



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM

Notice posted on location at:
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
October 15, 2020
8:30am

ZOOM Meeting Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81678085008>

Meeting ID: 816 7808 5008

Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 2020
5. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 1. Financial Report
 2. Quarter 1 Financial Review
 - 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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting
Location: ZOOM meeting – details to follow



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
September 17, 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 September 17, 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. Bagnoni, Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Sample. Mr. Lee, Mr. Wachter, and Dr. Wood are also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Sample makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2020

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

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

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Paris has no comment at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public on the call for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to accept the report as presented on the Board Effect site. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion.

There are no questions or further discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 6-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Paris: We did hold a meeting yesterday where we spoke about the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System, which Mr. Wachter will have more on that later, and we talked about both the Multi-Municipal grant as well as the Arts, Culture, and Heritage grants. Hopefully, we will approve those later today.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Horton is not on the call so there is no report from him at this time.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Thank you, Chairman Paris. I just wanted to give some highlights of the Summer JAMS 2020 Program. The bottom line is that it was a success; we were very pleased at the County how GECAC conducted the program. As you know with the pandemic going on, we allowed it to be up to the employers whether they wanted to go forward as well as the students and I'm proud to say that we had 90 students complete the program. Typically, we have about 150 students complete the program, but it was abbreviated due to the pandemic that we are going through. Employer-wise, we typically have anywhere between 50-55 employers; this year we had 32 employers – 24 were returning and there were 8 new ones. We had 12 inside the City of Erie and 20 from outside the City of Erie; 14 were non-profits and 18 were for-profits.

I can't say enough as far as GECAC leadership under Sylvia – she did an excellent job running the program this year. She took the baton from Ben Wilson. One of the things that the program was able to do was continue to help the students with financial literacy, but with this pandemic going on, they were able to help some of the students who were experiencing food and shelter insecurities and they were able to connect them with the right resources. We are very please with that. In addition, they were able to link up some of the students who were having some mental health issues because of everything that has been going on with the COVID-19, as well as some personal issues that were going on.

It was definitely a great move to have the program; this was the first time that we actually had more participation outside the City of Erie. The bottom line is that we were just really, really thrilled with the outcome of the program. Are there any questions about the program?

Mr. Sample: Gary, does GECAC get paid per student or do they receive a lump sum? Are they going to get the same amount they have in previous years even though the attendance was down through no fault of their own?

Mr. Lee: David, that's a great question; thanks for bringing that up. It will be prorated. In the contract there is a per-student cost, so we had to go with the per-student cost. As you know, it just wouldn't have been fair to the County had they been able to collect based on 150 students when in fact it was 90 students. It was prorated and it was reflected in the number of students they actually served.

Mr. Sample: Thank you.

Mr. Lee: You're welcome. Which leads me to my next point – the Request for Proposal; the Request will be going out before the end of the year. As you may be aware, the GECAC contract ends at the end of this year. Last time we did a 3-year contract with 2 years optional; we will do the same with this particular Request for Proposal. We will have Dr. Wood involved in the review process as well as the Erie Community Foundation and then the Administration from County government will be involved.

We look forward to continuing on this great program and I am happy to say that since we started the program, we have not gone up one dollar in cost to ECGRA or to the County and that is remarkable. That comes from a good partnership of watching and overseeing the finances and the administration of the program by GECAC. They have made sure that everything is checked off and the deliverables are completed. We look forward to the Request for Proposal, we look forward to whoever the successful proposer to be, and in moving the program to another level in years to come.

Mr. Barney: Gary, I have two questions. One is, what did we finally settle on as far as their rate of pay?

Mr. Lee: It was \$2,274 per student, and that was applied directly into the contract for 2020.

Mr. Sample: Did we not raise the rate to \$8.25 or \$8.50 an hour?

Mr. Lee: Yes, we did, and we did factor that cost in which came out to an additional \$16,200. We went up from \$7.25 to \$8.25.

Mr. Barney: My second question is you said that all the pools of money and they were going to prorate to GECAC, so we should have some money left at the end of this year?

Mr. Lee: There will be money left over. As you know, the breakdown is \$150,000 from the County of Erie, \$150,000 from ECGRA. The Community Foundation did not participate this year due to their commitments to so many other nonprofits and since we knew that we were going to abbreviate the program, we realized that that cost would not be necessary. The savings will be reflected equally for the County of Erie as well as for ECGRA.

Mr. Barney: And without the Foundation, it won't be as much as I thought. Thank you.

Mr. Lee: Are there any additional questions on the program? If not, then the last point I would like to cover very briefly is the Community College. As you know, it was approved and has a total of nine trustees; seven of them by each County Council member and two were selected by the County Executive. That Board is in full effect and they are hitting the ground running. Their biggest task before them is selecting a President and then that President, along with the Board, will be responsible for selecting the location and carrying out all the details according to the College Plan that was approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education.

The key areas that the County will remain involved in is in the finances. We are projected for the first year to be working with the State; we are hoping that the State will come through with the RACP, which is the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. We have it in there for \$10 million, we put in for the full amount and if they are so gracious to give us the \$10 million, we will be more than happy to accept that. We have to match it dollar for dollar and in our plan, we do have the match coming from the Erie Community Foundation, and the balance coming from the Gaming Funds that the County receives. If they do not give us the \$10 million and they go according to plan, which is closer to \$3 million, we will just work with the \$3 million and go accordingly with the Gaming Funds and prorate the Erie Community Foundation money.

We are excited about the Community College; there is a lot of work ahead with the Board, but we are excited because this was a long time coming. Are there any questions about the Community College? If not, then thank you, Chairman Paris.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning everyone. You will see in your Executive Director's packet that the majority of our time this month has been spent getting Community Assets grants through the process as well as the single Municipal Collaboration grant, which is Round 2 of that funding and we'll commence with resolution numbers 18 and 19 that we're asking you to vote on later. There is also the issue of the PMRS and taking that to the next level; and we have been dealing with this issue since before the beginning of this year. So, we're looking forward to finalizing that and wrapping it up.

If you look at my report you will see information in there from Bridgeway Capital on the funds that have been expended in both the Erie Growth Fund as well as the Response Funds that we created with them at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. What I like about their reports is they go into great detail about the companies that were funded, the entrepreneur's names, and the amount that was funded; that's why I put it in this Executive Director's Report because I want everyone to have a chance to thumb through that and ask any potential questions.

There is a Masonic Temple designation in here for a National Historic Designation that we helped them receive. There are some pictures in here of the progress being made by the Erie Center for Arts & Technology and they wanted to make sure that we saw that there was some recognition of ECGRA in the media that they had done. The report is rounded out with the thank you letters and the media which we capture in here for historical purposes. There have been several articles lately that didn't even make this report celebrating projects that were partially funded by ECGRA.

Focusing on the grants, we will wait until we get to the resolutions to go into detail on that. Does anyone have any questions for me? Hearing none, that concludes my report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Last month Perry asked that I take a look at the contract and various documents that were provided to us by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System and put them in a form that could be adopted by the Board and also be able to explain to the Board how the program is going to work. This is not a traditional pension; this is a cash balance plan where the money that is being put into the system will be built up over a period of time in order for a single life annuity to be paid out at the time of retirement. We cannot think of it as a traditional pension, because that is not what this is.

There is one of two ways that we can go about this because there are a lot of items to discuss and I will note that the elections that were made in the document – that was the version of the document that we had received from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System – so we have made no administrative elections in this document. We want to explain it to you so you know what you're voting on and we can change anything. We can either move to Page 152 of the document provided to the Board on Board Effect; it's a 22-page contract, however, don't let that dissuade you from going through it because it won't take that long because only those items that have been selected need to be discussed and the majority of the document actually excludes things so we don't need to get into much detail about those, or I can give you a high-level overview. Which way would you like me to go?

Mr. Lee: I would suggest the high-level overview.

The Board is in agreement with that suggestion.

Mr. Wachter: This plan is effective April 1, 2020; we needed to select that as a plan year start date and we wanted to align that with our fiscal year. The fact that it is now September does not matter, so if you were to adopt it, it would just move forward with the next pay cycle in which it would start. The benefit is available to full-time employees who work 40 hours/week. You are able to have that benefit upon six months completion of service. Actually, let me correct the record and say that this would not start with the next pay period, but it would start after six months. You are fully vested after one year. So, we would wait six months from approval and then we would be fully vested in one year. The employer contribution is 15% of compensation; that was the number provided by PMRS.

Dr. Wood: Tim, if I can interject. That number was provided by PMRS, but I think we can all agree that that number is too high.

Mr. Wachter: That's great. I just wanted to call it out, so we will just need to get to a number. Let me tell you how the rest of the program works and then maybe we can figure out what the right number is.

Dr. Wood: Great.

Mr. Wachter: Employer compensation only includes pay – nothing else; no reimbursements, no vacations, paid out sick time, whatever that is, none of that gets calculated into what the employer contribution is. So, there's no opportunity to perform some of the administrative moves that other plans allow you to do to unnaturally goose your retirement; that is not available here. The employee is not required to make contributions; however, the employee is permitted to if they wanted, but that would only be after tax contributions. The employees are not permitted to purchase service or other credits. This is clearly a pay-as-you-go plan. If you leave the Authority and come back and you have already received a distribution, you would be allowed to buy back your time that you previously earned and you would have up to five years to do so.

Benefits are payable to an employee after attaining age 65 or attaining age 55 with ten years of service once you have separated from service; there is no distribution while you are employed. You cannot take an early check. If someone's account is less than \$5,000, a payment is distributed in a lump sum, otherwise the normal form of benefit is the single life annuity. The plan does allow the employee to select optional forms of payment to convert the value of the employee's account to a joint and survivor annuity options or a lump sum of the account balance; so, there is a couple different options for payout.

That is about all the main issues that I think you would be concerned about on how to understand how the plan works. I do think that the number of 15% is a bit high and that is something you should figure out what you want that to be. Perry, I know that you have some comparables as to what some other entities are using in the area and I didn't know if you wanted to speak to those.

Dr. Wood: Let me start out by giving a quick refresher on PMRS. It is a State-affiliated agency whose specific mission as created by the Commonwealth to create retirement plans for local governments, municipal authorities like ours, school districts and counties. They have over 1,100 clients in the State of Pennsylvania, some of them right here in Erie County. An example I can mention is the City of Corry's Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Wachter: If I could jump in on that, Perry? They are an affiliate of the Department of Community and Economic Development at the State level, so if you were to email them their email address is @pa.gov. They are not technically government employees, but they are an affiliate of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Wood: Great point. They are an incredibly affordable option because they charge \$20/person; they will cost the Authority \$60/year to administer this program. What we currently have at ECGRA is a matching Simple IRA concept and that is currently at 3%; where ECGRA matches 3% of what the employee earns. What we are talking about doing is moving to a cash balance plan more comparable to what other entities like ours in the region have. So as for comparables, you can't really compare what PMRS is offering to the County. I know sometimes we bounce back and forth as to whether we should compare ourselves to the County or not. The County has a pension and 403B matching concept. That is clearly not the direction we're going; we're not going in the pension direction.

Mr. Wachter: Perry, that's because the pension is significantly more expensive.

Dr. Wood: Correct. A traditional pension plan would be extremely expensive for us to do. We are more in line with the Convention Center Authority which offers a percentage of around 10% to their employees, although that can vary. We are trying to be more comparable to an Authority like that and what they offer. They have the same thing; they have a minimal percentage for optional employee participation.

The number that the staff is recommending is not 15%, we think that's too high. Based on our current budgeting, if you look at our budget, we have two line items one being called Retirement, which is the Simple IRA, and the second is the funds that we have scheduled for PMRS. If we were to combine those two line items, we would have enough to do a 10% contribution for the next six months like Tim suggested which would be September through the end of March which is the end of our fiscal year.

Mr. Lee: I have a couple of questions here for clarification purposes. Right now, we're talking strictly about the employer contribution of being 10%? I'm asking for clarification.

Dr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Lee: So, the employee has the option of whether they want to participate or not?

Mr. Wachter: Correct.

Mr. Lee: And is there a cut-off as far as a percentage that the employee is permitted to go up to?

Mr. Wachter: Currently it is 15%, which matches the 15% employer contribution. Those numbers are in line; we can change one or we can change both, however it is you want to do it.

Mr. Lee: Right. You are absolutely right when you say you can't compare it to the County because it is apples compared to oranges for all the reasons that were stated by Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood. The only thing I would share with the Board as far as from the employee contribution, I would suggest that whatever percentage you land on, and this is just my personal thoughts, you don't really want to be going back-and-forth. So, if you land on 10%, 5%, or somewhere in between like 7%, I would recommend keeping it at that particular level.

The other part that I would just share with you is that we should take this into context and think about the crisis that is happening with the COVID-19 and as we continue to work through this, but you just have to be aware – and I think everyone is – of the high unemployment nationally, which depending on which report you read could be 30 million people, with the State over 820,000, and with the County it is close to 18,000 and these percentages are really, really high. The only reason I say that is that any type of move that you do with our organization, it will be looked at very closely. So, in saying that, I think that the Board should take all of that into context as far as what you decide and keep it there going forward, put it in context as far as COVID-19 and what's going on with the rest of the country right now – and it's going to be going on for a little while, and just kind of look at some of the other individuals. And this is a very unique kind of plan but try to take into account maybe some of the other Authorities that are around the County and what percentage they have. In fact, Perry, do have some of those numbers for the other Authorities and what they are contributing?

Dr. Wood: The Convention Center Authority is at 8% match and that is the one that we were gearing toward being more comparable with.

Mr. Lee: Thank you. I will stop there because I think I have said enough. Thank you for the research, Attorney Wachter, and thanks for the information.

Mr. Cleaver: Do the employees presently have a pension plan?

Mr. Wachter: No. There is a Simple IRA employer match.

Mr. Cleaver: Do we roll that over into this plan if it's approved?

Mr. Wachter: The Simple IRA will not be able to be rolled over into this plan, I don't believe. Perry, is that correct?

Dr. Wood: That is correct. The way in which PMRS was established, they cannot administer a Defined Contribution Plan.

Mr. Cleaver: So, what happens then?

Mr. Wachter: The employee can take that and roll it over into a personal IRA so it will continue to accrue to their benefit, it will just no longer be managed, nor matched, by the Authority system.

Mr. Cleaver: So, it's dormant; whatever that amount is, that's theirs?

Mr. Wachter: That's theirs.

Mr. Cleaver: Are there any borrowing powers in this pension plan?

Mr. Wachter: No.

Mr. Cleaver: Down the road, there's none whatsoever?

Mr. Wachter: No, because it's not a pension plan.

Mr. Cleaver: Alright.

Dr. Wood: I think we have to be careful using the word pension because it's not.

Mr. Wachter: There is an election for that, I believe, that could have been chosen but it has been selected that there would be no borrowing.

Mr. Cleaver: Thank you.

Mr. Sample: Corry has the PMRS plan, a fixed benefit, and they also have a 457B which is like a 401K. The two points are that we would no longer be putting the 3% match on the 401K and any employee match would be after tax, not pre-tax. Is that correct?

Mr. Wachter: That is correct. And we don't currently have a 401K; it's a Simple IRA. But yes, that is correct. Any employee contribution, if they would want to do that, is after tax. The reason you do it after tax is so that you pay the tax on those dollars once and when there is a distribution, then those dollars are not taxed at the time of distribution.

Mr. Sample: Correct. Now, I got a little confused when you said that our contribution would be based solely on salary, not on benefits.

Mr. Wachter: Correct. If someone was to buy out their sick time or get paid out on sick time or get paid out on vacation time that was unused – and I don't even know if we can do that – but, if they were able to do that, that would not then incur a larger contribution requirement for the Authority. You can't goose your retirement by doing those things.

Mr. Sample: In our particular case, we do have one or two people who received compensation instead of insurance, but that is in fact compensation. If their spouse already had insurance, we weren't going to replicate it.

Mr. Wachter: We would have to look at how that is being accounted for, if that's being included on the W-2 as straight compensation. That is a very good point; that may account for that.

Mr. Sample: I believe it's just deemed as compensation. It was more justification on our part.

Mr. Wachter: Yes, that would incur the employer match.

Mr. Sample: I just know that when we did the numbers in Corry, the numbers were higher than the 8 or 10%, what we were willing to put in because we didn't have to commit to the other things.

Mr. Wachter: Dave, did you say Corry had a Defined Benefit Plan?

Mr. Sample: What they had, and I reached out to Novotny this morning, they have a PMRS Fixed Plan, Fixed Benefit, and the 457B like a 401K. They've got a hybrid; they're still getting both carts.

Mr. Wachter: Right. And I would think a Fixed Benefit Plan would be more lucrative for the employee. This is a Cash Balance Plan, so we're not committing to making any particular level of payout for the life of the individual upon retirement. Rather, it's only the money that we have committed on a pay period – the 15% - that would be paid out. That would be on the Cash Balance that is available.

Mr. Sample: And that was my point. These other plans are more lucrative.

Mr. Wachter: Correct. A 5% match on a Fixed Benefit Plan has costs after retirement that the Authority has to pay out, which would be more expensive.

Mr. Sample: I have only looked at this a little bit, but it does not look like a bad arrangement to me at all.

Ms. Hess: I was wondering if you had any other comparables. This is new to me and I don't know if 8% is high or low, is 10% high or low? I'm trying to understand what a good baseline is. Do you have any other comparables that would be similar?

Dr. Wood: Short answer is no, unless Mr. Cleaver remembers what the retirement plan looked like at the Parking Authority. What I have found is the municipal plans are extremely generous and so are the school district plans and the County plans. It's only when you get to the Authority plans where you have more of a concept like this where it is non-pension based and there isn't a mix of the two things. The exception is what Dave just said where the Authority in Corry has both the Fixed Plan and the 457B. As far as comparables goes, it varies; it really depends upon what the individual Boards of Directors decide to do. I wish there was a nice, neat place where I could find this information. I called a lot of people to try to get more information about this and I . . .

Mr. Sample: I remember when we went through this initially. There is a lot of Authorities that are like they are tribal; they wouldn't give information out.

Dr. Wood: I was shocked at the number of people who told me no.

Mr. Sample: Right. It's like they felt like we had no need for that.

Mr. Lee: Let me ask you something, Dr. Wood. Could the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System provide what the average is from the employer? I would think that that would be something that perhaps would be public information. Not asking about individual Authorities, but asking what the average is around the State.

Dr. Wood: I did have conversations with them about what the average plan looks like but not what the average percentage looks like. Did you have that conversation by chance, Tim?

Mr. Wachter: I did not.

Dr. Wood: Our plan is based upon what the average plan looks like for municipal authorities.

Mr. Lee: Sure. But I would think they could provide some feedback as far as what the average percentage is from the employer standpoint, and I think that would be very helpful.

Mr. Bagnoni: How can the Authorities say that they don't want to give you the information? Aren't they public authorities?

Mr. Wachter: We stopped short of making a Right-to-Know Request.

Mr. Sample: You could submit a Right-to-Know, but that would just create an adversarial situation.

Mr. Bagnoni: That's stupid.

Mr. Wachter: I have emailed the attorney for the Municipal Retirement System and asked the question about the average. I'll let you know if I get an answer in a timely fashion.

Mr. Bagnoni: What is driving this change?

Mr. Wachter: My understanding is that in conversations that the Board have had is that we need to put the Authority's compensation system to make it more competitive and put it more in line with what is expected in the event that we have to start replacing employees. What we currently offer is what everyone has kind of grown up with, but more would be expected from new employees if they were to be at the level that we wanted them to be.

Mr. Sample: And every time we have a compensation discussion, this comes up. We had decided to ask Dr. Wood and Tammi to go in and do this because at some point we've got to look like a real entity.

Mr. Wachter: If I could just interject, the Counsel from PMRS just responded and he believes the average is 8%.

Mr. Lee: Thank you, Tim. To your point, Dave, you are absolutely right. I think that this a good move to have this infrastructure in place. I think our infrastructure is behind the times in a lot of areas, but when you talk about retirement, you should definitely have a solid system set up. I think this is a very good move to make to establish this system, I really do. And Tim, thank you for the information of the 8%. I would just add this and then I'm going to be quiet. I think whatever you land on, whether it's the 8% or the 10%, I think that you should allow the employee to put in more - up to 15% - if they choose to; that's from the employee standpoint. I don't think you should cut it off for the employee, but whatever you land on for the employer, I think it just ought to be consistent at whatever you decide to move forward with. Thank you.

Mr. Bagnoni: So, now what?

Mr. Wachter: We have a Resolution and a Plan that states a 15% contribution and I would need somebody to tell me what number you would like to put in there and if there is a motion at the time that we get into that resolution we could do it with that employer contribution number. The employee contribution number is still at 15%, so if we wanted to follow Gary's advice and leave that where it is, we don't have to change it.

Mr. Sample: I would make the motion that we should go with 8%.

Mr. Cleaver: I second that motion.

Mr. Wachter: We have a motion and a second for 8%. There is an existing resolution on the agenda now and we will amend that document such that it is 8% if this moves forward.

Mr. Paris: Thank you, Tim.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Wood: Mr. Barney, are you still in the meeting? I know I talked to Mr. Cleaver about this yesterday, about potentially making a motion to extend the funding contract for the UECDC's food program based on the current need they are seeing in the community. In discussions with various Board members, it seems it makes sense to take a look at the UECDC's existing grant through the COVID-19 Response Fund and extend it so that they can continue to serve the food needs of the pantries, churches, and community centers that they are working with and provide them with \$20,000 total.

Mr. Cleaver: Perry, you and I had discussed this the other day and I have no problems with extending that. In fact, I would be more than glad to put that on the table for a vote.

Mr. Sample seconds the motion to extend the UECDC food program by \$20,000.

Mr. Barney: Gentlemen, I appreciate the two of you supporting this request.

Mr. Paris: Thank you. Is there anyone who would like more information on exactly what we're doing?

Dr. Wood: Let me just clarify the motion being made. I know this is kind of unprecedented but let me word it in a way that I think makes the most sense. Mr. Cleaver wants to make a motion to extend the existing grant agreement with the UECDC for a period of one month to cover two weeks' programmatic costs for a total of \$20,000. I'm sorry to put the words in your mouth but I just think it would be easier to make sure we check all the boxes. Are you okay with that motion, Mr. Cleaver?

Mr. Cleaver: Yes, definitely.

Dr. Wood: I would just want to add to this that in talks with the CEO of the UECDC, our main goal is to give him a two week runway to continue this valuable program that is serving a need in the community but this two week runway is intended to give him the time to communicate with the Second Harvest Food Bank food system so that they can get more connected with him and integrate the data they have about who they're serving to the overall food pantries. That is the overall goal here and it will probably not go beyond these two weeks here for that reason.

The longer-term goal is to get the UECDC operation more connected with the food insecurity system which exists here in Erie County in northwest PA. In discussions with you, it clearly makes sense for elected officials, like the County Executive for example, to take the role on leading those discussions because the food insecurity system is receiving millions of dollars from the State and Federal government. I look forward to handing the football off there.

There is no further discussion of this motion. Motion carries 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 18, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreements with fourteen (14) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Mr. Sample reminds the Board that he is on the Board for Impact Corry and must abstain from voting. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 5-0-1, with Mr. Sample abstaining.

- b. Resolution Number 19, 2020 – Resolution to enter into agreement with one (1) entity as the sole recipient of the 2020 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant, Round 2

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Sample seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0.

- c. Resolution Number 20, 2020 – Resolution of Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Erie County, electing to establish a non-uniform retirement plan to be administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law

Dr. Wood reads the beginning of the resolution but chooses not to read the eight sections in their entirety since all Board members have a copy in front of them. Dr. Wood states that this resolution was provided to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority by the legal counsel of the PMRS group and asks Mr. Wachter to confirm that.

Mr. Wachter: Yes, this resolution was provided by the PMRS Legal counsel and I have just received word that they will send us a revised agreement within the next couple of days to reflect an 8% employer contribution. The intent of this resolution then is to approve the agreement with an 8% employer contribution.

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

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
September 2020**

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2019-20 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44800 · Gaming Revenue	485,718.73	1,864,806.16		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	1,769.78	29,786.24		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow	7,667.67	15,251.00		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		10,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		6,505.42		
46426 · Int. Income - BWC - Inclusive	6,388.90	12,708.34		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		703.88		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT	1,333.00	1,333.00		
46440 · Immediate Human Relief Fund		275,000.00		
Total Income	<u>502,878.08</u>	<u>2,216,094.04</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	3,619.35	45,949.33	45,252.00	90,500.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,456.67	10,596.28	9,498.00	19,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	437.92	5,168.96	11,424.00	22,850.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	6,724.61	20,238.82	27,378.00	54,750.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	27,263.80	127,989.73	134,226.00	268,452.00
Total Expense	<u>39,502.35</u>	<u>209,943.12</u>	<u>227,778.00</u>	<u>455,552.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	463,375.73	2,006,150.92		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets				
70050 · Municipal Settlements	121,429.68	466,201.54		
70070 · Special Events	2,227.50	2,227.50		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration	(1,000.00)	99,000.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street				
70120 · Summer Jobs Program				
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities		500,000.00		
70130 · Small Business Financing		307,123.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow		216,666.50		
70170 · Renaissance Block		210,625.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		279,375.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief	20,000.00	585,889.00		
70195 · Response Fund - Small Business		620,000.00		
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>142,657.18</u>	<u>3,287,107.54</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(142,657.18)</u>	<u>(3,287,107.54)</u>		
Net Income	<u>320,718.55</u>	<u>(1,280,956.62)</u>		



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2020

	<u>September</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	192,358.53
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	4,872,132.30
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,462,112.65
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	817,755.10
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	<u>9,152,000.05</u>
Total Checking/Savings	9,344,358.58
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
12010 · Note Receivable - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · Note Receivable - EDF Restruct	1,300,000.00
12060 · Notes Receivable - BWC - Inclu	2,500,000.00
12070 · Note Receivable - 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 · Notes Receivable - eCAT	500,000.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	<u>(1,502,000.00)</u>
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,186,846.25
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	<u>(4,313.52)</u>
Total Other Current Assets	6,182,532.73
Total Current Assets	<u>15,526,891.31</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>15,526,891.31</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	4,047,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	12,952,783.75
Net Income	<u>(1,472,956.62)</u>
Total Equity	<u>15,526,891.31</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>15,526,891.31</u>



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Statement of Cash Flows
September 2020

	<u>September</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	320,718.55
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	<u>778.75</u>
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>321,497.30</u>
Net cash increase for period	321,497.30
Cash at beginning of period	<u>9,022,861.28</u>
Cash at end of period	<u><u>9,344,358.58</u></u>



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
September 2020

Expense	September	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	9,900.00	15,000.00	(5,100.00)	66.00%
62120 · Government Relations Services	0.00	3,189.38	3,189.38	0.00	100.00%
62130 · Professional Services	3,000.00	19,065.00	36,000.00	(16,935.00)	52.96%
62140 · Legal Services	499.50	12,573.50	35,000.00	(22,426.50)	35.92%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	660.00	3,000.00	(2,340.00)	22.00%
62150 · Payroll Services	119.85	560.55	1,500.00	(939.45)	37.37%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	3,619.35	45,948.43	93,689.38	(47,740.95)	49.04%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	1,864.98	1,000.00	864.98	186.50%
62890 · Rent	1,456.67	8,731.30	18,000.00	(9,268.70)	48.51%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,456.67	10,596.28	19,000.00	(8,403.72)	55.77%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	42.90	1,170.29	3,500.00	(2,329.71)	33.44%
65020 · Postage	19.07	129.42	500.00	(370.58)	25.88%
65040 · Office Supplies	0.00	215.28	2,000.00	(1,784.72)	10.76%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	916.57	2,200.00	(1,283.43)	41.66%
65060 · Copier Lease	345.95	2,075.70	4,200.00	(2,124.30)	49.42%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	0.00	72.17	2,000.00	(1,927.83)	3.61%
65080 · Bank Fees	30.00	201.00	200.00	1.00	100.50%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	274.00	4,000.00	(3,726.00)	6.85%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	0.00	16.00	4,000.00	(3,984.00)	0.40%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	98.53	250.00	(151.47)	39.41%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	437.92	5,168.96	22,850.00	(17,681.04)	22.62%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Outreach	0.00	889.21	8,000.00	(7,110.79)	11.12%
65110 · Advertising	0.00	84.90	7,000.00	(6,915.10)	1.21%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	1,045.86	9,335.20	18,000.00	(8,664.80)	51.86%
65120 · Insurance	778.75	4,672.50	9,850.00	(5,177.50)	47.44%
65130 · Grant Management Software	4,900.00	4,900.00	4,900.00	0.00	100.00%
65150 · Travel	0.00	357.01	7,000.00	(6,642.99)	5.10%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	6,724.61	20,238.82	54,750.00	(34,511.18)	36.97%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	24,402.83	114,604.60	233,000.00	(118,395.40)	49.19%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,885.97	8,874.39	17,302.00	(8,427.61)	51.29%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	35.74	2,000.00	(1,964.26)	1.79%
66500 · Retirement	975.00	4,475.00	9,000.00	(4,525.00)	49.72%
66700 · PMRS	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	(7,000.00)	0.00%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	27,263.80	127,989.73	268,452.00	(140,462.27)	47.68%
Total Expense	39,502.35	209,942.22	458,741.38	(248,799.16)	45.76%



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2020

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	3,462,112.65		
Committed Funds	4,872,132.30		

2020 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)

First Quarter Gaming Revenue		345,218.83	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue	485,718.73	1,519,587.33	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			<u>1,864,806.16</u>

FY Disbursements:

First Quarter Disbursements		1,604,410.71	
Second Quarter Disbursements	142,657.18	1,600,696.83	
Third Quarter Disbursements			
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			<u>3,205,107.54</u>

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
IMMEDIATE HUMAN RELIEF FUND (COVID-19)			
Bethany Outreach Center		7,600.00	
Christian Cupboard		3,000.00	
Community Shelter Services		30,750.00	
County of Erie MH/ID		12,500.00	
Edinboro Community & Eco. Devel. Corp.		9,370.00	
Ella Cochran Food Pantry		1,000.00	
Elmwood Food Pantry		2,000.00	
Erie City Mission		39,085.00	
Erie DAWN		10,000.00	
Erie Family Center		13,000.00	
Erie United Methodist Alliance		2,365.00	
Gannon University		23,000.00	
Harbor Creek High School		1,000.00	
HVA Senior Living Alliance		6,800.00	
International Institute of Erie USCRI-IIIE		17,210.00	
MECA, Inc.		3,850.00	
Millcreek Counseling & Mental Health		2,500.00	
Northwestern Food Pantry		5,000.00	
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College		63,321.00	
Project Face Shield		25,480.00	
Project Face Shield for Educators		22,120.00	
Sacred Heart Church		2,000.00	
Safe Journey		9,000.00	
Salvation Army, Corry		9,500.00	
Sarah A Reed Children's Center		11,000.00	
Sarah Reed Senior Living		5,200.00	
Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA		84,000.00	

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2020

	September	YTD	Subtotal
ServErie		8,710.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		25,400.00	
St. Martin Center		7,300.00	
St. Patrick's Haven Inc.		2,500.00	
Union City Family Support Center		2,000.00	
Urban Erie Community Development Corp	20,000.00	76,408.00	
Waterford Food Pantry		5,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		22,960.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		13,960.00	
			585,889.00
 RESPONSE FUND - SMALL BUSINESS & NONPROFITS			
Bridgeway Capital - 1st Draw		125,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 2nd Draw		80,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 3rd Draw		260,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 4th Draw		70,000.00	
Bridgeway Capital - 5th Draw		85,000.00	
			620,000.00
 MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township	54,643.38	209,790.69	
Greene Township	13,357.26	51,282.17	
McKean Township	13,357.26	51,282.17	
Millicreek Township	13,357.26	51,282.17	
Waterford Township	13,357.26	51,282.17	
Erie County	13,357.26	51,282.17	
			466,201.54
 Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
Borough of North East - 2019		(82,000.00)	
Jefferson Educational Society - 2020		100,000.00	
City of Erie - return of unspent funds	(18,000.00)	(18,000.00)	
Girard Township	17,000.00	17,000.00	
			17,000.00
 SHAPING TOMORROW			
Empower Erie, LLC		150,000.00	
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours		66,666.50	
			216,666.50

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2020

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
QUALITY OF PLACE			
Community Assets			
Special Events			
International Institute of Erie - USCRI	350.00	350.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	1,215.00	1,215.00	
The Nonprofit Partnership	662.50	662.50	
			<u>2,227.50</u>
NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES			
Anchor Building			
2019 Erie Center for Arts & Technology		60,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women		20,000.00	
2020 Borough of Union City		49,375.00	
Gaudenzia Erie		50,000.00	
Woman's Club of Erie		100,000.00	
			<u>279,375.00</u>
Erie Center for Arts & Technology		<u>500,000.00</u>	<u>500,000.00</u>
Mission Main Street			
Renaissance Block			
2020 Borough of Girard		25,625.00	
Borough of North East		30,000.00	
Borough of Union City		30,000.00	
Sisters of Mercy		25,000.00	
Impact Corry		50,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		25,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	
			<u>210,625.00</u>
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING			
Beehive Network			
Edinboro University Foundation		57,000.00	
Gannon University		90,500.00	
Mercyhurst University		97,500.00	
Erie Regional Library Foundation		62,123.00	
			<u>307,123.00</u>
YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More			
PILOT PROGRAMS			
Total Funds Disbursements	142,657.18	3,205,107.54	<u>3,205,107.54</u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2020

		<u>September</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
	Our West Bayfront		10,000.00	100,000.00
	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 2020			
	Borough of Girard		25,625.00	51,250.00
	Borough of North East		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Borough of Union City		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Impact Corry		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		0.00	25,000.00
	Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy		25,000.00	50,000.00
	YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	50,000.00
	Anchor Building			
18	Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		5,000.00	100,000.00
	Grace Church		80,000.00	100,000.00
	Performing Artists Collective Alliance		5,000.30	93,126.50
19	Erie Center for Arts & Technology		0.00	75,000.00
	Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation		56,000.00	70,000.00
	Housing & Neighborhood Development Services		40,000.00	50,000.00
	Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	Mercy Center for Women		0.00	100,000.00
	Mission Main Street			
1	Borough of North East		110,000.00	250,000.00
	City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	Erie Downtown Partnership		180,000.00	250,000.00
2A	Borough of Edinboro		154,650.00	250,000.00
	Borough of Union City		125,000.00	200,000.00
2B	Our West Bayfront		133,810.00	250,000.00
	Preservation Erie		122,000.00	150,000.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		159,500.00	250,000.00
3	Borough of Girard		90,000.00	170,000.00
	Impact Corry		87,200.00	202,400.00
	Waterford Borough		166,200.00	249,800.00
MUN	Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
19	Borough of North East		82,000.00	82,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2020

Committed Funds (cont):

	<u>September</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
SB			
		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
		86,000.00	200,000.00
		52,877.00	200,000.00
		84,500.00	200,000.00
		5,000.00	200,000.00
		100,000.00	200,000.00
Y&E			
		150,000.00	150,000.00
		220,000.00	400,000.00
		0.00	200,000.00
PP			
		50,000.00	100,000.00
QP			
		0.00	168,000.00
		0.00	30,750.00
		0.00	39,085.00
		0.00	23,000.00
		0.00	25,400.00
	20,000.00	0.00	76,408.00
		(5,480.00)	20,000.00
		0.00	22,960.00
		680,000.00	1,200,000.00
		300,000.00	400,000.00
Total Committed Funds	20,000.00	4,872,132.30	8,769,679.50



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Check Detail Report
September 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09/02/2020	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	8/15/20 to 8/28/20 Payroll	-8,482.06
09/02/2020	EFT	Fidelity Investments	8/15/20 to 8/28/20 Retirement	-569.32
09/03/2020	EFT	VISA	2020 August Statement	-313.47
09/04/2020	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2020 September Copier Lease	-345.95
09/04/2020	EFT	Parker Philips	2020 August Professional Services	-3,000.00
09/04/2020	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2020 October Phone/IT/Fax	-794.36
09/04/2020	EFT	Penn State University - Knowledge Park	2020 September Rent	-1,456.67
09/10/2020	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2020 August Legal	-499.50
09/10/2020	EFT	Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2020 Special Events	-1,215.00
09/11/2020	EFT	Summit Township	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-54,290.24
09/11/2020	EFT	Erie County	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-13,270.95
09/11/2020	EFT	Greene Township	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-13,270.95
09/11/2020	EFT	McKean Township	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-13,270.95
09/11/2020	EFT	Millcreek Township	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-13,270.95
09/11/2020	EFT	Waterford Township	FY 2017-18 Surplus Payment	-13,270.95
09/11/2020	EFT	International Institute of Erie USCRI-IIIE	2020 Special Events	-350.00
09/11/2020	EFT	The Nonprofit Partnership	2020 Special Events	-662.50
09/16/2020	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	8/29/20 to 9/11/20 Payroll	-8,502.77
09/16/2020	EFT	Fidelity Investments	8/29/20 to 9/11/20 Retirement	-554.90
09/17/2020	EFT	Foundant Technologies, Inc.	Grant Management Software	-4,900.00
09/18/2020	EFT	Girard Township	2020 MMC Clean Up Day	-17,000.00
09/18/2020	EFT	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	COVID Grant 25 - Extended Payment	-20,000.00
09/18/2020	EFT	Summit Township	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-353.14
09/18/2020	EFT	Greene Township	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-86.31
09/18/2020	EFT	McKean Township	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-86.31
09/18/2020	EFT	Millcreek Township	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-86.31
09/18/2020	EFT	Waterford Township	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-86.31
09/18/2020	EFT	Erie County	2019-20 Misallocation Settlement Payment	-86.31
09/30/2020	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	9/12/20 to 9/25/20 Payroll	-8,699.23
09/30/2020	EFT	Fidelity Investments	9/12/20 to 9/25/20 Retirement	-575.37
09/30/2020	EFT	Erie Bank	Service Charge	-30.00



**Erie County Gaming
Revenue Authority**

Financial Statements

**For the Three-Month Period Ended June 30, 2020
with Independent Accountants's Review Report**

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

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Independent Accountant's Review Report

**Board of Directors
Erie County Gaming
Revenue Authority
Erie, Pennsylvania**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (Authority), as of and for the period ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

DATE XX

10/14/2020

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2020

Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,466,042
Prepaid expenses	-
Total current assets	9,466,042
Noncurrent assets:	
Notes receivable, net	5,683,846
Total Assets	\$ 15,149,888
Liabilities and Net Position	
Liabilities	\$ -
Net Position:	
Restricted - economic development	15,149,888
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 15,149,888

See accompanying notes and independent accountant's review report.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Operating Revenues:	
Gaming revenue	\$ 345,219
Interest income - note receivable	22,155
Immediate human relief funds	250,000
Total operating revenues	617,374
Operating Expenses:	
Economic Development:	
Grants awarded	1,151,411
Provision for uncollectible notes	110,000
Employee costs	63,196
Professional fees	32,120
Office space	4,361
Marketing and communications	889
Office expenses	1,258
Data processing	3,320
Insurance	359
General and meeting	1,210
Total operating expenses	1,368,124
Operating Income (Loss)	(750,750)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):	
Interest income	20,789
Change in Net Position	(729,961)
Net Position:	
Beginning of period	15,879,849
End of period	\$ 15,149,888

See accompanying notes and independent accountant's review report.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Cash received from gaming revenue	\$ 345,219
Cash received from immediate human relief funds	250,000
Cash received from borrowers	22,155
Cash paid to borrowers as loan disbursements	(535,000)
Cash paid to employees and for employee benefits	(63,196)
Cash paid as grant awards	(1,151,411)
Cash paid for operating expenses	(43,158)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(1,175,391)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:	
Interest Income	<u>20,789</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(1,154,602)
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Beginning of period	<u>10,620,644</u>
End of period	<u>\$ 9,466,042</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Flows Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:	
Operating income (loss)	\$ (750,750)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Provision for uncollectible notes	110,000
Change in operating assets and liabilities:	
Prepaid expenses	359
Notes receivable	(535,000)
Total adjustments	<u>(424,641)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (1,175,391)</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountant's review report.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

1. General Information

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (Authority) was established during February 2008. The Authority was formed pursuant to the provisions of the Economic Development Financing Law, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, and the Home Rule Charter of the County of Erie (County). The purpose of the Authority is to administer municipal grants and otherwise perform the functions of the County's Economic Development Authority.

The Authority's Board of Directors (Board) consists of nine Board members. Two of the members are ex-officio, non-voting members, namely, the Chairman of County Council or designee, and the County Executive or designee. The remaining members consist of one resident from each of the seven districts within the County, who shall be appointed by the County Executive with the consent of County Council.

The Authority is dependent on gaming revenues generated from the Presque Isle Downs and Casino. These revenues are passed on to the Authority as restricted funds.

On October 26, 2017, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act was amended, changing, among other things, how gaming revenues were distributed to counties and entities like the Authority. One clause specifically effecting the Authority diverted \$1,000,000 of restricted gaming revenue each year for use by the Erie County Land Bank.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Authority have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the Authority's accounting policies are described below.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

The Authority is considered a special purpose government operating a single government program.

Net Position

The Authority only reports restricted net position which represents constraints placed on net position used through external restrictions, reduced by liabilities related to those assets. The Authority's net position is restricted for economic development grants and loans. Of the total restricted net position, \$5.7 million represents notes receivable (net) from various borrowers as described in Note 6, and approximately \$5.3 million represents grant funding committed via award agreements but not yet spent.

The Authority's policy is to use funds in the order of the most restrictive to the least restrictive.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are cash on hand, as well as demand deposits in checking and savings accounts at a local financial institution.

Notes Receivable

As described in Note 6, the Authority has issued various economic development related notes. Notes receivable are written off when they are determined to be uncollectible. It is the Authority's policy to provide for future losses on notes based on an evaluation of the current portfolio, current economic conditions, and such other factors which, in the Authority's judgement, may impact collectability for specific notes. The allowance for uncollectible notes totaled \$1,420,000 as of June 30, 2020. As of June 30, 2020, none of the notes receivable are in default.

From time to time, the Authority awards convertible loans to organizations ("Awardee") which are required to loan those funds to third parties ("Recipient"). If the Recipient defaults on the loans to the Awardee, the Authority's loan to the Awardee converts to a grant. If the Recipient pays the loan back to the Awardee, the Authority will continue to receive its payments from the Awardee. Based on the convertible nature of these provisions, the Authority recognizes these awards as grants since the likelihood of receiving funds cannot be determined, nor can they be quantified, at the time the grants are awarded.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts (mitigated through the Pennsylvania Municipal Torts Claim Act), theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; error and omission, and natural disasters for which the Authority carries commercial insurance. There have been no significant changes in insurance coverage since the prior year.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Pending Pronouncements

GASB has issued statements that will become effective in future years, including Statement No. 87 (Leases). Management has not yet determined the impact of this statement on the financial statements.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Authority's deposits may not be returned to it. The Authority does not have a policy for custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2020, \$9,216,044 of the Authority's bank balance of \$9,466,042 was collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution and \$250,000 was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). These deposits include amounts with a book balance as of June 30, 2020 of \$9,466,042, which are reported as cash and cash equivalents in the statement of net position.

4. Operating Leases

The Authority entered into an agreement with an Organization for rental of office space, which commenced in April 2015.

The Authority's base rent will be payable in equal monthly installments of \$1,457. This will be charged monthly. The total expenditures for the three-month period ended June 30, 2020 were \$4,361.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Minimum future rentals to be paid as of June 30, 2020 are as follows:

July 2020 - June 2021	<u>\$ 17,472</u>
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5. Irrevocable Gifts to Erie Community Foundation

The Authority has entered into an irrevocable gift agreement with the Erie Community Foundation (ECF). This fund is under the control of the ECF and subject to their policies and, as such, is not recorded on the books of the Authority. The market value of this fund as reported by the ECF as of June 30, 2020 was \$13.3 million. A donor-designated fund, called the Lead Asset Endowment Fund, was established to perpetually provide financial assistance to organizations designated by the settlement dated December 13, 2010 (Erie County Lead Regional Assets). During the three-month period ended June 30, 2020, no distributions from this fund were awarded directly to Erie County Lead Assets.

6. Notes Receivable

On September 13, 2012 and August 13, 2013, the Authority entered into loan agreements with the Enterprise Development Fund of Erie County, Inc. (Fund) for \$500,000 and \$800,000, respectively. The purpose of the loan was to provide loans to various entities in the County area to create and retain jobs. In March 2018, the loans were restructured and combined into one loan agreement. The loan agreement requires quarterly interest-only payments at a rate of 1% per annum, until March 31, 2028. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$1,300,000 as of June 30, 2020. The Authority was notified in 2016 that an entity related to the Fund, The Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation (GEIDC), filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The Authority has considered the uncertainty surrounding the ultimate collectability of the loan in its determination of the overall allowance for

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

uncollectible notes. The Authority staff and Board will continue to monitor this dynamic situation to confirm ongoing viability of the Fund.

In September 2014, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with the Corry Industrial Benefit Association (CIBA) for \$50,000. The purpose of the loan was to provide loans to low-income individuals for energy efficient improvements for their homes. Payments are due to the Authority when CIBA has issued a loan to an individual and CIBA receives principal payments. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$18,846 as of June 30, 2020.

