



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
September 15, 2022

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 September 15, 2022 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. Cleaver, and Mr. Oberlander are present in person, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, and Mr. Winschel are present via Zoom. Mr. Smith is present via Zoom (joins late). Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2022

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dr. Wood: Bob, this is just an open period when anyone on the Board can bring up any issues.

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

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would just like to take the opportunity to welcome Bob Oberlander to the Board and I look forward to doing some great and prosperous things together.

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. I reviewed the Treasurer's Report, the income and expenses, and everything is in order. There was one item that I questioned, and it was that the auditor's fees are overspent; everything else is in line. If you have any questions, I'm sure that they can be answered. Other than that, that is the end of the report.

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There are no questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 6-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: There was no meeting held so there is nothing to report.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Shank is not present to give a report.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Smith has nothing to report once he joins the meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Thank you, Mr. Barney. You'll see in the Executive Director's Report that the first document is the letter showing that Q2 revenue came in. Just a reminder, our revenue comes in from the State quarterly, it goes to the County finance department, the finance department has a formula for distribution which involves putting a certain amount of dollars into the land bank and then putting the remainder of that half with ECGRA. This is the official letter you see here with the justification of

the documentation we get before we get the wire transfer from the County finance department with their little scribble calculation down in the right corner.

Next you will see a memo here from both the County Executive and one from Councilman Bayle appointing Bob Oberlander, so I want to officially enter this correspondence into the record. Bob is now a member of the Board; you'll see a little about him here as you can see his submitted resume. He has a background at Penn State in mechanical engineering and he is the CEO of Swiss Aero. Why don't I pause here for a moment – maybe we should have done this under the Director's Comments – and have Bob tell us a little bit about himself as a new member of the Board.

Mr. Oberlander: Sure. I have known Mr. Charlie Bayle most all of my high school and middle school career, I am married with four kids, I graduated from Penn State Behrend here in 1995 and started Swiss Aero with my brother a couple decades ago. I run that solely now and we make a lot of aero engine parts for (inaudible) in Jamestown and there are commercial applications too. I am also on the school board for Fort LeBoeuf, the food pantry, a member of the Kiwanis Club, and also of the Manufacturer's Business Association. I'm looking forward to meeting everybody.

Dr. Wood: Just so the Board knows, Bob and I have met and Bob has gone through his orientation as a Board member and I think he's fully up to speed.

I see that Doug Smith has joined us so I will make sure that is noted in the minutes. Thank you for being here, sir.

Continuing on in the Director's Report, you remember at our last meeting that we did approve \$250,000 to be a part of the Diverse Erie revolving loan fund; here is the advisory that went out on that. As a reminder, these are the groups that have partnered. We did participate in an announcement in front of Beez Appliance over on Parade Street as that is one of the businesses that will be receiving a loan from this loan fund.

As we scroll down, you will see some recognition we got in the Asbury Woods newsletter where they decided to make us sponsor of a few different events, then there's a thank you letter from the Humane Society for the grant we gave them, and then there are the news clippings. There is some coverage we got on the Investment Playbook from the Erie Reader, and then some recognition in the Corry Journal for the Renaissance Block Program. I always like to put our newspaper clippings in here so you can see how we're getting the word out about ECGRA.

Normally to get the word out, we use television and news as well as print media. We have social media campaigns, and of course we do press conferences, like the one we did in Edinboro on Tuesday of this week where we issued \$200,000 to Edinboro; \$150,00 for Mission Main Street and \$50,000 for the collaboration with Washington Township and the Borough of Edinboro for their parks plan.

One other thing I want to direct you to is there is a new report that ECGRA just published on our listening sessions from the summer. We took that information, we condensed it down to a five-page report, it's available on our website, ecgra.org. It was a rural listening tour, so we hit up North East, Union City, we did a joint meeting with Girard and Lake City, we did one in Corry, one in Millcreek, one with Edinboro, McKean, and Washington Township, and then we did one in Fairview. This report has bullet points detailing what we heard in the listening sessions, those in attendance including elected officials, business leaders, and 501c3 that have received or are in line to receive funds from ECGRA. This report tells us what the priorities of these communities are. Once again, that report is on the website. I'll pause there and take any questions you may have.

Hearing none, that concludes my report.

Mr. Barney asks Mr. Smith if he has any comments from the County Executive's office. Mr. Smith's response is there is nothing to report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Thank you very much. I have been working with Dr. Wood on various questions throughout the course of the months. I just want to comment on something. I don't often have substantive reports to give at these meetings because the Gaming Authority has professionalized so many of the operations that there aren't many questions that come up. I just want to say that as a solicitor for a government body, and I have a lot of different clients, I appreciate the attention to detail, I appreciate the professionalism, and I appreciate the concern for the applications of the ethics laws and the conflicts of interest laws and the like. You guys do it right. You don't bring controversy on yourselves, you don't have unforced errors, and I just want to say, "Well done." I don't mind not having a lot of work to do for you guys because you're doing good work and you're doing fine. Job well done. I'm here if you need me, but good job.

Mr. Barney: We appreciate those kind words, Tim. Not often do people actually acknowledge when you're doing good.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Wood: I do want to say, Bob, normally there is at least one role call agenda item, like a resolution that we're passing, but this is just an off month between grant cycles. The next big grant cycle that's coming up is a small business ecosystem piece where we are supporting small business development in the region and that is due at the end of September. So, we will be reviewing applications and Tom and I will be getting summaries out to you. We've talked about having some of those folks do presentations to the Board, which we haven't done in quite some time. But we will let you know as we get closer.

There is no new business to discuss at this.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion.