



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
January 16, 2025

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82639091454>
Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2024
5. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee
 - c. Update from County Council
 - d. Update from County Executive’s Office
10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11. SOLICITOR’S REPORT
12. OLD BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 1, 2025 – Resolution to enter into agreements with sixteen (16) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Community Centers as part of the Community Assets
- b. Resolution Number 2, 2025 – Resolution to enter into agreements with one (1) entity that comprises the 2024 Multi-Municipal Collaboration recipient, Round 3

14. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510; Board Room
ZOOM meeting – details to follow



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

December 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on November 21, 2024 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 at 8:34 am.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. Ms. Amatangelo and Mr. Barney are present via zoom. Mr. Scutella is present in person. Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Copeland are present via zoom. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2024

Ms. Hess makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Cleaver has no comment at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no one from the public present.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled for today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Amatangelo: I'll be very brief with everyone. I had no major questions for the financials for November. I did want to just point out that if you look at the Balance Sheet, you'll see that the Erie Bank Money Market is due to be looked at this month. So, I'm sure Dr Wood will be addressing that soon. And then I did want to point out, if you look at our Grant Reserves disbursements, and you can also see it in our Transaction Detail, that the initial payment for the Fly Erie Fund did go out in November; that was \$125,000. I wanted to point that out for everyone. Otherwise, I don't believe I had any questions. So, I wanted to leave it open to the other Directors in case there were any questions to inquire about.

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 6-0.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

No meeting was held, so there is nothing to discuss.

c. Update from County Council

Chairman Scutella: I have nothing to report.

d. Update from County Executive's Office

Mr. Sinnott: The Administration has nothing today.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Okay, I'll be quick on the Director's Report. You see there was a Fly Erie Fund meeting that took place on November 26; I'm the vice chair of it, so I actually chaired that meeting because the chair couldn't be there. We did discuss where we're at with Breeze, which in the Treasurer's Report that was given. I did include talking points for everyone here, so if your colleagues are asking you questions about "What is the Fly Erie Fund all about, what is it accomplishing, where is it headed?" there's some really good talking point information here for you. It's about five or six pages long. We're going to keep adding to that as time goes on and people ask new and different questions, but it'll give you a pretty good overview of where this program is and where it's headed. As of right now, we've got

the two destinations looking at third destination. I think I mentioned last month that we're looking for someone from the airport to come in and actually give an update to the Fly Erie board on the progress that is being made.

If we scroll ahead, you'll see there's some public relations, some newsletters that we were in, some letters of support that came in from various organizations, like Zabawa, for example, and then an article about the budget and the role ECGRA is playing in the budget. Now what's we'll talk about this more during Executive Session, but if you're unaware, last Friday, when Council held a veto override session, the County Executive had vetoed \$2.5 million for daycare money coming to ECGRA and Council overrode it last Friday. Then on Monday morning we got a letter from the County Executive saying that our ARPA contract was canceled, and we needed to return all the funds available. So that's why I have these four letters here in front of you. But we'll talk about that more in the Executive Session.

Any there any questions for me?

Mr. Cleaver: I have one quick comment in reference to the airport. I noticed that they're having a huge special on Facebook. I see that with \$239 and you can fly free for X number of flights. It's really a good deal if you're a Tampa or Orlando flyer; the price is right. I just happened to catch that on Facebook a couple of days ago. I think it's like \$239 - that's the special. Then I see they have the credit cards out, which is you get a return on your credit card for mileage. So, they're moving forward, I've been so attracted because I have a lot of people that contact me that travel that want to know what's happening. I just thought I'd mention that for the record.

Are there any questions in reference to the Executive Director's Report?

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I would ask that we go into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving confidential legal advice.

Mr. Cleaver: I have a question here.

Mr. Wachter: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cleaver: We know what direction, in reference to the letters we received over the week here, we know what direction County Council is requesting they are going. We also know what direction the County Executive is going. My question to you is, can we have an Executive Session without the liaisons, which I think, in my opinion, is an advantage to speak a little bit more freely. And I guess I have two questions - can we do that legally? and does the Board want to do that?

Mr. Wachter: Legally in this situation, because the entity with which there is a potential legal conflict, would be the County Executive's office, it would be appropriate to have the conversation without the presence of the County Executive's representative in that Executive Session.

Mr. Sinnott: And I'll be happy to leave whenever you guys say it's appropriate. I have no problem with that at all.

Dr. Wood: So, if we're going to go into Executive Session, we'll ask Mr. Sinnott, we'll put you in the lobby, in the Zoom meeting, and as soon as the session's over, sir, we'll bring you back.

Mr. Sinnott: Okay.

Dr. Wood: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Wachter: We'll put Mr. Rao in that same lobby, as much as he would like to know our session, I think that is not appropriate.

Mr. Cleaver: Terry, we're going to have to ask you go sit by the fireplace and have a cup of coffee.

Mr. Scutella: Okay, I have no problem with that.

Mr. Wachter: Would you like Mr. Copeland to go as well?

Mr. Copeland: Yeah, throw me in the waiting room. That's fine.

Mr. Winschel: County Council, they don't need to go. I mean, unless you want them to.

Mr. Cleaver: Well, I just think that we know their stand, and I just felt everybody would be a little bit more relaxed, because of the County Council has appointed one of us for something. It's sort of just in between, I think it'd be better for all concerned, just you can speak to peace, and hopefully it stays within the range of all of us.

Mr. Winschel: Okay. Understood.

Mr. Wachter: That went better than the day I threw Fiore Leone out.

Executive Session begins at 8:43 am and ends at 9:28 am.

Mr. Wachter: By the unanimous consensus of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's board members, my office has been authorized to file an Action in Mandamus and appropriate injunction if necessary in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas to ensure that the County proceeds with its ministerial obligation to contract with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to fulfill the will of Erie County Council's appropriation of the \$2.5 million to provide funding for the childcare initiative to alleviate the childcare crisis that is occurring in Erie County. There is a concern that the correspondence from the County Executive that was sent yesterday and as well as the correspondence from Monday are not only inaccurate in that the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is not out of compliance with the US Treasury reporting requirements, that the County has accepted all of the reports that we have filed well over a month and a half ago without any comment, and that the additional conditions that are placed in the correspondence by the Erie County Executive as preconditions to contracting with the Gaming Authority for the \$2.5 million are neither required by the federal regulations nor the contract with Erie County on the prior appropriation. Specifically, meaning that in the County Executive's condition that his office has the independent authority to look at and review and retroactively approve or disapprove any grant allocation that has been made by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is not within his purview, either under federal regulations, or the Erie County Home Rule Charter.

Additionally, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is of the opinion that the Erie County Executive does not have the unilateral authority to terminate the agreement by convenience. I would like to note that even though it has been reported in the press that the County Executive's attempt to terminate the contract with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was due to some noncompliance by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, that is not what the County Executive did, that is political spin. The County Executive attempted to terminate the contract by convenience,

which is a provision of the contract that was required to be in the contract by the federal ARPA regulations. However, that money was appropriated by Erie County Council without precondition with the specific intention that the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority utilize those funds for the purposes for which it was appropriated and as such the County Executive's office does not have independent unilateral authority to terminate that agreement, as to allow for that to occur would be to frustrate the specific appropriation made by Erie County Council and violates the spirit and likely also the letter of the Erie County Home Rule Charter and the separation of powers doctrine that is incorporated therein.

So, we will be responding with a correspondence to the County Executive from the Chairman indicating as such and then preparing the necessary Action of Mandamus and Emergency Injunction accordingly.

Why, you may ask, is there such urgency associated with this and that is because the federal regulations governing the American Rescue Plan Act dollars which are at issue here and not only the \$392,000 that is remaining from the \$4 million appropriation as well as the \$2.5 million appropriation that just recently occurred and the County Executive has made it clear as to his will of that \$2.5 million as he attempted to veto it and the veto was overridden, but the federal regulations that are associated with that require that if the money is not obligated by the County by December 31, 2024, then the money has to be returned to the United States Department of the Treasury. And in Erie County, according to the Home Rule Charter, the money may not be obligated until County Council appropriates it and the County Executive's office then executes on that will of County Council through the provision of a contract to implement that appropriation. So, even if that \$392,000 was appropriately terminated and was to go back to the Erie County Executive, if that \$2.5 million is not fulfilled and the appropriation be executed here to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, in order for that money to be obligated, it would have to be reappropriated by Erie County Council. So, the County Executive does not have that independent authority to determine under which line item that money would go.

Therefore, this board has expressed its concern for the taxpayers and the residents of Erie County in wanting to ensure that this money does not get caught up in a situation where it was returned to the United States Department of the Treasury and has directed my office as Solicitor to take the necessary steps to ensure that the will of County Council be fulfilled, that the money be protected for the residents and citizens of Erie County, and that this appropriation be fulfilled as designed by Erie County Council.

Is that an appropriate summary of the discussion that was had?

Mr. Cleaver: Excellent.

Ms. Hess: Absolutely, yes.

Mr. Winschel: Yes.

Mr. Oberlander: Yes.

Mr. Barney: That was well put.

Ms. Amatangelo: I agree.

Chairman Scutella: For the will of the people of Erie County, that's the last thing you would want to lose is, not just this money, but I think it's up to \$8 million that the people of Erie County would lose, just because of the petty fights between the Administration and County Council.

Mr. Wachter: I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Erie Bank Money Market Fund

Dr. Wood: I just wanted to briefly tell you that today is the day the Erie Bank Money Market fund percentage is going to be lowered, at least that's the indication. We don't know what it's going to be lowered to; Erie Bank hasn't gotten back to us. We tried a couple of times to reach out. So, we have no designation for those funds as of right now.

Mr. Cleaver: What's the percentage rate presently?

Ms. Michali: 5.3%.

Dr. Wood: 5.3%, thank you. And we think it's going to go down to at least, we think 4.75%. But we're going to shop around to a couple of places before we make any decisions. Are there any questions about the Money Market?

Mr. Cleaver: Are there any questions in reference to that Money Market?

Mr. Winschel: Perry, I just ask that when you get a rate, see if you can lock that in for a period of time like you did last time. Last time they guaranteed that for three or four months. I think there might be better rates in the next week or two so if you can get them to commit to locking in the rates.

Dr. Wood: Yes, I'll look at three to five months for that.

Mr. Winschel: That would be great, thanks.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution Number 27, 2024 – Resolution to Direct the Erie Community Foundation to Release \$594,154 to the Erie County Lead Assets

Dr. Wood: Every year in November or December, we receive a notification from the Community Foundation saying, "Here is the money available to be distributed via the Lead Asset Endowment." That number then goes to the Lead Assets themselves who meet as a committee, and they come back to us with this document that says they have all come to consensus and this is how they want the funds divided up. I then bring it back to the Board for any questions that you might have. This process has been going on for seven or eight years now. It is governed by a legal memo that we have with the Lead Assets. Are there any questions about this number or how we got to this point?

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver: Before we adjourn, I want to thank everyone for a great year. Again, Dale, we're going to miss you. Be safe wherever you go. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Mr. Barney: I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukkah and everything and just stay safe.

Mr. Winschel moves to adjourn. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 9:34am.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
December 2024**

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2024-25 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · ARPA Fund				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		2,774,777.92		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,998,846.01		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	7,290.16	210,903.43		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow	7,666.67	22,916.67		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		10,000.00		
46424.5 · Interest Income - 1855 Capital				
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		9,750.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive	6,388.89	19,097.22		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		1,396.83		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		7,668.00		
46450 · Dividend Erie Bank MMKT		101,943.77		
46451 · Dividend Erie FCU CD_12	22,363.37	86,029.94		
46452 · Dividend Flagship CD_6		26,213.70		
46453 · Dividend FNB CD_3		13,222.54		
46454 · Dividend FNB CD_6		12,980.07		
46455 · Dividend FNB CD_9		12,737.34		
Total Income	<u>43,709.09</u>	<u>5,308,483.44</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	14,889.16	65,403.62	53,739.00	71,650.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,677.50	15,145.49	17,397.00	23,200.00
65000 · Office Administration	429.39	9,544.89	14,814.00	19,750.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	2,550.85	40,287.98	41,247.00	55,000.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	25,176.63	237,623.52	218,961.00	291,950.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	0.00	537,977.29	652,059.00	869,408.00
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	(362.96)	(2,172.24)		
Total Expense	<u>44,360.57</u>	<u>903,810.55</u>	<u>998,217.00</u>	<u>1,330,958.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(651.48)	4,404,672.89		

(con't)

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
December 2024**

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2024-25 Budget</u>
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets	57,500.00	346,133.93		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		1,193,405.99		
70070 · Special Events		199,090.70		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration	53,625.00	153,625.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street		1,167,281.18		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program				
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive				
70140 · Pilot Projects		75,000.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block		213,334.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		505,000.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
70300 · Transformational Grants		603,077.00		
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>111,125.00</u>	<u>4,455,947.80</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(111,125.00)</u>	<u>(4,455,947.80)</u>		
Net Income	<u>(111,776.48)</u>	<u>(51,274.91)</u>		

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024

	December
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings/Money Market	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	96,751.22
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,383,235.51
10102 · Restricted Funds	4,564,029.91
10104 · ARPA Fund	329,930.61
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	(2,905,573.47)
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	3,371,622.56
10110 · Erie Bank Money Market 12/12/24	6,150,929.77
Other Current Assets	
10300 · Erie FCU CD 8/28/25	5,086,029.94
10400 · Flagship CD 2/21/25	2,026,213.70
10510 · FNB CD_6 2/21/25	1,012,980.07
10520 · FNB CD_9 5/21/25	1,012,737.34
Total Checking/Savings/Money Market/CDs	18,757,264.60
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12004 · NR - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · NR - Progress Fund	1,000,000.00
12010 · NR - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · NR - EDF Restructured	1,300,000.00
12060 · NR - BWC - Inclusive Erie	2,500,000.00
12070 · NR - Blue Highway	250,000.00
12080 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Sm Bus	520,000.00
12085 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Nnprofit	100,000.00
12090 · NR - eCAT	500,000.00
12500 · NR - Youth Leadership Institute	98,506.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,553,881.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,214,625.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	4,369.35
Total Other Current Assets	6,218,994.35
Total Current Assets	24,976,258.95
TOTAL ASSETS	24,976,258.95

(con't.)

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024

	<u>December</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
20100* - Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 - Unearned Revenue	4,869,407.88
Total Current Liabilities	<u>869,407.88</u>
Total Liabilities	869,407.88
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	21,231,061.80
Net Income	(51,274.91)
Total Equity	<u>24,106,851.07</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>24,976,258.95</u></u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
December 2024

Expense	December	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 - Contracted Services					
62110 - Accounting Fees	0.00	8,150.00	8,150.00	0.00	100.00%
62130 - Professional Services	3,000.00	28,500.00	40,000.00	(11,500.00)	71.25%
62140 - Legal Services	11,796.00	26,196.00	20,000.00	6,196.00	130.98%
62145 - Website Design	0.00	1,682.56	2,000.00	(317.44)	84.13%
62150 - Payroll Services	93.16	875.06	1,500.00	(624.94)	58.34%
Total 62100 - Contracted Services	14,889.16	65,403.62	71,650.00	(6,246.38)	91.28%
62800 - Facilities & Equipment					
62840 - Office Equipment	0.00	47.99	3,000.00	(2,952.01)	1.60%
62890 - Rent	1,677.50	15,097.50	20,200.00	(5,102.50)	74.74%
Total 62800 - Facilities & Equipment	1,677.50	15,145.49	23,200.00	(8,054.51)	65.28%
65000 - Office Administration					
65010 - Books, Subscriptions, Dues	11.99	1,006.92	3,000.00	(1,993.08)	33.56%
65020 - Postage	0.00	38.96	100.00	(61.04)	38.96%
65040 - Office Supplies	1.99	1,080.72	2,000.00	(919.28)	54.04%
65050 - Cell Phone	0.00	1,870.01	3,000.00	(1,129.99)	62.33%
65060 - Copier Lease	345.95	3,113.55	4,200.00	(1,086.45)	74.13%
65070 - Copier Printing Costs	0.00	32.07	200.00	(167.93)	16.04%
65080 - Bank Fees	0.00	135.00	500.00	(365.00)	27.00%
65085 - Professional Development	0.00	790.00	3,000.00	(2,210.00)	26.33%
65090 - Meeting Expenses	69.46	1,451.81	3,500.00	(2,048.19)	41.48%
65095 - Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	25.85	250.00	(224.15)	10.34%
Total 65000 - Office Administration	429.39	9,544.89	19,750.00	(10,205.11)	48.33%
65100 - Other Types of Expenses					
65105 - Outreach	0.00	4,986.50	5,000.00	(13.50)	99.73%
65110 - Advertising	0.00	3,877.54	4,000.00	(122.46)	96.94%
65115 - Phone/IT/Fax	1,157.30	13,479.79	18,000.00	(4,520.21)	74.89%
65120 - Insurance	1,393.55	11,367.18	18,000.00	(6,632.82)	63.15%
65130 - Grant Management Software	0.00	5,562.00	6,000.00	(438.00)	92.70%
65150 - Travel	0.00	1,014.97	4,000.00	(2,985.03)	25.37%
Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses	2,550.85	40,287.98	55,000.00	(14,712.02)	73.25%
66000 - Payroll Expenses					
66005 - Salaries & Wages	22,204.69	210,156.53	250,000.00	(39,843.47)	84.06%
66010 - FITW Tax	1,452.74	13,797.68	20,000.00	(6,202.32)	68.99%
66015 - FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00%
66020 - PASUI Tax	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
66700 - PMRS	1,519.20	13,669.31	19,800.00	(6,130.69)	69.04%
Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses	25,176.63	237,623.52	291,950.00	(54,326.48)	81.39%
67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)					
67005 - Contracted Services - ARPA	0.00	10,499.00	11,000.00	(501.00)	95.45%
67010 - Subawards - ARPA	0.00	527,478.29	858,408.00	(330,929.71)	61.45%
67025 - Indirect Costs - ARPA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
67030 - Salaries & Wages - ARPA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total 67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)	0.00	537,977.29	869,408.00	(331,430.71)	156.89%
7000 - Provision for Uncollect Notes	(362.96)	(2,172.24)			
Total Expense	44,360.57	903,810.55	1,330,958.00	(427,147.45)	67.91%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of
December 31, 2024

	December	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	4,564,029.91		
Committed Funds	1,383,235.51		
ARPA Funds	329,930.61		
2024 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		277,740.51	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,159,818.47	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,337,218.94	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			2,774,777.92
2024 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2023-2024		1,998,846.01	1,998,846.01
FY Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		2,202,281.44	
Second Quarter Disbursements		1,465,714.91	
Third Quarter Disbursements	111,125.00	1,140,429.74	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			4,808,426.09

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements/MRIs

	December	YTD	Subtotal
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township		312,162.54	
Greene Township		76,306.39	
McKean Township		76,306.39	
Millcreek Township		76,306.39	
Waterford Township		76,306.39	
Erie County		76,306.39	
			693,694.49
Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
Jefferson Educational Society		100,000.00	
Girard Township	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Washington Township	43,625.00	43,625.00	
			153,625.00
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Community Facilities			
Harvest 912		10,050.00	
Union Township		33,500.00	
			43,550.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
December 31, 2024

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (cont)

	December	YTD	Subtotal
Erie County Investment Playbook			
Nonprofit Partnership		32,043.47	
			32,043.47

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

Anchor Building

2019 Impact Corry		60,000.00	
2022 East Side Renaissance		50,000.00	
2024 Borough of Union City		75,000.00	
Explore the Possibilities		100,000.00	
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society		70,000.00	
Greater Erie Community Action Committee		50,000.00	
Impact Corry		100,000.00	
North East Community Foundation		50,000.00	
			555,000.00

Mission Main Street

2019 Borough of Union City		125,000.00	
Borough of North East		125,000.00	
City of Erie		205,000.00	
Downtown Girard		125,000.00	
Fairview Township		175,000.00	
Impact Corry		125,000.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		100,000.00	
2022 Downtown North East		87,500.00	
			1,067,500.00