In January 2016, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Bridgeway Capital for \$1,000,000. The purpose of the loan was to create the Erie Growth Fund. The loan requires interest-only quarterly payments at a rate of 3% per annum. The entire principal is due January 2026. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$1,000,000 as of June 30, 2020.

In April 2017, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with The Progress Fund for \$1,000,000. The purpose of the loan was to provide capital to rural businesses that create jobs and invest in Erie County. The loan requires interest-only quarterly payments at a rate of 2% per annum. The entire principal is due January 2026. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$1,000,000 as of June 30, 2020.

In December 2017, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with 1855 Capital Fund for \$500,000. The purpose of the loan was to provide capital to technology-based businesses that create jobs and invest in Erie County. Minimum Interest, as that term is defined in the loan agreement, is due to ECGRA semiannually. Outstanding Minimum Interest, Fixed Interest, Participating Interest, and Principal are due on the Maturity Date, as that term is defined in the loan agreement. The entire principal is due December 2027. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$500,000 as of June 30, 2020.

In September 2018, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Bridgeway Capital for \$2,500,000. The purpose of the loan was to create the Erie Inclusive Fund. The loan requires interest-only quarterly payments at a rate of 1% per annum. The entire principal is due December 2028. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$2,500,000 as of June 30, 2020.

In January 2019, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Blue Highway Capital for \$250,000. The purpose of the loan was to provide capital to rural businesses throughout Erie County. Minimum Interest, as that term is defined in the loan agreement, is due to

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

ECGRA semiannually. Outstanding Minimum Interest, Fixed Interest, Participating Interest, and Principal are due on the Maturity Date, as that term is defined in the loan agreement. The entire principal is due in January of 2029, unless extensions are exercised. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$250,000 as of June 30, 2020.

In March 2020, the Authority entered into a loan agreement whereby the Authority has agreed to loan Bridgeway Capital up to \$800,000 to create the COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Loan Fund and up to \$800,000 to create the COVID-19 Nonprofit Emergency Loan Fund. An amendment was subsequently issued that allows Bridgeway Capital to apply up to \$400,000 of the COVID-19 Nonprofit Emergency Loan Fund towards small business loans. The loan carries a 0% interest rate and all principal must be paid back to the Authority within seventy-eight months of the date of the agreement. As of June 30, 2020, Bridgeway Capital has drawn \$535,000 on this loan.

7. Simple IRA

In September 2014, the Authority's SIMPLE IRA Plan (Plan) was established with Fidelity Advisors to provide retirement benefits to their employees. The provisions of the Plan were established by the Board who can also amend the Plan. Employees can contribute up to the IRS limits and the Authority will match up to 3% of the employee's wages. All contributions and earnings are vested immediately. Contributions made for the three-month period ended June 30, 2020 by employees and the Authority were \$2,200 and \$1,537, respectively.

8. COVID-19

In early 2020, an outbreak of a novel strain of COVID-19 was identified and infections have been found in a number of countries around the world, including the United States. The COVID-19 and its associated impacts on supply chains, travel, employee productivity, and other economic activities has had, and may continue to have, a material effect on financial markets and economic activity. The extent of the impact of the COVID-19 on the Authority's operational and financial performance is currently uncertain and cannot be predicted. There has been no immediate impact to the Authority's operations. A future potential impact may include disruptions or restrictions on our employees' ability to work. Operating revenues are not expected to change as the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act dictates that the Authority receive 1 percent of slot machine gross revenues or \$10 million a year. The future effects of these issues are unknown.



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
OCTOBER
2020**



Lucas, Helen

From: Fugagli, Tracey
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Lucas, Helen
Subject: FW: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

Fyi for gaming. When we find out if we have to give ECGRA their 45% then I will give you the backup. Right now I just wanted you to be aware it was coming and to check for it.

From: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Dahlkemper, Kathy <kadahlkemper@eriecountypa.gov>
Cc: Lee, Gary <GLee@eriecountypa.gov>; Fugagli, Tracey <TFugagli@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: FW: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

All, A real nice surprise. Please see below. I do not recall seeing anything about this. Jim

From: Heckert, Jennifer L <jeheckert@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Gaming Act 42 of 2017 Section § 13B52 (d)(2)(ii), the Department is to determine whether a county operating a licensed facility received less than the amount the county received during fiscal year 2017-2018 under section 1403 (c) (relating to establishment of State Gaming Fund and net slot revenue distribution). If the department determines that less was received, the department shall calculate the difference. The department shall make distributions from the restricted receipts account to the county but cannot exceed the difference between the current fiscal year and fiscal year 2017-2018. If more than one county is owed funds and there are insufficient funds in the account to pay each county the entire amount of the decrease experienced by that county, each county shall receive funds in proportion of that county's decrease to the total amount of all decreases.

For fiscal year 2019-2020, an ACH payment in the amount of \$1,072,399.92 should be deposited in your bank account. This payment is in proportion of the county's decrease to the total amount of all decreases.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Jennifer Heckert | Division Chief
PA Department of Revenue
Bureau of Fiscal Management | Gaming Division
1147 Strawberry Square | Harrisburg PA 17128
Phone: 717.346.4004 | Fax: 717.787.6738
E-mail: jeheckert@pa.gov
www.revenue.pa.gov

Erie County
067-021010-042100
\$1,072,399.92 x .55 = \$589,819.96

ECGRA
067-021050-042100
\$1,072,399.92 x .45 = \$482,579.96

Our mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Fugagli, Tracey

From: Heckert, Jennifer L <jeheckert@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Sparber, James
Cc: Fugagli, Tracey; Dahlkemper, Kathy; Lee, Gary
Subject: RE: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

The answer is yes. These funds must be used in accordance with Section 1403(c) of the Act.

Sorry I did not get back to you sooner. After the prior distributions were made, we noticed that there was a misallocation of funds. An additional payment of \$6,975.05 should be deposited in your bank account within 5 - 10 business days. For fiscal year 2019-2020, the total distribution from the Interactive gaming tax according to Section 13B52 of Act 42 of 2017 will be \$1,079,374.97.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Jennifer Heckert | Division Chief
PA Department of Revenue
Bureau of Fiscal Management | Gaming Division
1147 Strawberry Square | Harrisburg PA 17128
Phone: 717.346.4004 | Fax: 717.787.6738
E-mail: jeheckert@pa.gov
www.revenue.pa.gov

County of Erie
067-021010-043100
\$6,975.05 x .55 = \$3836.28
ECGRA
067-021050-043100
\$6,975.05 x .45 = \$3138.77

Our mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

From: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Heckert, Jennifer L <jeheckert@pa.gov>
Cc: Fugagli, Tracey <TFugagli@eriecountypa.gov>; Dahlkemper, Kathy <kadahlkemper@eriecountypa.gov>; Lee, Gary <GLee@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: RE: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

Jennifer Would you please verify for me that the funds mentioned below are subject to the same disbursement of funds that takes place when we receive our normal quarterly payment. This includes 45% of the funds being forwarded to ECGRA. Jim

From: Heckert, Jennifer L <jeheckert@pa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: FY2019-2020 Act42 LSA Distribution - Erie County

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Gaming Act 42 of 2017 Section § 13B52 (d)(2)(ii), the Department is to determine whether a county hosting a licensed facility received less than the amount the county received during fiscal year 2017-2018 under section 1403 (c) (relating to establishment of State Gaming Fund and net slot revenue distribution). If the department



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM
AGENDA

WELCOME & BACKGROUND Dr. Perry Wood, ECRGA Executive Director

PROGRAM PROFILES

Sarah Sergeant, Erie Bird Observatory
Tommy Lenox, Erie Police Athletic League
Jon DeMarco, Presque Isle Partnership

CONVERSATION

ZOOM PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY ASSET AWARDS Dr. Perry Wood

MEDIA Q&A

Sen. Loughlin
Rep. Muski

Kim Clear
Carl Anderson

Dave Bagnoni

WHAT: COMMUNITY CONVERSATION via ZOOM

DATE: Thursday, October 8

TIME: 11 AM

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/92132404355?pwd=cFFHMzBPNk81RmVsUG9rYU8zM3Vqdz09>

Meeting ID: 921 3240 4355

Passcode: 129761

BACKGROUND Arts, culture, and heritage organizations are a smart investment of ECRGA dollars because they enrich the quality of life for all residents. Each of the participating grantees will discuss how they are creating an experience that makes Erie County a great place to visit and call home for people of all ages. This conversation, focused on the rich community programs evolving around Presque Isle State Park, will help the community understand these investments and expand the reach of these exciting organizations.





