacted Maher Duessel directly from the Board; they asked their questions at the last presentation. No one contacted the staff with any questions about the audit and no one contacted the Treasurer directly. We took that as a sign that the audit was ready to be finalized. We are asking you to vote on it today in Resolution Number 14. As soon as that happens, it will be distributed to the proper County entities and will be archived for the ECGRA records.

Resolution Number 15 are the three Anchor Building grants that were reviewed and funded at various levels. Resolution Number 16 is for Municipal Collaboration – the one grant that was received there was deemed worthy to be funded. Finally, Resolution Number 17 is pertaining to what Mr. Cleaver discussed and is the ultimate outcome of his initial letter to County government. I'll pause there and take any questions the Board may have for my report. There are no questions being heard, so I will turn it back over to the Chairman.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I've been working with Dr. Wood in getting prepared for the eCAT closing. As you know the Erie Center for Arts & Technology, the Gaming Authority had approved a grant and a loan to go to them as part of their New Markets Tax Credit closing. The closing group, as I call it, has conference calls every Wednesday afternoon in which they are advancing toward a closing date; I do not yet have that closing date but that is still moving forward. We will probably not see, at least in my estimation, a

closing date for at least another month but I wanted you to be aware that that is moving forward and that we are moving on their timeline. As soon as we see action for the Gaming Authority, I will let you know. I will also report that since we are playing such a small role in that particular financing item, I am not participating in every conference call, as that appears to be unnecessary to incur that expense for the organization, although the Erie Center for Arts & Technology did agree to pay the legal fees associated with that closing. That is the bulk of my report.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Wood: I reached out to Councilman Cleaver and said that while I have received a Professional Services agreement from Parker Philips for the Board to review, I'm not completely satisfied with the draft that I have at this point so I need more time to go back and put a fine point on some of those issues within the agreement. I'm going to ask that we withdraw that from consideration today.

Mr. Paris: Do we need to make a motion to do that?

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Paris, I believe that there was an updated agenda that was sent out last evening and that item has been removed and there was a Resolution 17 related to the CARES Act Funding that was added to the agenda last night.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 14, 2020 – Resolution to accept the 2019-20 audited financial statements

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 4-0. (Mr. Bagnoni had left the meeting during the course of the meeting).

- b. Resolution Number 15, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreements with three (3) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2020 Anchor Building Grant Program

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Barney makes a motion to accept the Annual Report into record. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion. Motion carries 4-0.

- c. Resolution Number 16, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreements with one (1) entity as the sole recipient of the 2020 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion. Motion carries 4-0.

- d. Resolution Number 17, 2020 – Resolution to Direct the Executive Director to submit a proposal to the Erie County Task Force to administer CARES Act funded grants to nonprofits in Erie County

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion.

Mr. Cleaver: For the record, I fully understand that County Council has complete control of these funds; I know that they have complete, complete. But I feel that with the expertise that we have, that's why I feel this Resolution should move forward; at least to put Council aware of the fact that we're interested and that we would do an outstanding job.

Mr. Paris: Thanks, Whitey. Anything else?

Mr. Lee: Mr. Chairman, if I could. As I have stated from the County Administration and part of the task force, we have been and continue to be open to receiving a proposal from ECGRA and ECGRA presenting its facts as to why they should be considered. Again, and this is important, nothing has been finalized from the task force's perspective as it relates to distributing the funds. Again, there were discussions with the Erie Community Foundation; there were discussions with ECGRA. Today, we have not received anything in writing from either entity so I have to reiterate right now that the process continues to be discussed among the task force members as far as what would be best for Erie County. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Paris: When do you think that decision will be made to finalize things?

Mr. Lee: Once the task force, as Councilman Horton has stated, the budget will be going down for County Council to consider – and that's just the budget. Once County Council, if they proceed to approve that budget, the task force will begin to make decisions as far as what entity would be best for distributing the various funds in the various areas. There is like seven or eight different areas that the County is responsible for making sure that the money is distributed from broadband to human services to small businesses to nonprofits; so, there are several different areas. Back to your question, Mike, I can't give a definitive date on that because it's a process. The first process will be for County Council to consider the budget and approve the budget, then the task force will begin to make decisions as far as what entity, again, would be best for distribution of the funds.

Mr. Sample: It seems somewhat rhetorical that we're giving Perry the authority to submit the proposal, so it becomes moot. Let's just get it done and get it submitted.

Mr. Horton: May I speak? Dave, you're right on one point. The other side of it is, it becomes adversarial to submit the resolution. As Chairman of Council, I'm offended when I just sat here and told you repeatedly, and I spoke with Dr. Wood last week too, that that thing was open and that all you had to do was ask. Mr. Lee has repeated it. We have asked for a proposal repeatedly, so it's really kind of offensive to me personally. But, okay.

There is no further discussion. Motion fails 3-0-1, with Mr. Barney abstaining.

Mr. Barney: I have a question. Why do we need a resolution in there telling you to go ahead and apply?

Mr. Horton: That's where the offense comes in; it's adversarial.

Mr. Cleaver: I think it was a matter of procedure; let's just do it as a Board that we request County Council to consider us as a partner in this. I guess it doesn't necessarily have to be a resolution with direction from the Board.

Mr. Barney: I still think that Perry should go ahead and write a proposal to do it.

Mr. Cleaver: I heartily agree.

Mr. Barney: I don't see why we need a resolution.

Mr. Paris: We're kind of doing things backwards here. We already voted on this and now we're discussing it more. I'm going to ask Tim what do we do here?

Mr. Wachter: Dr. Wood, can you please explain why you think that failed?

Dr. Wood: We had three yes votes, zero no votes, and one abstention.

Mr. Wachter: That passes. The majority is the majority of those who are present at the meeting, not majority of all the members who are not present.

Dr. Wood: Thank you for clarifying.

Mr. Wachter: In my legal opinion, it passes.

Mr. Paris: So, we're all satisfied that the resolution passed and that we are submitting a proposal and we're moving on from this.

Mr. Sample: Regardless of if it was needed or not, now we can all move forward.

Mr. Sample moves to adjourn.