Renaissance Block

Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		100,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		80,000.00	
Borough of North East		80,000.00	
Borough of Union City		100,000.00	
Downtown Girard		80,000.00	
Impact Corry		100,000.00	
			540,000.00

PILOT PROJECT

Erie City Moms		75,000.00	
			75,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
December 31, 2024

	December	YTD	Subtotal
QUALITY OF PLACE			
Community Assets			
Arts, Culture, & Heritage			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		7,000.00	
AmeriMasala		10,000.00	
Community Resources for Independence		3,138.93	
Dafmark Dance Theater		10,000.00	
Downtown North East, Inc.		12,000.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		5,500.00	
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest		13,000.00	
Erie Art Company		5,000.00	
Erie Arts & Music Festival		12,000.00	
Erie Yesterday		14,000.00	
Erie's Black Wall Street		12,000.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		10,000.00	
Heberle's Heartstrings		1,500.00	
Hornby School Restoration Society		6,300.00	
Impact Corry		11,000.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		12,000.00	
Messiah Lutheran Church		5,000.00	
Springfield Township		1,445.00	
Triangle DAR		10,000.00	
Veterans Miracle Center Erie		15,000.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		13,500.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		11,000.00	
WQLN Public Media		13,000.00	
YMCA of Corry		7,000.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		15,000.00	
		235,383.93	235,383.93
 Community Centers			
Harvest 912		4,950.00	
Union Township		16,500.00	
		21,450.00	21,450.00
 Parks, Fields, Trails			
Borough of Edinboro	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Borough of Union City		25,000.00	
Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust		9,500.00	
McKean Recreation Authority	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Presque Isle Partnership	7,500.00	7,500.00	
		92,000.00	92,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
December 31, 2024

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		13,700.25	
Americans for Competitive Enterprise Sys		2,700.00	
AmeriMasala		1,683.00	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		3,363.73	
Barber National Institute		12,516.08	
Borough of Edinboro		1,507.50	
Borough of Girard		572.93	
Borough of Wesleyville		869.40	
Borough of Union City		207.00	
CAFE		15,000.00	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,		3,313.85	
Downtown North East, Inc.		3,044.70	
Edinboro University Foundation		2,553.75	
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest		3,420.00	
Erie Art & Music Festival		5,130.00	
Erie County Bar Association		2,250.00	
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc		3,288.60	
Erie Latino Leadership Association		1,391.18	
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game		1,125.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		4,500.00	
Erie Roller Derby		364.14	
Erie United Methodist Alliance		3,150.00	
Erie-Western PA Port Authority		5,652.90	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		5,458.50	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		2,947.50	
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team		936.00	
Harborcreek Township		1,350.00	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church		7,065.00	
Humane Society of NWPA		7,074.00	
Impact Corry		3,472.79	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		15,000.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		2,245.50	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society		7,375.50	
Mercy Center for Women		4,059.00	
Orthodox Church of the Nativity		2,700.00	
Presque Isle Light Station		1,011.15	
Presque Isle Partnership		4,990.50	
Saint Patrick Church		7,389.66	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		5,031.16	
Union City Pride		946.13	
Waterford Community Fair Association		8,685.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		12,651.75	
YMCA of Greater Erie		330.75	

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
December 31, 2024

	December	YTD	Subtotal
Special Events (cont)			
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		4,366.80	
			196,390.70
 SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING			
 TRANSFORMATIONAL GRANTS			
Enterprise Development Fund		250,000.00	
Erie Center for Arts & Technology		103,077.00	
Fly Erie Fund LLC		125,000.00	
Minority Community Investment Coalition		125,000.00	
			603,077.00
 YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More			
			0.00
<hr/>			
Total Funds Disbursements	111,125.00	4,308,714.59	4,308,714.59

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
December 31, 2024

		<u>December</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
Committed Funds:				
N&C	Renaissance Block 2018			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2022			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2023			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Borough of Union City		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Anchor Building			
	20 Borough of Union City		15,000.00	64,375.00
	Mission Main Street 2022			
	Edinboro Community & Economic Development		62,500.00	125,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		125,000.00	125,000.00
MUN	Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
	21 Borough of North East		50,000.00	100,000.00
SB	Beehive Network			
	Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
	Small Business Ecosystem			
	Impact Corry		87,500.00	175,000.00
QP	Transformational Grants			
	Erie Center for Arts & Technology		125,983.00	229,060.00
	Fly Erie Fund LLC		125,000.00	250,000.00
	Minority Community Investment Coalition		125,000.00	250,000.00
PP	Pilot Program			
Y&E	Shaping Tomorrow			
	Summer Jobs 2023		25,002.51	150,000.00
	Summer Jobs 2024		200,000.00	200,000.00
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
Total Committed Funds		0.00	1,383,235.51	2,568,935.00
 ARPA Transformative Funds				
	Subawards	0.00	324,430.61	3,622,025.00
	Contracted Services	0.00	5,500.00	273,274.00
	Salaries & Wages	0.00	0.00	93,406.00
	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	11,295.00
Total ARPA Funds		0.00	329,930.61	4,000,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Transaction List Detail
December 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/04/2024	EFT	VISA	2024 November Statement	-83.44
12/06/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	11/16/2024 to 11/29/2024 Payroll	-9,768.03
12/06/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 11/29/2024	-759.60
12/06/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	11/16/2024 to 11/29/2024 Simple IRA	-500.00
12/06/2024	EFT	Altair Real Estate	2024 December Rent	-1,677.50
12/06/2024	EFT	The Hartford	2024 December Disability Insurance	-109.39
12/06/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2024 December Phone/IT	-1,157.30
12/12/2024	EFT	Highmark Health Insurance	2024 December Insurance	-3,214.53
12/12/2024	EFT	Borough of Edinboro	2024 Parks, Fields, Trails	-25,000.00
12/12/2024	EFT	Girard Township	2024 MMC RD 2	-10,000.00
12/12/2024	EFT	Kate & Co., Inc	2024 December Professional Services	-3,000.00
12/12/2024	EFT	McKean Recreation Authority	2024 Parks, Fields, Trails	-25,000.00
12/12/2024	EFT	Presque Isle Partnership	2024 Parks, Fields, Trails	-7,500.00
12/18/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	11/30/2024 to 12/13/2024 Payroll	-9,768.03
12/18/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	11/30/2024 to 12/13/2024 Simple IRA	-500.00
12/18/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 12/13/2024	-759.60
12/18/2024	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2024 December Legal	-1,512.00
12/23/2024	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2024 December Copier Lease	-345.95
12/23/2024	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2024 December Legal, Appropriation Veto	-10,284.00
12/23/2024	EFT	Washington Township	2024 MMC Round 2	-43,625.00



SCORECARD	CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE	CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE
	\$0.00	05/15/2025

Account Summary

Billing Cycle		11/10/2024
Days In Billing Cycle		31
Previous Balance		\$634.13
Purchases	+	\$83.44
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$0.00
Payments	-	\$634.13-
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00

NEW BALANCE \$83.44

Credit Summary

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,916.56
Available Cash	\$39,916.56
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

Account Inquiries

- Call us at (866) 317-0355
Lost or Stolen Card (866) 317-0355
- Go to WWW.MyCardStatement.com
- Write us at PO BOX 30495, TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

Payment Summary

NEW BALANCE	\$83.44
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$83.44
PAYMENT DUE DATE	12/04/2024

NOTE: Grace period to avoid a finance charge on purchases, pay entire new balance by payment due date. Finance charge accrues on cash advances until paid and will be billed on your next statement.