ECGRA Invests in the Community Assets across Erie County; Community Conversation Shows Asset Investments Enhance Presque Isle State Park *14 Grants totaling \$152,000 Awarded*

CONTACT: Kate Philips
philips@parkerphilips.com
215.850.4647 | mobile

ERIE, PA (October 08, 2020) As part of a Community Conversation featuring new programs and infrastructure investments at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) announced more than \$152,000 in their 2020 Community Assets Grant Program today, which will be distributed to 14 arts, culture, and heritage organizations across Erie County.

“Community Assets are the thread between neighborhoods that draw communities closer together and attract new families to Erie County,” said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “Conversations like today’s help to expose and elevate these community assets, generating new partnerships and helping the community understand how organizations like this help make Presque Isle and Erie a great place to visit and live.”

ECGRA has invested \$2.478 million in the Community Asset Grant Program, supporting capital improvements and programming, which provide social, educational, cultural, health, recreation, and/or economic benefits to residents of Erie County.

“The 14 grants being awarded are part of strategic investments that seek to advance Erie County as a great place to live and work,” said Kim Clear, Erie County Council (District 1). “ECGRA is an integral part of Erie County’s effort to help sustain our communities and attract new families and businesses.”

The Presque Isle Partnership was a recipient in the 2020 round of grants. For more than 26 years, the partnership has been working to enhance visitors' experience by developing, funding and implementing projects and programs on the Park, while protecting the natural environment.

“The Presque Isle Lights Project offers the community access to all the park has to offer in the hours following each breathtaking weekend sunset in December,” said Jon DeMarco, Executive Director, Presque Isle Partnership. “ECGRA’s Community Asset grants strategically invest in natural assets that help attract more visitors to Erie and make it a great place to call home.”

Erie Police Athletic League (PAL) Director Tommy Lenox talked about an exciting new program aimed at exposing inner city youth to the sport of fishing. ECGRA has invested in Erie PAL since 2016 when the Erie division made its return to the region. Erie PAL has been working to cultivate the cop-kid relationship in Erie, and the growing program is supported by City of Erie Police officers and Erie County Sheriffs who spend time interacting with, coaching, mentoring, and teaching students after school.

“ECGRA’s investment in Erie PAL makes this program possible,” said Lenox. “Programs like the DCNR fishing program open up the cop-kid relationship in Erie County beyond the neighborhood and expand opportunities for kids who may not otherwise experience sports like fishing or the natural beauty of Presque Isle State Park.

“We want kids to know that they can count on us and trust us, and we want to support their development in a meaningful way.”

Also joining the Community Conversation was Sarah Sargent, Executive Director of the Erie Bird Observatory (EBO). Since 2018, the EBO has been dedicated to helping foster enthusiasm for birds and conservation in Northwest PA.

“This funding enables us to continue our bird monitoring at Presque Isle and offer a better birding experience for visitors near and far,” said Sargent. “Our team is excited about the possibility of creating new bird-watching opportunities for community members who may not otherwise be exposed to avian life along the shoreline of Lake Erie. Investing in this program supports ongoing conservation efforts and will allow us to plan ways to enhance Presque Isle and surrounding Erie County as a major birding destination in the Great Lakes.”

Below is a breakdown of the Community Asset Grants that were announced at today’s event:

Organization	Project	Amount Awarded
Albion Area Fair	Arts/Crafts/Antique Building Roof	\$9,375.00
AmeriMasala	AmeriMasala Bridge Building Series	\$12,000.00
Erie Bird Observatory	Building a Better Birding Experience in Erie County	\$10,000.00
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	The Nutcracker: The Kingdom of Sweets	\$7,700.00

Erie PAL	Unlocking the Power of the COP-KID Relationship	\$15,000.00
Erie Yesterday	A Collaborative Application of Six Heritage Organizations	\$15,000.00
Impact Corry	Doubling Down on the Arts in Corry: Investing in What is Working	\$14,000.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	PACA Arts Business and Education Incubator	\$14,000.00
Presque Isle Partnership	Presque Isle Lights	\$15,000.00
The Goodell Project	Mobile Irrigation Station and Garden Maintenance Cart	\$7,901.49
Waterford Community Fair Association	Agricultural Heritage Projects	\$2,750.00
Wesleyville Area Museum of Armed Forces Small Boats	Security Enhancements for Relocated WAM Museum	\$3,837.50
WQLN Public Media	Erie Eats Video Series	\$12,000.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	YADO's 16th Season, Comprising the New COVID19 Prelude Strings Program	\$14,000.00
TOTAL		\$152,563.99

####

14 nonprofits

152,563 in awards

Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Heritage & Recreation





Community Assets Grants to fund fishing, birding and other Presque Isle projects

By Times-News staff

Published 3:03 p.m. ET Oct. 8, 2020 | Updated 7:49 p.m. ET Oct. 8, 2020

Programs and projects at Presque Isle State Park will benefit from Community Assets Grants awarded by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority on Thursday.

ECGRA gave more than \$152,000 to 14 arts, culture and heritage organizations.

Presque Isle Partnership was awarded \$15,000 for its Presque Isle Lights Project.

"The Presque Isle Lights Project offers the community access to all the park has to offer in the hours following each breathtaking weekend sunset in December," said Jon DeMarco, executive director of Presque Isle Partnership.

A \$15,000 grant to the Erie Police Athletic League will help introduce city kids to fishing at Presque Isle.

"Programs like the (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) fishing program open up the cop-kid relationship in Erie County beyond the neighborhood and expand opportunities for kids who may not otherwise experience sports like fishing or the natural beauty of Presque Isle State Park," said P.A.L. Director Tommy Lenox.

The Erie Bird Observatory was awarded \$10,000.

"Investing in this program supports ongoing conservation efforts and will allow us to plan ways to enhance Presque Isle and surrounding Erie County as a major birding destination in the Great Lakes," said observatory Executive Director Sarah Sargent.

Other Community Assets Grants were awarded to:

- Albion Area Fair, \$9,375 for Arts/Crafts/Antique Building roof;
- AmeriMasala, \$12,000 for AmeriMasala Bridge Building Series;
- Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre, \$7,700 for "The Nutcracker: The Kingdom of Sweets";



- Erie Yesterday, \$15,000;
- Impact Corry, \$14,000, for "Doubling Down on the Arts in Corry: Investing in What is Working";
- Performing Artists Collective Alliance, \$14,000, for PACA Arts Business and Education Incubator;
- The Goodell Project, \$7,901, for a mobile irrigation station and maintenance cart;
- Waterford Community Fair Association, \$2,750, for agricultural heritage;
- Wesleyville Area Museum of Armed Forces Small Boats, \$3,838, for security;
- WQLN Public Media, \$12,000, for "Erie Eats";
- Young Artists Debut Orchestra, \$14,000, for its 16th season.

