



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
February 17, 2022

ZOOM Meeting Information:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88989213116>

Meeting ID: 889 8921 3116
Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2022
5. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - i. Financial Reports
 - ii. 2022-2023 Draft Budget 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, March 17, 2022
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

January 20, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on January 20, 2022 at 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, and Mr. Paris are present via Zoom. Mr. Sample (arrives late) is present in person. Mr. Wachter is present via Zoom, and Dr. Wood is present in person.

Ms. Loll's computer has no audio so she will be communicating via the chat function.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2021

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by anyone from the Board of Directors at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I just want to thank everyone for a great year last year and I look forward to a successful year of service this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled.

Dr. Wood: Carol, I see your comment in the chat about not being able to hear. According to my screen, you are on mute right now. If you go to the lower left-hand corner of your screen and click the unmute icon, that should help.

Mr. Cleaver: It doesn't work for everybody; I tried that.

Dr. Wood: I will keep an eye on the chat so we can move on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the finances with Dr. Wood and everything seems in order; not much was happening in the short month of December. I have one question, Tammi, and it could be me, but I did not receive the credit card report. It's not a big deal, but I wanted you to know that I didn't run across it. I see now that you have it on the screen. Other than that, everything is fine on my end, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Michali: Mr. Cleaver, I apologize. I must have sent the incorrect file.

Dr. Wood: Let's take a look at the credit card statement then and see if the Board has any questions.

Mr. Cleaver: I certainly don't now that I've had a chance to look at it.

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

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: There was no meeting held.

Mr. Barney: Perry, before we move on, have we been informed of our County Council liaison?

Mr. Sample joins the meeting in person.

Dr. Wood: I have had a couple conversations with Council. Chairman Shank, I believe, is going to appoint himself as the liaison, as is the tradition of late for the Chairman to appoint themselves as our liaison. I also had a conversation with Doug Smith, and he didn't know who the liaison would be from the County Executive's office, but he would let me know as soon as they figured that out. Of course, that tradition has been to have the Director of Administration be the liaison.

- c. Update from County Council
- d. Update from County Executive's Office

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: I am going to talk briefly about the ARPA monies and then under the Solicitor's Report, I want to talk to you about this letter that has come in from the Lead Assets; I just wanted to have a brief conversation about it and tell you how the staff is currently responding to that.

In the Director's Report, you will see we got an interesting letter from the County Executive and two Council members about the role of Authorities and how we should be interacting with the Davis Administration. I think it speaks for itself, but if you have any questions you can follow up with me on it later. I think it's a bunch of saber-rattling, but it doesn't really matter. It is what it is, and we'll take it for face value.

There is a letter in here about the Knox Law Firm raising their prices by 3%. There's a report from Parker Philips on their activities, a press release for the Community Centers that went out, a couple letters from grantees that are thankful for the funding – I always like to include those so that you can see there are folks who appreciate us. Those things are followed up by some news clippings from when we were in the media for projects being funded.

The majority of what I wanted to talk to you about, and I'll be brief, is to give you an update on ARPA fundings. As you could see in the financials, the \$4 million did come in; it is sitting in the savings account. We, of course, have a contract that we signed with the County which was kind of rushed through at the end of December in order to get it on the books. It is under a category known as 2.10 Aid to Nonprofits. We were selected to do that under the title of Transformational Grants. What the County means by that is it is very limited. It is:

1. Make sure you align projects and programs with priorities and recommendations in Emerge 2040, as well as other existing regional plans,
2. Provide a cash match,
3. Adhere to contemporary practices and policies with regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion to be eligible, and
4. Must be a 501(c)3

It doesn't really give a definition of what transformational is; that is going to be up to us to decide as we start reviewing grants. The ECGRA framework for grantmaking, though, is a great place to start.

So, in the contract, we had to lay out some ideas that we would consider funding for. We laid out three of them in accordance with our current grant process. 1) Investing in Entrepreneurship and Small Business, 2) Investing in Quality of Place, or Placemaking as we more commonly call it, and 3) Investing in Community Facilities.

Tim, Tom, Tammi, and I have been studying the Federal requirements on us for the ARPA funds. We are what is known as a subrecipient, which means that we have the responsibility to report back to the Federal government on how we spent the funds, not the County. We have the responsibility to report back to the Feds. That is important to point out because there are certain requirements in here that are going to cause us to have a separate audit of just the ARPA funds, and there is a lot of compliance. There is a thousand-page document with all kinds of requirements in

there. Tim has done a great job of narrowing it down to two key sections that we are going to be focusing on. The four of us did a study session on that yesterday thanks to Tim; there is a lot of good information in there and we're almost to the point where we're ready to start taking grant applications for these funds.

I'll answer any questions you have about ARPA. Hearing none, I'll conclude my Executive Director's report and as always, feel free to follow up with me individually after the meeting or if a question occurs to you later, email me, text me, or give me a call. Thank you.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I wanted to say that we have an Executive Session scheduled here to discuss some legal advice relative to a letter you had received last month, which was in last month's Executive Director's report that didn't receive any conversation. I wanted to give you some legal advice with respect to that.

Recording of the meeting stops at 8:44 am and resumes at 9:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Barney: I do have one question pertaining to the request from the entities that wanted to have some money set aside; did we hear back from any of them?

Mr. Wachter: Perry, I believe he's talking about the YLI (Youth Leadership Institute).

Dr. Wood: The Youth Leadership Institute, that's in progress right now. They are getting their documents in. The UECD (Urban Erie Community Development Corporation) has said they would like to come back to us in February; that's when they will be prepared to draw down. The group in Impact Corry, I am not sure where that stands. They are not even sure if they are going to draw down.

Mr. Barney: I was just curious because we put that up and was just wondering if there was any correspondence on that.

Dr. Wood: Tom might be able to chime in on that. Did you get documents back from Edison Nicholson yet?

Mr. Maggio: Not signed; not yet.

Dr. Wood: Tim has done the paperwork, we've reviewed it as a staff, we shot it over to him, and so the ball is in his court.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if I may say that the Harborcreek Little League was a grant that we had issued many years ago; they didn't do the project and we were able to receive a check back from them for the full grant amount. So, we've returned that to the Gaming Authority and hopefully by now you have received that.

Mr. Barney: Ok. Well maybe we can help them in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Michali: There is a question from Carol in the chat.

Dr. Wood: Tammi, would you mind looking that up so we can answer that? Carol is asking, "How much money has Impact Corry received?" I don't know why we're picking on Impact Corry; it's kind of pissing me off, to be honest with you.

Carol's response in the chat is: "I am not picking on it. I just wanted a response since Dom didn't get an answer in the meeting last month."

Ms. Michali: Impact Corry has received \$481,000.

Dr. Wood: There you go. On we go.

Mr. Barney: Dr. Wood, do you have anything additional to add?

Dr. Wood: There is no new business from our end; no new resolutions. However, we will have some for you in February.

Mr. Barney: Does any other Board member have any questions or comments?

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sample moves to adjourn. Mr. Paris seconds the motion.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
January 2022**

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2021-22 YTD</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · ARPA Fund		4,000,000.00		
44800 · Gaming Revenue	1,400,230.44	2,972,830.59		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,946,938.99		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	401.06	4,240.60		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Growth		22,916.67		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		15,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		13,000.00		
46426 · Int. Income - BWC - Inclusive		19,097.22		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway	8.40	73.64		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		10,224.00		
Total Income	<u>1,400,639.90</u>	<u>9,004,321.71</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	6,115.04	51,580.50	66,250.00	79,500.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	2,965.64	17,617.85	17,080.00	20,500.00
65000 · Office Administration	712.04	10,817.62	14,290.00	17,150.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	5,275.57	33,195.76	40,830.00	49,000.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	24,174.75	240,490.05	259,460.00	311,352.00
Total Expense	<u>39,243.04</u>	<u>353,701.78</u>	397,910.00	477,502.00
Net Ordinary Income	1,361,396.86	8,650,619.93		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets	4,750.00	392,351.86		
70050 · Municipal Settlements	350,057.61	1,229,942.40		
70070 · Special Events		156,402.05		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		113,299.13		
70100 · Mission Main Street		212,010.82		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program	15,065.45	138,693.16		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing		222,500.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects	50,000.00	115,000.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block	10,000.00	245,625.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		98,000.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief		(39,788.78)		
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>429,873.06</u>	<u>2,884,035.64</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(429,873.06)</u>	<u>(2,884,035.64)</u>		
Net Income	<u>931,523.80</u>	<u>5,766,584.29</u>		

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2022

	January
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	59,669.53
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	2,442,122.14
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,165,310.94
10104 · ARPA Fund	4,000,000.00
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	6,204,044.21
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	15,811,477.29
Total Checking/Savings	15,871,146.82
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	4,635.00
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	(1,540,000.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,134,635.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	6,793.48
Total Other Current Assets	6,141,428.48
Total Current Assets	22,012,575.30
TOTAL ASSETS	22,012,575.30
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	13,318,259.55
Net Income	5,767,251.57
Total Equity	22,012,575.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	22,012,575.30

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
January 2022**

Expense	January	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	10,100.00	15,000.00	(4,900.00)	67.33%
62130 · Professional Services	3,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	(10,000.00)	75.00%
62140 · Legal Services	2,983.00	9,842.00	20,000.00	(10,158.00)	49.21%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	717.99	3,000.00	(2,282.01)	23.93%
62150 · Payroll Services	132.04	920.51	1,500.00	(579.49)	61.37%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	6,115.04	51,580.50	79,500.00	(27,919.50)	64.88%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment	1,508.97	3,051.15	2,500.00	551.15	122.05%
62890 · Rent	1,456.67	14,566.70	18,000.00	(3,433.30)	80.93%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	2,965.64	17,617.85	20,500.00	(2,882.15)	85.94%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	304.03	2,906.45	3,000.00	(93.55)	96.88%
65020 · Postage	19.07	247.70	500.00	(252.30)	49.54%
65040 · Office Supplies	7.99	1,167.52	2,000.00	(832.48)	58.38%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	1,346.21	2,200.00	(853.79)	61.19%
65060 · Copier Lease	345.95	3,459.50	4,200.00	(740.50)	82.37%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	0.00	12.69	500.00	(487.31)	2.54%
65080 · Bank Fees	35.00	350.00	500.00	(150.00)	70.00%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	1,054.93	2,000.00	(945.07)	52.75%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	0.00	272.62	2,000.00	(1,727.38)	13.63%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	712.04	10,817.62	17,150.00	(6,332.38)	63.08%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Outreach	43.00	1,289.08	5,000.00	(3,710.92)	25.78%
65110 · Advertising	0.00	318.19	4,000.00	(3,681.81)	7.95%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	4,025.38	15,383.82	18,000.00	(2,616.18)	85.47%
65120 · Insurance	834.50	10,014.00	10,100.00	(86.00)	99.15%
65130 · Grant Management Software	0.00	5,150.00	4,900.00	250.00	105.10%
65150 · Travel	372.69	1,040.67	7,000.00	(5,959.33)	14.87%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	5,275.57	33,195.76	49,000.00	(15,804.24)	67.75%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	20,359.05	211,685.94	274,400.00	(62,714.06)	77.15%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,276.90	13,579.58	17,302.00	(3,722.42)	78.49%
66015 · FUTA Tax	84.45	84.45	150.00	(65.55)	56.30%
66020 · PASUI Tax	391.34	391.34	2,000.00	(1,608.66)	19.57%
66700 · PMRS	2,063.01	14,748.74	17,500.00	(2,751.26)	84.28%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	24,174.75	240,490.05	311,352.00	(70,861.95)	77.24%
Total Expense	39,243.04	353,701.78	477,502.00	(123,800.22)	74.07%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	3,165,310.94		
Committed Funds	2,442,122.14		
ARPA Funds	4,000,000.00		
2021 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		332,414.20	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,240,185.95	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue	1,400,230.44	1,400,230.44	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			2,972,830.59
2021 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2020-2021		1,946,938.99	1,946,938.99
FY Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		782,550.20	
Second Quarter Disbursements		796,394.02	
Third Quarter Disbursements		875,218.36	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements	429,873.06	429,873.06	2,884,035.64

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township	157,525.91	553,474.10	
Greene Township	38,506.34	135,293.66	
McKean Township	38,506.34	135,293.66	
Millcreek Township	38,506.34	135,293.66	
Waterford Township	38,506.34	135,293.66	
Erie County	38,506.34	135,293.66	
			1,229,942.40
Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
Borough of North East 2018		(83,700.87)	
Borough of North East 2021		50,000.00	
Girard Township		17,000.00	
Impact Corry		25,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		100,000.00	
West Erie County EMA		5,000.00	
			113,299.13

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

	January	YTD	Subtotal
NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES			
Anchor Building			
Albion Borough		48,000.00	
Gaudenzia Erie		0.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		50,000.00	
		98,000.00	98,000.00
 Mission Main Street			
Preservation Erie - 2018		(2,591.18)	
Borough of Edinboro - 2019		34,900.00	
Erie Downtown Partnership - 2019		45,892.00	
Our West Bayfront - 2019		133,810.00	
		212,010.82	212,010.82
 Renaissance Block			
Borough of Girard - 2020		25,625.00	
Borough of Union City - 2020	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Borough of Union City - 2021		50,000.00	
Impact Corry - 2019		50,000.00	
Impact Corry - 2021		50,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		10,000.00	
Sisters of Mercy		25,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	
		245,625.00	245,625.00
 PILOT PROGRAMS			
Partnership for a Healthy Community - Blue Zones	50,000.00	50,000.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		15,000.00	
New Localism Associates		50,000.00	
		115,000.00	115,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
QUALITY OF PLACE			
Community Assets			
ACH Albion Area Fair, Inc.		8,000.00	
AmeriMasala		5,000.00	
Dafmark Dance Theater		12,000.00	
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest		10,000.00	
Edinboro Highland Games		8,000.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		12,000.00	
Erie County Veterans Memorial Park		13,500.00	
Erie PAL		8,000.00	
Erie Yesterday		11,501.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		7,500.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		12,000.00	
Maggie Knox Western		7,500.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		10,000.00	
Presque Isle Light Station		5,000.00	
United Way of Erie County		5,000.00	
Wattsburg Wrestling Club		8,000.00	
WQLN Public Media		15,000.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		15,000.00	
CC 2018 CC - Erie Center on Health and Aging		(4,648.76)	
Borough of Edinboro		10,000.00	
Boro Women & Family Services		3,362.50	
Boys & Girls Club of Erie		15,000.00	
Community Shelter Services		8,499.00	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,		12,000.00	
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation		12,000.00	
JFK Center		5,479.00	
Mercy Center for Women		12,000.00	
Booker T. Washington Center		15,000.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		12,000.00	
Multicultural Community Resource Center	15,000.00	15,000.00	
PFT Borough of Edinboro		11,250.00	
Borough of Girard		25,000.00	
Borough of Union City		25,000.00	
City of Corry		12,500.00	
Fairview Prks & Recreation Authority		5,000.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		12,365.12	
Headwaters Natural Resource Trust		9,295.00	
Impact Corry		25,000.00	
2018 Harborcreek Little League	(10,250.00)	(10,250.00)	
			<u>395,852.86</u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