Corporate Activity

				TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY	\$634.13-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
11/01	11/01	1638568855	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$634.13-	

PLEASE DETACH COUPON AND RETURN PAYMENT USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE - ALLOW UP TO 7 DAYS FOR RECEIPT

ERIEBANK
PO BOX 42
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

Account Number
####-####-####-8643

Check box to indicate name/address change on back of this coupon

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Closing Date	New Balance	Total Minimum Payment Due	Payment Due Date
11/10/24	\$83.44	\$83.44	12/04/24

\$

BL ACCT 00100029-10000000
ERIE COUNTY GAMING
5340 FRYLING ROAD
SUITE 201
ERIE PA 16510-4672



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

VISA
PO BOX 4517
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517

Cardholder Account Summary				
TAMMI MICHALI #### 9468	Payments & Other Credits \$0.00	Purchases & Other Charges \$83.44	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$83.44

Cardholder Account Detail					
Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
10/21	10/21	PBUS01	24692164295100815864946	GANNETT MEDIA CO 888-426-0491 VA	\$11.99
10/21	10/22	PBUS01	24137464296001380847447	GIANT EAGLE #4038 ERIE PA	\$1.99
10/30	10/31	PBUS01	24692164304108922467122	TST*VALERIOS ITALIAN RE 814-825-2693 PA	\$69.46

*subscriber
 o.s.
 mtg. exp.*

Additional Information About Your Account
 MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM AND ENROLL IN OUR ONLINE SERVICE. YOU CAN REVIEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION, TRACK SPENDING, SET ALERT NOTIFICATIONS, DOWNLOAD FILES, AND MUCH MORE. MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT IS FAST, SECURE AND EASY WITH MYCARDSTATEMENT. ENROLL TODAY!

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 11/08/2024					
SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2025

Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information									
Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM ¹	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance
Purchases									
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$83.44
Cash									
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00
* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily							Days in Billing Cycle: 31		
** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees							APR = Annual Percentage Rate		
¹ FCM = Finance Charge Method									
(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.									



E·C·G·R·A
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
JANUARY
2025**



ECGRA Communications Services Report

December 2024 Comms.

BiWeekly Meeting with ECGRA Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

IMPLEMENTED

December social media posts
8 new graphics scheduled in Dec.
BiWeekly planning meeting with Executive Director
EOY Recap Newsletter

IN PROGRESS

Holiday Graphics
Brand guide updates - #ECGRAworks content from grant recipients
Lead Assets Event
Little Explorers Op-Ed

IN PLANNING

Event planning /scheduling (First Assent, Lead Assets, Grant Workshops)





Strategic Planning Committee Meeting and Grant Review

Thursday, January 9, 2025
11:03am – 1:00pm
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Erie, PA 16510

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85369921522>

AGENDA

1. Special Events Clarification
2. Childcare Initiative Update
3. Multi-Municipal Collaboration Application - West County Paramedics
4. Community Centers Grant Review
5. Good of the Order

ERIE ARTS AND CULTURE

NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S ARTS COUNCIL

419 State St. Erie, PA 16501
erieartsandculture.org
(814) 452-3427

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Date: 12/19/2024
Amount: \$44,427.06

Dear Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority,

Thanks to you, Erie Arts & Culture is able to elevate, inspire, and connect artists and organizations, leveraging the transformative power of the arts and humanities, addressing vital needs and interests in Erie and Northwestern Pennsylvania. Your support helps us:

- Provide over \$219,000 in grants to artists, creative entrepreneurs, and arts organizations in Northwest Pennsylvania, supporting their growth and sustainability.
- Expand community awareness of folk and traditional artists, preserving our local heritage for future generations while increasing access to essential resources for culture bearers.
- Strengthen regional networks, establishing EAC as a central hub for artists, arts organizations, and creative entrepreneurs to enhance visibility and access to resources.
- Increase the number of artist residencies across the region, supporting continued learning and growth for people of all ages and abilities. This year, we facilitated 41 residencies in NWPA, and with your support, we aim to do even more.

On behalf of our staff and Board, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation. Your contribution empowers us to continue our mission with utmost dedication. We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to a lasting relationship with you at Erie Arts and Culture.

Warm regards,



Casey Corritore
Interim Executive Director

Erie Arts & Culture is a registered name of the Arts Council of Erie. Official registration and financial information can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999. This letter serves as a formal acknowledgement of your contribution. Arts Council of Erie, a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization, has not provided any goods or services, in whole or in part, to the above for this voluntary cash contribution. If the above wishes to claim tax deductibility of this gift in the U.S., please retain this acknowledgement letter.

Tax ID number is 25-6085617.



Erie Art Museum

20 East 5th Street • Erie, PA 16507

December 30, 2024

Perry Wood
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road
Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

The Erie Art Museum has received \$31,858.02 from the Erie County Lead Asset Endowment fund for our general operations. On behalf of everyone who benefits from our programming, we thank you for this valuable support.

2024 has been a year of growth at the Museum, with more educational offerings, additional programming, several new exhibits, and a couple of significant gifts to help us begin the much-needed renovations to the historic Customs House. We've seen an increase in our membership and visitor numbers and look forward to continuing that trend in the coming year.

I invite you, Tom, Tammi, and the ECGRA board of directors to participate in a private tour of the Erie Art Museum. Please let me know some potential dates, and we'll schedule this. That will be an excellent way to see the ECGRA funds at work.

All the best,

Melanie Vadzemnieks, CFRE
Development Director
Erie Art Museum
melanie.vadzemnieks@erieartmuseum.org
814.459.5477



St. Ann's Campus Enhancement: Phase 1 is Complete!

