



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
July 20, 2023

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89257000033>

Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2023
5. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee
 - c. Update from County Council
 - d. Update from County Executive’s Office
10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11. SOLICITOR’S REPORT
12. OLD BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 9, 2023 – Resolution to Renew the existing lease for the period of one (1) year
- b. Resolution Number 10, 2023 – Resolution to Accept the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements
- c. Resolution Number 11, 2023 – Resolution to Adopt the 2022-23 Annual Report

14. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023
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

June 15, 2023

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on June 15, 2023 at 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:00 am.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. Ms. Loll is present via Zoom. Mr. Smith is present via zoom (enters meeting late). Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2023

Mr. DiPaolo: On page seven of the minutes, the people that were here talking about their lettuce, I asked the question of Mr. Shannon of how many food pantries we have in Erie County. The answer from Ms. Lawson was 60+. That was after Mr. Shannon said eight. He didn't know what the answer was. So, I just wanted to make sure that was corrected. He had responded eight, not knowing that it was 60+ so we can correct that.

Mr. Barney: We will make note.

Mr. DiPaolo: Thank you.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There are no other questions of the minutes at this time. Motion carries 7-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments from members of the Board at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney has no comments at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no members of the public present, so there are no public comments at this time.

Let it be noted that Doug Smith enters the meeting via zoom at this point.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Maher Duessel: Michelle Bryan, Amanda Jaros, Laurel Prokophak

Ms. Bryan: Thank you for having us today. My name is Michelle Bryan and I serve as the audit partner for Maher Duessel. With me today is Amanda Jaros and Laurel, who serve as the Manager and the In-Charge on the audit; we're going to go over the audit. I'm going to go over the Communication which is some required communication to the Board as part of the audit process. Then I'm going to turn it over to Amanda to go over the Statements themselves. We'll end with just a few minor recommendations for the Authority to consider and take any questions either throughout or at the end. So, if anyone has any questions, don't be afraid to speak up at any point in time.

Our responsibility under auditing standards is to issue an opinion on the Financial Statements. Your audit was conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Standards, and the significant accounting policies of your statements are included in Note Two to the Financial Statements. There was no new or changed accounting policies during the year. There was one new GASB statement that really is effective for the current year. It related to leases, but it only affects the leases who have terms greater than 12 months. You guys have one lease for your building, but it is just a one-year lease that renews annually, so it was not required under that standard to be recorded. If you did have a long-term lease or do consider long term leases in the future, just be aware that you will have to record a lease greater than 12 months as a right to use asset and a liability on your balance sheet.

Your Statements do include estimates; the most sensitive estimates in your Statements relate to the Uncollectible Notes Receivable allowance that's determined by management. So, there are specific allowances associated with each of those loans that you have, and there is some judgment regarding their collectability that management has taken and is included within

these Statements. The disclosures in your Statements are considered neutral, consistent and clear. The most significant disclosures regards to the irrevocable gifts to the Erie Community Foundation included in Note Five and the Notes Receivable included in Note Six.

We had no difficulties in performing the audit and getting the information. Perry and Tammi always get us the information we need and in a timely manner. This is typical timing of when we do present your audit. So really no issues to really present to the Board in dealing with and getting the audit done. There were some adjustments required as part of the audit process. The most significant of those adjustments really related to recording Unearned grant funds. So, grant funds received from Erie County that had not yet been spent by year end are reported in the audit as Unearned and really don't show up as earned until the expenses that are associated with those grant funds occur.

We had no disagreements with management. We will obtain representation which is a letter that indicates that all information was provided to us and all responses to inquiries were fully responded from management. The Statements you are looking at today are in a draft form. That letter will be obtained prior to the issuance of final Statements. There was no consultations with other independent accountants and no matters discussed regarding our retention.

There is a separately issued management letter, which we'll go over here in a few minutes. There is also a Compliance Examination that was performed in the current year; that is new for the Authority and really relates to the ARPA funding, or the funding received under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Programs. As you had over \$750,000 of federal funds expended during the year, you had to have an additional Compliance Examination done in addition to the Financial Statement audit done that's typically done as part of the audit process.

