



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

February 16, 2023

Meetings for the Board of Directors of ECGRA can begin meeting in a physical location per Governor Wolf's proclamation of June 11, 2021. However, each member and ex-officio has the option to attend in person or virtually. Members of the public can now speak at the physical location of 5240 Knowledge Parkway.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on February 16, 2023 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 at 8:34 am.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. Mr. Barney, Mr. DiPaolo, and Ms. Loll are present via Zoom. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2023

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by any Board member at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would just like to apologize for being late to the meeting. It seems I got my weeks mixed up.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Budget vs. Actual is in great shape for month ten; I think you all have copies. We're just overspent on two items and we discussed that one was accounting and the other was meetings. Everything else is in order and in very good shape. That's item number one.

Item number two – I think you all got a copy of the 2023-24 draft budget. I have reviewed it and we need to address that. There are a couple of items that have some small, minor changes, but we have to address Personnel. I can't remember, Mr. Chairman, if we had a special meeting or how we went about that or how we go about it, but I have a few comments to make when we do meet. I'll just summarize that there was an increase in auditing fees, which is what we're overspent in this year, and Perry explained that to me. There is an increase in Professional Development, which Perry can discuss that, and the Insurance has increased because we received more money. Lastly is Personnel, which we have to address, and that includes the Director and the two in the office. I don't know how you want to handle that.

Ms. Hess: Should we go into Executive Session to discuss that at some point today?

Mr. Cleaver: We could. For the matter of information, the projection was 3% increase for the staff. We also have to discuss that Perry is in his last year of his contract . . .

Mr. Barney: I was going to bring that up as well.

Mr. Cleaver: Right, he's in his last year of his contract, and I think that if we do go into Executive Session, we should discuss extending this. I mean, we're a year away, so let's get it back up to snuff. That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There are no questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 7-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Dr. Wood states that we will be presenting resolutions later in the meeting of things that were discussed at the meeting.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Shank is not present to give a report.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Smith is not present to give a report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I will save my report for the Executive Session.

Mr. Barney: In talking about Executive Session, do we want to wait until the end or go into that right now?

Mr. Cleaver: I think that we should wait until the end so that Perry can get his information out of the way.

Mr. Barney: That sounds good.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: We did accidentally skip over the Director's Report; I promise to keep it brief.

Mr. Barney: I'm so sorry. Perry, time for your report.

Dr. Wood: We did have a Strategic Planning meeting on January 31st, and it was a very productive meeting. We looked at the increase in the D&O Insurance. A copy of the quote was handed out and it was tentatively accepted. The Parks, Fields, & Trails were reviewed and you will see that in resolution form today covering the ones that qualified that were reviewed. Then we saw five presentations from the Beehives, and those are the third round of the Small Business Financing that we have now been entrusted to oversee by County Council.

We are in the process of finalizing that contract with County government, just as we did with ARPA funds last year. Everything is going along smoothly there. Let me pause there and see if anyone has any questions about that, especially the Beehive contract.

Mr. Barney: I have a question. Have they released the money?

Dr. Wood: Well, they haven't released the money; they chose to treat the Beehive funds as a separate contract, rather than an extension of our original contract. We filled out the paperwork and it's in their hands. But everything is proceeding normally. Just so you're aware, that's a \$737,000 contract. You will see in the proposal today, in the resolution, that we are awarding \$896,000. That's \$200,000 for the four universities and \$96,000 for the Library, so we are putting additional funds into the Beehives above and beyond what the County is providing.

There is also a brief document in your packet about Infinite Erie; this is the concept we helped fund with the other funders of Erie County. This is just some basic talking points about how it's progressing and what it's accomplishing so if anyone asks you and you want to be in the know about it, here's some talking points about it that might be helpful. If you read that and want to follow up with me later, if you have any questions, don't hesitate.

The next document is the insurance renewal – do we have that on the agenda for approval? Can we do that under Old Business? If I can get a motion from one of you under Old Business to accept the additional cost for the insurance. This is the D&O insurance; it's what protects the officers and the staff for legal purposes and once again, it has gone up because we have doubled the size of our revenue because of the ARPA dollars. At some point, this cost will come back down since it is based on our revenue, which we discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting. Does anyone have any questions on the insurance costs?

Mr. Cleaver: Do you want to move to accept it?

Mr. Wachter: The proper way to do that would be a motion to amend the agenda to add the addition of the insurance approval.

Mr. Cleaver moves to amend the agenda to include the insurance item.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Cleaver has made a motion to amend the agenda to add the insurance approval.

Mr. Winschel seconds the motion.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if you would like to call, "All in favor."

Mr. Barney: All in favor?

The Board unanimously moves to accept the motion to amend the agenda.

Mr. Wachter: Now that the agenda has been amended, so now on the agenda is the item whether to approve the insurance renewal at the increased cost. We will need a separate motion for that.

Mr. Cleaver moves to approve the insurance renewal at the increased cost. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no further discussion or questions. Motion carries 7-0.

Dr. Wood: That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Barney: Tim, you stated that you wanted to do your report when we went into Executive Session. I think we should do that now.

Mr. Wachter: Very good.

Ms. Michali is asked to stop the zoom recording and Dr. Wood and Ms. Michali leave the room. Mr. Maggio is asked to leave the zoom meeting at this time. Executive Session is called at 8:56 am for purposes of Personnel. Executive Session is concluded at 9:19 am.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 1, 2023 – Resolution to enter into agreements with eight (8) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

- b. Resolution Number 2, 2023 – Resolution to enter into agreements with five (5) groups that represent the 2023 Beehive Recipients for the Ignite Erie Community-University Engagement funding.

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 9:24am.