The St. Ann's Campus of Sarah Reed, housing the SELF and SBLP programs, has been undergoing a significant transformation since Summer 2022 as part of the **St. Ann's Campus Enhancement: Phase 1** project. As of June 2024, this phase is officially complete thanks to our successful fundraising campaign that raised **\$600,000** needed to complete the improvements below! The process has included an incredible amount of effort on the part of our development team, Gary Bukowski *AVP of Development* and Stephenie Bojc *Development Coordinator*, along with our dedicated maintenance team, St. Ann's staff, IT and operations team and numerous external vendors and donors.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

CLASSROOM & CAMPUS EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

- 116 STUDENT DESKS & CHAIRS
- 11 CHERRY BOOKCASES
- 10 MAGNETIC WHITEBOARDS
- 10 NATURAL CORKBOARDS
- 14 BOARD ROOM CHAIRS
- 3 OFFICE DESKS & 7 OFFICE CHAIRS
- 4 STUDENT & STAFF ACTIVITY TABLES
- 6 SMARTTVS (50") FOR CLASSROOMS
- 6 MICROSCOPES & SLIDE KITS
- 1 STORAGE SHED FOR GARDEN & MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT
- SENSORY ROOM
- NEW BOOKS FOR THE ST. ANN'S LIBRARY
- PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS FOR THE STUDENTS

TECHNOLOGY

- 25 HP PROBOOK 450 G9 15.6" NOTEBOOKS + 75" SMART TV
- 3 PROMETHEAN SMARTBOARDS W/STAND & CART

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- NORTH GYM ROOF & MAIN ROOF
- HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
- EXTERIOR REPOINTING & IMPROVEMENTS

SUMMER PROGRAM 2022



PHASE 1 TOTAL: \$600,000

Special Thanks to Our **Phase 1 Donors** Who Made These Improvements Possible!

- Bob & Betsy Guelcher Fund at the Residential & St. Ann's Campuses
- Books-a-Million
- Britton Family Foundation
- C.A. Curtze Co.
- City of Erie Grant through the American Rescue Plan
- **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**
- Erie Insurance
- ERIEBANK
- The Estate of Frances Buseck
- Gordon & Marti Gehrlein
- Gifts in Memory of Lori Eaton
- Gifts in Memory of Gloria Hosford
- Gifts in Memory of Janet Cuthbert Sesler
- Nick & Chris Iwig
- Knox Law
- Henry A. & Mary J. MacDonald Foundation
- PA Department of Community & Economic Development
- Presque Isle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
- Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie
- Rite Aid Healthy Futures
- School Specialty
- UPMC Health Plan
- The Woman's Club of Erie
- Elena Zaitsoff



Thank you!

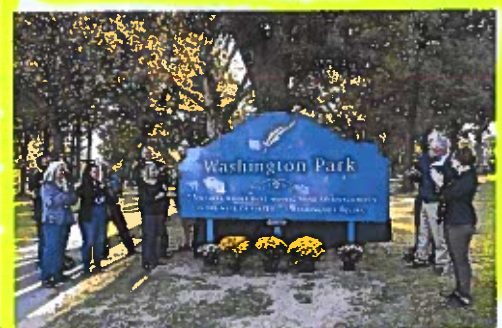
Thrive in Erie Graduation

Thanks to the financial support of **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)** and **PNC Foundation**, SSJNN sponsored 6 businesses within our footprint to participate in the yearlong **Thrive in Erie** entrepreneurial program from **Paramount Pursuits**. Businesses ranged from food service to childcare to custom graphic design. A special shout out to **The Shop at 19th and Chestnut** for hosting this special graduation event with friends, families, and neighbors.



Neighborhood Groups

This year, we supported three active neighborhood groups, **Eastside Neighborhood Association**, **Central City Neighborhood Association**, and **Historic Little Italy Wellness Group**, which meet to share information, resources, and good company. With funding from **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)**, we also helped neighbors create a beautiful new sign welcoming visitors to Washington Park. These groups foster leadership, address local issues, and educate members on best practices for neighborhood strengthening. By empowering individuals and encouraging collaboration, we're helping create more connected neighborhoods.



Advertisement

County Executive Davis facing another lawsuit

A.J.

Rao

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Erie County Executive Brenton Davis has been a frequent critic of the county's Gaming Revenue Authority and Diverse Erie commission.

But a recent directive by Davis has taken that criticism to another level, with some county and legal officials calling the action a blatant violation of the separation of powers.

Here's what to know.

Davis demands return of ARP funds

Earlier this week, Davis sent letters to ECGRA and Diverse Erie, urging them to return their unspent pandemic-era American Rescue Plan money to the county by Monday.

ECGRA and Diverse Erie entered into ARP agreements with the county in 2021 and received \$4 million and \$3.5 million in ARP funds, respectively.

Both used the funds to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic, awarding grants to minority-owned small businesses, nonprofits and community facilities, among others.

The two entities have just under

\$400,000 remaining in unspent ARP funds.

Davis said he wants that money back and cited a clause in the ARP grantee agreement that states the county can terminate the agreement "for convenience," and require all unspent or unawarded funds to be returned.

A "convenience" clause is a contractual provision that allows one party to end a contract without cause or penalty.

Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll said the administration intends to use the returned funds to support disaster relief efforts related to the recent lake-effect snow disaster.

Carroll said the decision to reclaim the ARP funds was motivated by "serious concerns" about transparency, accountability and the proper management of public funds by ECGRA and Diverse Erie.

"The county taxpayer is ultimately responsible for repaying the U.S. Treasury if these funds are misspent," he said. "It is our intention to protect the taxpayer and recall this money so that we can reduce any further risk."

Diverse Erie Chief Administrative Officer Gary Lee declined to comment on the matter before speaking with the commission board and solicitor.

The ECGRA board, however, is preparing to sue the administration.

ECGRA solicitor to file lawsuit, says Davis claims are ‘inaccurate’

Erie County Council recently approved an additional \$2.5 million in ARP funds to ECGRA to address the county’s childcare crisis. Davis vetoed the line item — he didn’t want ECGRA to administer the funds — but council overrode the veto on Dec. 6.

Despite the approval, Davis has refrained from negotiating a new ARP grant agreement with ECGRA, claiming ECGRA is still not compliant with U.S. Treasury reporting requirements for its initial \$4 million ARP allocation.

In a letter sent Wednesday to the ECGRA board, Davis laid out three “conditions” that would allow for a new ARP grant agreement: Firstly, ECGRA must provide a complete report of all expenditures related to the \$4 million; the county must then review and approve it to confirm compliance; and finally, ECGRA must abide by the grant termination notice and return any remaining funds to the county by Monday. Until those conditions are met, the county “cannot, in good conscience, negotiate a new grant agreement,” Davis said regarding the additional \$2.5 million.

ECGRA Solicitor Tim Wachter argued that contracting with an entity is a “ministerial duty” for the county executive and that once Erie County Council appropriates money to an entity, the executive is “obligated to go make it happen.”

Wachter said Davis’ “conditions” were not required by federal regulations or the initial ARP contract and were merely an additional way for him to “frustrate the power” of Erie County Council.

As such, the ECGRA board on Thursday unanimously agreed to authorize Wachter to file a lawsuit against the county in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas. The lawsuit, a mandamus action, seeks to ensure the county performs its ministerial obligation to contract with ECGRA and fulfill council’s appropriation of the \$2.5 million.