	January	YTD	Subtotal
Immediate Human Relief Fund			
Penn State University - The Behrend College		(3,928.78)	
Penn State University - The Behrend College		(35,860.00)	
		(39,788.78)	(39,788.78)
 Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		12,268.75	
Asbury Woods Partnership		1,217.50	
Borough of Edinboro		1,000.00	
Borough of Union City		300.00	
CAFE		3,875.00	
Corry Higher Education Council		500.00	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,		1,669.15	
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation		18,820.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		1,212.00	
Erie Art Company		1,250.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		4,044.00	
Erie Downtown Partnership		7,500.00	
Erie Homes for Children and Adults		3,077.00	
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game		975.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		5,000.00	
Film Society of NWPA		5,900.00	
French Creek Council, BSA		1,973.70	
Gaudenzia Erie		200.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		1,115.00	
Holy Trinity RC Church		7,062.00	
Iroquois School District Foundation		5,200.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		20,000.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare		2,290.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society		2,250.00	
Mercy Center For Women		1,201.00	
Sacred Heart Church (2020)		197.23	
Sacred Heart Church		299.92	
Saint Joseph Church		6,000.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		1,821.80	
The Nonprofit Partnership		4,046.25	
Waterford Community Fair Association		8,950.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		9,700.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		3,600.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		385.75	
		385.75	144,901.05

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

	January	YTD	Subtotal
SHAPING TOMORROW			
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING			
Beehive Network			
Edinboro University Foundation		86,000.00	
Erie Regional Library Foundation		47,000.00	
Gannon University		84,500.00	
Mercyhurst University		5,000.00	
		222,500.00	222,500.00
YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More			
2020 Summer Jobs		11,480.00	
2021 Summer Jobs	15,065.45	127,213.16	
	138,693.16		138,693.16
Total Funds Disbursements	429,873.06	2,884,035.64	2,876,035.64

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

		<u>January</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 2020			
	Borough of North East		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Borough of Union City	10,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2021			
	Borough of Union City		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Impact Corry		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Anchor Building			
	18 Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		5,000.00	100,000.00
	Performing Artists Collective Alliance		5,000.30	93,126.50
	19 Housing & Neighborhood Development Services		40,000.00	50,000.00
	Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	20 Borough of Union City		15,000.00	64,375.00
	21 Performing Artists Collective Alliance		50,000.00	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		134,108.00	250,000.00
	2A Borough of Union City		4,000.00	200,000.00
	2B SSJ Neighborhood Network		55,500.00	250,000.00
	3 Borough of Girard		45,000.00	170,000.00
	Impact Corry		28,000.00	202,400.00
	Waterford Borough		84,600.00	249,800.00
MUN	Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
	21 Borough of North East		50,000.00	100,000.00
SB	Beehive Network			
	Erie Regional Library Foundation		5,877.00	200,000.00
	Penn State University (Behrend)		100,000.00	200,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2022

Committed Funds (cont):

		<u>January</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
PP	Pilot Program			
	Partnership for a Healthy Community	\$50,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
QP	Response Fund (COVID)			
	Small Business		680,000.00	1,200,000.00
	Non-Profit		300,000.00	400,000.00
Y&E	Shaping Tomorrow			
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
	GECAC - Summer Jobs Program 2021	15,065.45	22,786.84	150,000.00
Total Committed Funds		<u><u>75,065.45</u></u>	<u><u>2,442,122.14</u></u>	<u><u>5,575,201.50</u></u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Check Detail Report
January 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/03/2022	EFT	VISA	2021 December Invoice	-455.11
01/03/2022	EFT	Fidelity Investments	12/4/21 to 12/17/21 Simple IRA	-250.00
01/04/2022	EFT	Borough of Union City	2020 Renaissance Block - Final Payment	-10,000.00
01/04/2022	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 12/17/2021	-667.67
01/04/2022	EFT	Diligent Corporation	2021 Q 3,4	-3,090.00
01/04/2022	EFT	Multicultural Community Resource Center	2021 Community Assets - CC	-15,000.00
01/04/2022	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2022 January Phone/IT	-854.36
01/04/2022	EFT	Penn State University - Knowledge Park	2022 January Rent	-1,456.67
01/04/2022	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2022 January Copier Lease	-345.95
01/05/2022	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	Office Computer	-1,508.97
01/05/2022	EFT	PMRS	2022 Renewal	-60.00
01/06/2022	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	12/18/21 to 12/31/21 Payroll	-9,022.54
01/06/2022	EFT	Fidelity Investments	12/18/21 to 12/31/21 Simple IRA	-250.00
01/06/2022	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 12/31/2021	-667.67
01/06/2022	EFT	Erie County	2021 Q3 Settlement	-38,506.34
01/06/2022	EFT	Greene Township	2021 Q3 Settlement	-38,506.34
01/06/2022	EFT	McKean Township	2021 Q3 Settlement	-38,506.34
01/06/2022	EFT	Millcreek Township	2021 Q3 Settlement	-38,506.34
01/06/2022	EFT	Summit Township	2021 Q3 Settlement	-157,525.91
01/06/2022	EFT	Waterford Township	2021 Q3 Settlement	-38,506.34
01/12/2022	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2021 December Legal	-2,983.00
01/12/2022	EFT	Parker Philips	2021 December Professional Services	-3,000.00
01/19/2022	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	01/01/2022 to 01/14/2022 Payroll	-9,053.85
01/19/2022	EFT	Fidelity Investments	01/01/2022 to 01/14/2022 Simple IRA	-250.00
01/19/2022	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 01/14/2022	-667.67
01/19/2022	EFT	UPMC Health Plan	2022 February Health	-3,417.39
01/25/2022	EFT	Great Lakes Insurance Services Group	2022 Public Officials Liability Insurance	-7,930.00
01/25/2022	EFT	Erie Insurance	2022 UltraFlex, Workers Comp Insurance	-1,978.00
01/26/2022	EFT	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2021 Summer Jobs - Nov/Dec	-15,065.45
01/26/2022	EFT	Tom Maggio	2021 Travel	-188.22
01/26/2022	2933	Dave Sample	2021 Travel	-97.44
01/26/2022	2934	Mike Paris	2021 Travel	-77.62
01/26/2022	2935	Partnership for a Healthy Community	Pilot Program - Final Payment	-50,000.00
01/26/2022	EFT	Dale Barney	2021 Travel	-9.41
01/31/2022	EFT	ErieBank	Service Charge	-35.00



SCORECARD CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00 CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE 05/15/2022

Account Summary

Billing Cycle	12/10/2021
Days In Billing Cycle	31
Previous Balance	\$235.83
Purchases	+ \$615.02
Cash	+ \$0.00
Balance Transfers	+ \$0.00
Special	+ \$0.00
Credits	- \$0.00
Payments	- \$235.83-
Other Charges	+ \$0.00
Finance Charges	+ \$0.00

NEW BALANCE \$615.02

Credit Summary

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,384.98
Available Cash	\$39,384.98
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 *800-325-3678*
- Go to WWW.MyCardStatement.com
- Write us at PO BOX 30495, TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

Payment Summary

NEW BALANCE	\$615.02
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$615.02
PAYMENT DUE DATE	01/04/2022

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				\$235.83-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
12/03	12/03	1601825026	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$235.83-

Cardholder Account Summary

TAMMI MICHALI ##### 8023	Payments & Other Credits \$0.00	Purchases & Other Charges \$615.02	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$615.02
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------

Cardholder Account Detail

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
11/11	11/12	PBUS01	24431061315083311506585	AMAZON COM*053HJ9I23 AMZN	\$33.49
				AMZN.COM/BILL WA	
11/16	11/16	PBUS01	24435651320200535100055	ERIE REGIONAL CHAMBER AN ERIE PA	\$300.00
11/18	11/19	PBUS01	24492161322000034240412	STAK CERAMICS STAKCERAMICS. PA	\$73.44

*7.99 OS
25.50 back
membership*

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

FRAUD.

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
12/10/21	\$615.02	\$615.02	01/04/22

\$

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 Detail Continued

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
11/21	11/22	PBUS01	24692161325100008804238	STAMPS.COM 855-608-2677 CA	\$19.07 <i>Postage</i>
12/01	12/03	PBUS01	24789301336570503498616	GANNETT NEWSPRPR NE 888-8710686 IN	\$65.00 <i>Subscript</i>
12/06	12/07	PBUS01	24055231341812426257144	FASTPAY 800-331-0500 TX	\$81.02 <i>phoneIT</i>
12/06	12/07	PBUS01	24692161340100293593778	IN *KINGPINS AWARDS 814-8351405 PA	\$43.00 <i>outreach</i>

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 12/09/2021

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2022

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	0.58333%(M)	7.0000%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$615.02
Cash									
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.58333%(M)	7.0000%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00

* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily
 ** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees
¹ FCM = Finance Charge Method
 Days In Billing Cycle: 31
 APR = Annual Percentage Rate
 (V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Draft Budget
 2022-23

Expense	<u>2021-22 Budget</u>	<u>2022-23 Budget</u>
62100 · Contracted Services		
62110 · Auditing Fees	15,000	7,500
62130 · Professional Services	40,000	40,000
62140 · Legal Services	20,000	20,000
62145 · Website Design	3,000	3,000
62150 · Payroll Services	1,500	1,500
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	<u>79,500</u>	<u>72,000</u>
62800 · Facilities & Equipment		
62840 · Office Equipment	2,500	10,000
62890 · Rent	18,000	18,000
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	<u>20,500</u>	<u>28,000</u>
65000 · Office Administration		
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	3,000	3,000
65020 · Postage	500	500
65040 · Office Supplies	2,000	2,000
65050 · Cell Phone	2,200	3,000
65060 · Copier Lease	4,200	4,200
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	500	500
65080 · Bank Fees	500	500
65085 · Professional Development	2,000	2,000
65090 · Meeting Expenses	2,000	2,000
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	250	250
Total 65000 · Office Administration	<u>17,150</u>	<u>17,950</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65105 · Outreach	5,000	5,000
65110 · Advertising	4,000	4,000
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	18,000	18,000
65120 · Insurance	10,100	10,200
65130 · Grant Management Software	4,900	5,500
65150 · Travel	7,000	5,000
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>49,000</u>	<u>47,700</u>
66000 · Payroll Expenses		
66005 · Salaries, Wages, Benefits	274,400	276,400
66010 · FITW Tax	17,302	17,400
66015 · FUTA Tax	150	150
66020 · PASUI Tax	2,000	2,000
66700 · PMRS	17,500	18,100
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	<u>311,352</u>	<u>314,050</u>
7000 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	<u><u>477,502</u></u>	<u><u>479,700</u></u>