Wachter also noted that Davis does not have the “independent unilateral authority” to terminate an agreement because Erie County Council appropriated the ARP money for a specific purpose.

“To allow for that to occur would be to frustrate the specific appropriation made by Erie County Council,” Wachter said. “It violates the spirit and likely also the letter of the Erie County Home Rule Charter and the separation of powers doctrine that is incorporated therein.”

Council Councilman Rock Copeland, who serves as finance committee chairman, echoed Wachter.

“Brenton Davis’ illegal defiance of council’s authority through bureaucratic obstruction violates his oath and the Home Rule Charter,” he said. “This demands immediate legal action.”

Wachter further said Davis’ correspondence was “inaccurate” and stressed that ECGRA was compliant with U.S. Treasury reporting guidelines. He added that the administration hasn’t provided any evidence that ECGRA is out of compliance.

Administration calls out Diverse Erie

Much of the administration’s evidence deals with Diverse Erie.

Carroll provided email correspondence to the Erie Times-News, revealing how three small businesses that received grants from Diverse Erie in July 2023 had not responded to requests for expense documentation, as of November.

Carroll also showed a Nov. 15 email from Lee in which he stated that the remaining fund balance of Diverse Erie is “fully committed to the commission’s operating budget.”

“The administration will not allow nearly half a million dollars to sit idle, covering salaries and rent, without any efforts being made to establish new grant programs or deliver meaningful impact,” Carroll said.

“The call to return the money is the necessary step to rectify these problems and ensure ARPA dollars are used as intended for the benefit of the community and in compliance with U.S. Treasury guidelines.”

Davis’ directive also requires Diverse Erie to scrap its pending contracts and agreements.

Erie County Council had approved an additional \$1.5 million in ARP funds to Diverse Erie. However, the administration has refused to certify the availability of those funds, placing the commission’s future in limbo.

Wachter, who also serves as Diverse Erie solicitor, said he anticipates the commission, like ECGRA, to similarly push back against Davis’ actions, potentially with legal action.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.

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Monday, 12/16/2024 Page .A01

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Advertisement

Why Davis wants two checks at ECGRA's check presentations

A.J. Rao

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Whenever the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awards a series of grants, a news conference is typically held in which awardees join ECGRA and county officials behind a large ceremonial check.

But starting in 2025, when ECGRA will award \$2.5 million in grants to support child care, the public will notice a separate large check, one that will likely be held by Erie County Executive Brenton Davis, who's intent on having the county — and his administration — also get credit.

The \$2.5 million is from the county's share of federal American Rescue Plan funds and was appropriated by Erie County Council to ECGRA in November. The funds are expected to be matched by \$2.5 million in gaming funds.

During check presentations, Davis wants one check to show the ARP contribution and the other to show the gaming match. The dual checks are not a suggestion but a contractual obligation, one of many Davis injected in ECGRA's new ARP contract to ensure the county is acknowledged.

"I think it's redundant and a little bit petty," ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said. "We view ourselves as in partnership with Erie County. We're an Erie County authority — it's in our name."

Wood said he's always acknowledged the county's support at previous check presentations and that the county executive has appeared at several of them.

Davis is nonetheless requiring ECGRA to acknowledge the county's support in news media interviews and in materials, advertisements, social media and mailings related to the ARP contract and grant awards. He also wants the county seal to appear on the large ARP checks.

Wood said the requirements for public acknowledgement were the most contentious part of the negotiations with the Davis administration on the ARP contract.

"We weren't too focused on those issues in the past, but we realized that the county executive's office was focused on those issues," Wood said. "At the end of the day, government is about compromise and cooperation and so we put our feelings aside and we signed the contract."

ECGRA and Davis reach compromise, avert legal showdown

The ECGRA board authorized Wood to sign off on the \$2.5 million ARP contract during a special meeting Thursday, capping a turbulent two weeks between ECGRA and Davis.

The turbulence began when Davis notified ECGRA in a Dec. 9 letter that he wouldn't entertain the new ARP contract until ECGRA returned its remaining ARP funds from a 2021 contract signed by former County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper.

Davis stated in his letter that he terminated that contract and wanted those remaining ARP funds — roughly \$330,000 — to offset snow removal costs incurred during the recent lakeeffect

snowstorm.

Davis also informed ECGRA the county had not received a complete and accurate reporting of expenditures associated with the 2021 contract. Wood told the Erie Times-News on Thursday that the administration couldn't provide any evidence ECGRA was out of compliance with ARP guidelines and that administration officials later admitted to him ECGRA was not out of compliance.

The ECGRA board subsequently authorized its solicitor on Dec. 12 to file a lawsuit against Davis, seeking a court order that would require the county executive to carry out his ministerial duty to fulfill the \$2.5 million appropriation, as approved by Erie County Council.

The lawsuit was averted after ECGRA and the administration finalized a deal shortly before Thursday's meeting.

The deal involves Davis rescinding his termination of the 2021 ARP contract, contingent on ECGRA approving a grant of up to \$500,000 in gaming funds to go toward emergency snow removal costs.

The ECGRA board approved a resolution authorizing the grant Thursday.

The deal included an amendment that would extend the 2021 contract through June 30 and repurpose those funds from professional services to grant awards.

ECGRA Board Chairman Ronald Cleaver told the Erie Times-News he was satisfied with the outcome.

"This could have been resolved without going through all of this rigmarole," he said. "But it's over and done. Everybody's happy. Everybody's satisfied. We'll move on."

Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll could not be immediately reached for comment Thursday.

ECGRA to support childcare facilities, staff

As part of the deal, ECGRA will also remain manager of the \$2.5 million in ARP funds for child care.

The \$2.5 million will be awarded to members of the early childhood development and daycare community throughout the county, with a focus on infrastructure and workforce development.

The grant awards will support the creation and expansion of childcare slots available through Erie County.

The Northwest Institute of Research, an Erie-based nonprofit that operates early learning centers, will make award recommendations to the ECGRA board. The board will have final and independent discretion on all award decisions, according to the contract.

"I'm ecstatic that the daycare community is going to benefit from these funds — that was our goal from Day One," Wood said. "So, whenever we got bogged down in negotiations, I just reminded myself that we were doing this for the working families of Erie County."

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.



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Timothy S. Wachter
twachter@kmgslaw.com

December 20, 2024

Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

RE: 2025 Rates

Dear Dr. Wood:

Please know that we value our relationship with you, and look forward to continuing to serve you throughout 2025. The Knox Law Firm appreciates the public service that you provide, and as such, we have traditionally charged our public sector clients a deeply discounted rate for legal services. We are happy to be able to continue to offer you such discounted rates this year.