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
FEBRUARY
2022**

Knight, Ericka

From: Sparber, James
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Knight, Ericka
Cc: Laska, Carolyn; Lander, Bridget
Subject: FW: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

Ladies, Please see below. Jim

From: RV, BFM Gaming <RA-BFM-Gaming@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

S:
Dear Mr. Sparber:
C:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act 42 of 2017, the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected for interactive gaming and slots to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. This distribution is based on the interactive gaming and slots local share assessment amount collected plus the slot machine license operation fee amount collected over Summit Township's budget limitation.

F:
An ACH for the 4th quarter of 2021 payment in the amount of ~~\$3,018,149.76~~ should be deposited in your bank account within 10 business days. This payment includes the interactive gaming local share assessment of \$36,893.92, the slots local share assessment of \$481,255.84 and the slot machine license operation fee of \$2,500,000.00. Any reductions to the Gross Interactive Gaming Revenue (GIGR) and Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

v
Thank you.

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

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

① ERIE COUNTY 067-02100-042100

$$3,018,144.76 \times .55 = 1,659,982.37$$

② ECGRA 067-021050-042100

$$3,018,144.76 \times .45 = 1,358,167.39$$

January 2022

Meeting with Executive Director
Ongoing Social Media Management
Ongoing Consulting
January Comms

IMPLEMENTED

7 Total January posts
6 Total graphics created

IN PROGRESS | 2022 Grant Releases and Graphics
Holiday Graphics

IN PLANNING

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
ECGRA Playbook
Roadshow Tours



University Advancement
Alumni House • 210 Meadville Street • Edinboro, PA 16444
phone: (814) 732-2992
fax: (814) 732-2996
advancement@edinboro.edu

December 31, 2021

Mr. Perry N. Wood III, Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood:

I write to send my most sincere appreciation for your gift. Please know your gift means more now than ever to our students. Together, we are moving mountains and forging pathways for the next generation of educators, lawyers, authors, historians, artists, medical professionals, social workers, journalists, accountants, geologists and more. Your gift reflects our steadfast commitment to student success and retention. Most importantly, it helps us change lives.

We are beyond grateful to have your loyalty and trust. We want you to know that our students, faculty and staff appreciate all you do to ensure the mission of Edinboro endures. Edinboro will continue to instill a love of learning in its students and empower them for a lifetime of leadership because of opportunities offered by you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Kindest Regards,

Amanda Brown Sissem
Associate Vice President for Advancement
and Alumni Engagement

P.S. The impact of your gift to Edinboro University may be doubled or possibly tripled! Please check with your HR Representative to see if your company sponsors a matching gift program.

~~~~~

**Gift Amount:** \$5,000.00  
**Gift Type:** Foundation  
**Designation:** ECGRA Grant Beehive Innovation Spaces

*Your contribution may be tax deductible as provided by law. Please retain this document for tax filing purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, no substantial donor benefits were associated with this gift.*

**"OWB has done so much amazing work in the past few years for our residents!"**

**- West Fifth Street Resident**

## **Great things are happening in the West Bayfront neighborhoods**

### **Vacant Property Renovations**

In 2020-21, Our West Bayfront renovated three vacant buildings, bringing the total number of occupied residential units owned by OWB to seven. OWB is grateful for its partnership with Housing and Neighborhood Development Service, or HANDS, which provides management services at these properties.

OWB acquired three vacant residential properties in 2021. These include two from the Erie Land Bank. OWB is currently working to secure financing to rehabilitate them into affordable, safe housing for OWB community members.



### **Property Repairs**

Our West Bayfront continued to assist OWB property owners with grants to help make home repairs and improvements with a particular focus on geographic areas identified in the OWB Community Plan. In 2020-21, OWB worked with property owners along West Eighth Street as part of the Re-Store West Eighth Street and Liberty Street initiative, which is supported in part by

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. During this time, OWB assisted a total of 10 property owners with repairs, distributing \$66,514 in grant funds that were matched by \$63,621 in owner contributions. Since 2017, OWB assisted 116 properties with more \$508,000 in grant funds.

### **West Bayfront Events**



The West Bayfront Events Committee brought free events and activities back to the community after the challenges of 2020. The committee hosted fun and engaging events including Eerie Fall Fest at Gridley Park, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Gridley Park National Night Out, and West Bayfit at Bayview Park.

OWB is grateful for the participation of UPMC Hamot, which provided free COVID-19 vaccines at many of these events. We are also thankful for the several local businesses and organizations that provided financial support and for the hundreds of volunteers to make these events possible.

**"Thanks for the trash can on my corner, I pick up litter daily."**

**- West Seventh Street resident**

# CITY&REGION

## Davis seeks to re-budget ARP funds

Community college, diversity board targeted

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County Community College, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and the Blue Zones community health project could all see massive budget cuts this year should a proposal from Erie County Executive Bren-

ton Davis move forward.

Davis, a Republican who took office in January and who's staked his candidacy on a more aggressive, regional approach to economic growth, said the cuts are part of a larger strategy to reallocate funds to programs with real plans and objectives, and to set aside funds to leverage outside dollars.

### The proposal

The Davis administration on Thursday sought council support to re-budget

roughly \$26 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that have already been slotted for specific programs and organizations in the 2022 budget.

The funds are expected to arrive in June.

The administration said the funds shouldn't have been budgeted by the previous council in December, considering three council members, along with former County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, were outgoing.

Since the funds don't have to be allocated until 2024, as per ARPA guidelines

, the administration said it should have the opportunity to negotiate a new budget plan to better reflect the wishes of the electorate.

"We didn't believe that it was appropriate to rush this money out the door," said county Director of Administration Doug Smith at a council finance meeting Thursday. "This administration and this council should have the opportunity to make all of these funding decisions for the \$26 million."

See FUNDS, Page 6B

## Funds

Continued from Page 1B

### The budget plan

Davis' proposal, which was included in an ordinance at Thursday's meeting, was joined by a tentative budget plan for the ARPA funds.

Notable changes included a decrease in funding for the Erie County Community College. The institution was budgeted to receive \$15 million in ARPA funds this year. Davis reduced the allotment to \$400,000.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission was budgeted to receive its second round of \$3.5 million. Under the new proposal, this is eliminated.

"There's nothing personal there," Smith said in an interview Friday with the Erie Times-News. "But by the same token, the DEI Commission already has \$3.5 million and they don't have any infrastructure built. I don't think it's unreasonable for the administration to look at that and say, 'Let's see what you can accomplish.'"

Gary Lee, chief administrative officer of the DEI Commission, said he appreciated and understood the administration's request.

"It is my understanding the recent proposal would require the DEI Commission along with other organizations seeking funding to apply or re-apply for consideration of ARPA funding," Lee told the Times-News.

As for the community college, Smith said the county executive is working with college President Christopher Gray to focus on potential "workforce development projects."

It is unclear whether the proposed reduction in ARPA funds would affect students.

Gray could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Other proposed changes included removing all leftover 2021 funds from the Blue Zones project — \$375,000 — and the county Vaccine Incentive Program — \$21,036 — and transferring them to a new Fusion Center, a networking center that would seek out grant funding opportunities.

The Fusion Center was formally referred to as the Community Futures Center during the 2021 budget process.

"It's our belief that the Blue Zones isn't a priority," Smith told the Times-News. "We know that was something Ms. Dahlkemper and her administration favored, but we don't feel that's much of a priority and gives us as much of a return as we like to see."

The plan also reduced urban renewal and community development funding, removing the \$500,000 county share for the Savocchio Park revamp in the city of Erie.

Councilman Terry Scutella of Erie said the administration was "blowing up" a plan that was exhaustively negotiated and approved by council last year.

"You want this (council), especially the ones who were on it the year before, to flip-flop on what they did," said Scutella to the administration.

Councilman Andre Horton of Erie agreed, insisting the proposal was like "pulling the rug from under" individuals who were expecting an allotment.

"People have already been notified that they were going to receive these buckets of money," he said.