The following is our proposed rate schedule for our services, for the upcoming 2025 year:

	<u>Shareholder</u>	<u>Associate</u>
General Solicitor Services	\$215/hour	\$190/hour
Labor and Employment Services	\$235/hour	\$205/hour
Litigation Services	\$250/hour	\$200/hour
Municipal Finance/Bond Issue	Negotiated on a per transaction basis	
Paralegal Services	\$125/hour	
Administrative staff/clerical services	No charge	
Mileage	IRS rate	

Additionally, it is important that, from time-to-time, we provide you with our updated terms of legal engagement. No action is required by you to accept these terms, rather, it is just an updated copy of the terms we have been operating under. We ask that you keep this copy for your records. Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I remain,

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &
SENNETT, P.C.

By: 
Timothy S. Wachter

TSW/smc
Enclosure
2566013.v1

EXHIBIT A

RECONFIRMATION OF TERMS OF LEGAL ENGAGEMENT

This is to reconfirm the terms and conditions of our engagement to provide you with general municipal legal services on legal matters that are brought to our attention by you or which come to light in association with other current legal matters.

The fees for our legal services are included within the letter forwarding this Reconfirmation of Terms of Legal Engagement. In addition to those rates, you shall be responsible for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred by us in the undertaking of this matter. The rates are subject to periodic increases.

You will be billed for our services on a monthly basis. Significant out-of-pocket expenses paid on your behalf may be billed separately on a more frequent basis. We would anticipate being paid no more than thirty (30) days after an invoice date.

All final documents prepared for you as well as any documents or property you provided to us will be given to you upon conclusion of each matter. If your organization maintains a records management policy that dictates specific procedures, please provide the firm with a copy of the policy. Otherwise, the firm will retain the pertinent contents of your file, both paper and electronic, for a minimum of five (5) years, after which time it will be destroyed without further notice to you.

Every effort will be made to expedite your legal matters promptly and efficiently according to the highest legal and ethical standards. We will keep you as fully informed as possible of all the time we devote to your matters.

Unless you advise us otherwise, we may communicate confidential information, including attached documents, to you via email. You should understand that email, by its nature, is not secure. Network administrators and internet service providers are able to view the contents of your emails.

PRIVACY POLICY

Lawyers, as providers of certain personal services, are now arguably required by the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to inform their clients of their policies regarding privacy of client information. Our law firm understands your concerns as a client for privacy and the need to ensure the privacy of all your information. Your privacy is important to us and maintaining your trust and confidence is a high priority. Lawyers have been and continue to be bound by professional standards of confidentiality that are even more stringent than those required by such Act. Therefore, we have always protected your right to privacy. The purpose of this notice is to explain our Privacy Policy with regard to personal information about you that we obtain and how we keep that information secure.

NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We collect nonpublic personal information about you that is provided to us by you or obtained by us with your authorization or consent.

WE DO NOT DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLIENTS OR FORMER CLIENTS TO ANYONE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY LAW AND ANY APPLICABLE STATE ETHICS RULES.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about current or former clients obtained in the course of representation of those clients, except as expressly or impliedly authorized by those clients to enable us to effectuate the purpose of our representation or as required or permitted by law or applicable provisions of codes of professional responsibility or ethical rules governing our conduct as lawyers.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

We retain records relating to professional services that we provide so that we are better able to assist you with your professional needs and to comply with professional guidelines or requirements of law. In order to guard your nonpublic personal information, we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with our professional standards.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1, 2025

**Resolution to enter into agreements with sixteen (16)
Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged
in Community Centers as part of the Community Assets**

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed funding proposals and made funding recommendations to support community assets as they relate to ECGRA’s Strategic Plan and community goals;

Whereas, there were twenty (20) applicants for Community Assets funding and the Board of Directors affirms that sixteen (16) applicants have met the threshold for funding including being in good standing with taxing bodies and other reporting requirements;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$183,245.50 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit “A”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with sixteen (16) Erie County Community Assets so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region through tourism and continue to enrich the quality of life for Erie County residents.

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on 16th day of January 2025 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
January 16, 2025

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



2024 Community Assets Grant Recipients

COMMUNITY CENTERS				
Organization	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	
Achievers Entrepreneurial Hub (AEH)	Community Cornerstone Project Cohort 3	\$15,000.00	\$9,000.00	
Bethany Outreach Center	Bridging the Hunger Gap	\$15,000.00	\$13,000.00	
Bike Erie	Launching an Erie Bike Co-operative	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
Booker T Washington Center	After School/Summer Intergenerational Program	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
Borough of Edinboro	Edinboro Community Building Renovations	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
Borough of North East	Open Arms	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Boys & Girls Club of Erie	Lights on for the Boys & Girls Club; Safe Environment	\$15,000.00	\$8,164.00	
Community Resources for Independence	Wellness and Enrichment Program	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	
Corry Community Center	Sound Out!	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Corry Higher Education Council	ADA Compliant Door	\$2,612.50	\$2,612.50	
Edinboro Market	Equipment, programming and marketing for Edinboro fresh food business incubator	\$14,969.00	\$14,969.00	
Erie's Black Wall Street	The Cornerstone Project	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Inner-city Neighborhood Art House	Multi-purpose Room Final Touches	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	
John F Kennedy Center	Facilities Improvement	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women	Holy Rosary Rectory	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Mercy Hilltop Center	Health Office Program Continuation	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Multi-cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System	MHEDS Community Care Pharmacy: Neighborly Health at JFK	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Bike Program Relaunch	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Syrain Community Center	Community Building	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
YES! Program (Amateur Athletic Union)	Improving the Oral Health of Students in Erie County	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL Requested		\$271,081.50	\$183,245.50	

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2, 2025

Resolution to enter into agreement with one (1) entity as the sole recipient of the 2024 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant, Round 3

Whereas, ECGRA was formed to oversee and administer the investment and distribution of gaming funds in Erie County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of local government in developing a strong economy and community; and

Whereas, ECGRA seeks to use gaming funds as a catalyst for municipalities to coordinate and cooperate with one another in the provisioning of services to achieve efficiencies, economies of scale, and innovation of modern governmental processes;

Whereas, ECGRA believes that active collaboration through councils of governments, authorities, intergovernmental associations and nonprofits coordinating such activities are key strategies in economic development; and

Whereas, the one (1) recipient is identified as the following primary applicant: West County Paramedics Association;

Whereas, the eligible applicant is awarded a grant totaling \$100,000 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into an agreement with one (1) recipient of the Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region and continue to improve upon local government on behalf of the people of Erie County.

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 16th day of January, 2025 by a vote of ___ - ___.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

January 16, 2025

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



Multi-Municipal Collaboration

Round 3

Lead Organization	Collaborators	Amount Awarded	Project Description
West County Paramedic Association	Fairview, Elk Creek, Lake City, Girard, Albion, Cranesville, Girard Boro, Lake Shore	\$ 100,000	New Ambulance for West County Paramedics Association
	Total Awarded	\$ 100,000	