In a letter to council members, Davis appealed to the council to act quickly to give entities expecting 2022 funds enough time to send a new request for funding consideration.

Councilman Samuel Bayle of Washington Township agreed that council has a responsibility to evaluate and re-evaluate how public money is used.

### An added incentive

Another feature in Davis' plan was to include a \$250,000 line item for each council district.

"We offer you the chance to fund projects in your district," Smith told council members.

The idea was met with resistance as council members like Scutella said the line items were an incentive to support the proposal.

"To me, I considered it a bribe," Scutella said.

"I think it's ethically wrong. I think it's insulting. It's like 'walking around money,'" said Councilwoman Mary Rennie of Erie.

"It doesn't seem right that each County Councilperson has that (money) in their back pocket and gives it to whomever they might think they want

to give it to without any sound reason," said Councilwoman Ellen Schauerman of Fairview Township.

Smith said the money would have to be spent in accordance with ARPA guidelines and go through a council vote to ensure checks and balances.

"It certainly wasn't intended as a bribe," he said to council. "We intended it as a way to bring you into the process."

Smith said the administration would be open to eliminating the line items and transferring the money back to the ARPA fund balance.

### What's next?

Council members declined to put the proposal on Tuesday's regular meeting agenda, insisting more information was needed.

Rennie said she was concerned with Davis' plans.

"It seems very much as though he doesn't understand the processes and doesn't care that he doesn't understand the processes," she said. "It's going to get the county into trouble and we stand to lose a whole lot of money if things are mishandled. We are ready to work with him but he needs to do this legally and appropriately with county government."

Smith insisted the proposal was a "first step," and welcomed the opportunity to discuss it more with council.

"This is not etched in stone," Smith said. "And it's something we expect to be talking about in the coming weeks, even months."

# Union City completes major projects in 2021

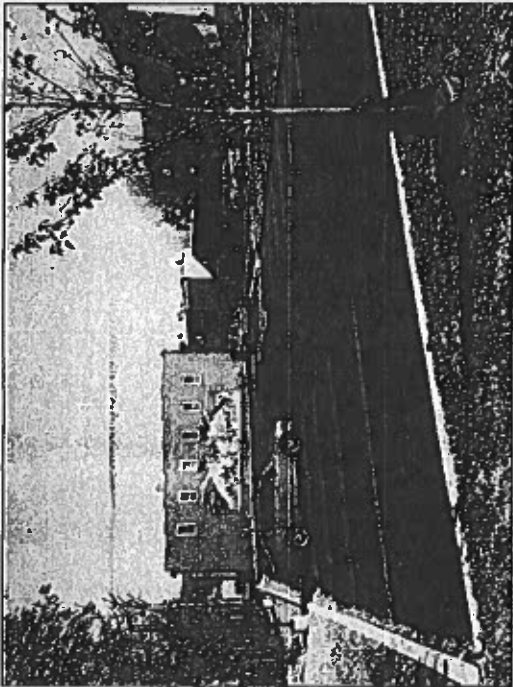
BY STEVE BISHOP  
Contributing writer

Wrapping up several high-visibility projects and initiating a host of new efforts highlighted Union City's progress in 2021.

"This has been a phenomenal year with all the projects the borough and Union City Pride were able to accomplish, especially during the pandemic," said then-Union City Borough Council President Dan Brumagin.

Several of the projects have been a few years in the making, as part of a \$258,000 "Shaping Tomorrow" grant awarded to nonprofit Union City Pride in late 2019 by the Erie Community Foundation. Additional funding came from a variety of sources, including the Union City Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

Among the year's accomplishments are the construction of a new public parking lot across South Main Street from the Union City Public



Contributed photo  
A new public parking lot on South Main Street across from Union City Public Library, overlooked by a new mural and bordered by trees, are three initiatives accomplished in Union City in 2021.

mentation of a matching fund to assist downtown building owners in upgrading their properties.

In addition, PennDOT concluded a \$1.2 million traffic signal upgrade throughout the downtown. Cafilisch Park saw numerous handicapped-accessible improvements and new restrooms, the borough completed a new master plan for its four parks, as well as an "Active Transportation" plan aimed at improving the borough's walking and bicycling connectivity, and several residential properties were upgraded through ECGRA's Renaissance Block Program.

"It's important because it shows the amount of work, collaboration and like-minded goals required to move Union City forward in a positive direction," Brumagin said.

Borough Manager Cindy Wells said that, after the pandemic-induced restrictions of 2020 put many projects on hold, 2021 was a "very successful year."

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## Projects

(Continued from front page)

"We were able to finish up large projects and combine them together," she said, citing the improvements to Cafilisch Park, the new parking lot, the mural, trees and more. "People driving through town are noticing the changes in Union City."

Like Brumagin, Wells pointed to collaboration as a key to recent successes.

"There have been changes in leadership within several organizations over the last few years and it has created an atmosphere of working together and the ability to get things done," she said. "It takes more than one group to reach the accomplishments we have seen."

Steve Jones, chairman of the Union City Community Foundation board of directors, noted several of the projects were initiated using an Erie Community Foundation "Shaping Tomorrow" grant of \$258,000 awarded to Union City Pride Inc. in late 2019. That grant attracted additional funding from the Union City Community Foundation and other sources.

"It's amazing what can be accomplished when we have leaders all working together in concert," he said. "When we can toss egos aside, sharing ideas and visions, we can accomplish so much more."

That, in turn, is encouraging private entrepreneurs to invest in the community, he said, with a restoration of the community beginning

to take hold.

While many initiatives were finalized in 2021, a number of new projects were started and will stretch into 2022. They include researching the feasibility of a bike-hike trail along French Creek through the borough, the feasibility of improvements to the Borough Building's upper floor to increase community use and access, and improvements to the Main Street-High Street downtown "gateway."

Other new initiatives targeted for 2022 implementation include additional residential rehabilitation under ECGRA's Renaissance Block program, and improvements to the borough's Southwest Park.

"It has been many years in the making, but I feel the current and future projects that local stakeholders are working on will continue to improve Union City's image," Brumagin said. "I feel our trajectory will only improve from here."

"Everything starts with an idea, small steps of progress are taken, and a community is beginning to grow and thrive again," Jones said. "All of this is exciting to witness, and we are just getting started."

A comprehensive "Project Update" list of current and past community initiatives since 2009, providing an overview of each project, their funding sources and current status, is available on Union City Borough's website at [unioncitypa.us](http://unioncitypa.us).



Journal file photo  
Steve Blahop, left, of the Union City Community Foundation, and Judy Norman, of the Union City Area Historical Society, unveil a historic panel during the borough's 150th anniversary celebration.



Journal file photo  
A mural designed and made by artists Tom Ferraro and Steve Mik of the Looking Glass Project greets visitors heading north on Main Street in Union City.