I'm going to turn it over to Amanda to go through the Statements and talk more about that Compliance Examination. And I'll wrap up with the management letter at the end of the presentation.

Ms. Jaros: Thanks Michelle. As Michelle had mentioned, we did do a Compliance Examination report over a year of ARPA funding. As ECGRA only receives one type of federal funding, they were eligible for this type of Examination in regards to this ARPA funding. Related to this Examination, in here it talks about our requirements our examination as it's conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and those standards and requirements require that we plan and perform the exact examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Authority complied in all material respects with the appropriate area in the compliance supplement, which is allowable costs.

We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. And we, in our opinion, we do believe that the Authority complied in all material respects with these specified requirements within allowable costs as referenced in the CSLFRF Compliance Examination requirements. We are also required to report on any deficiencies or material weaknesses and internal control that would have a material effect on the Authority's compliance with those specified requirements, and we did not note any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses that we deemed that would have a material effect on the compliance with allowable costs.

The intended purpose of this Examination report is solely to express an opinion on whether the Authority complied with the specified requirements. And this report is not suitable for any other purpose. I see Michelle has a comment.

Ms. Bryan: I was just going to say this is all a lot of fancy language to basically indicate that we tested the compliance of allowable cost with your Coronavirus relief funds, and there was no findings to be reported. So, this is really a report that you will be required to submit to the federal government as well as to the County of Erie as it relates to receiving those federal funds.

This type of opinion really is very specific to these Coronavirus funds. It was something issued by the AICPA specifically related to this funding stream due to the number of organizations who are having first time compliance audits because of the large amount of those ARPA funds that was distributed by the federal government. So, this type of examination only relates to those Coronavirus relief funds. If you got additional federal funds outside of this funding stream, you would have to have what's called a single audit which is typically what you would see with other organizations receiving federal funds.

Ms. Jaros: Thanks Michelle. Does anyone have any questions on this item for anyone from our team? Again, it is new. You've never seen this type of report before for your audit. Does anyone have any questions before I move on to your Financial Statements? Okay, great. Great. I just wanted to make sure as I know that that is a new document for all to see.

So, I'm going to go through the Financial Statements now and then we'll wrap it up with the Management Letter and I'll send it off back to Michelle for that. Beyond the Cover and Table of Contents is the Auditor's Report. We did issue an Unmodified Opinion; it's the highest level of Opinion that we can issue as part of our audit. Other than that, the Opinion has not changed from the previous year. There is no new wording and nothing significant. But we did issue an Unmodified Opinion.

Beyond the Opinion we have your Statement of Net Position, which is like your balance sheet. At March 31, 2023, ECGRA has approximately \$24 million in total assets with about \$18 million of that between cash and cash equivalents and the current portion of Notes Receivable, and then an additional \$6 million of Notes Receivable at year end. You will see a slight increase from the prior year in cash and cash equivalents which I will go through on the Statement of Cash Flows in a couple of pages. There were no new Notes Receivables during the year, so those amounts and those balances are pretty consistent with the prior year.

As Michelle had mentioned, we did have some adjustments related to this Unearned Revenue. So, this Unearned Revenue here of approximately \$2.4 million relates to your ARPA allocation and the additional Beehive grant that was received that was not yet spent during the year. So as that funding was not yet spent, then the amounts remain in this Unearned Revenue until you have qualifying expenditures. When you do have qualifying expenditures related to those funds, it is recorded as revenue on your next page. You do have a Restricted Net Position for economic development here of approximately \$21.8 million, which is an increase from the prior year and I'll show you that on the next page as well.

This is your Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; this is like your income statement. You will see here you have total operating revenues of approximately \$8.5 million, you have your gaming revenue at \$6 million which is consistent with the prior year, and then here's where you have your government grants. So, this government grants line item here of approximately \$2.4 million relates to the ARPA money that was spent during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, as well as the expenses associated with the Beehive grant. This number here is also what triggers you to have that Compliance Examination Report that we previously discussed, or the single audit if you did have other federal streams. So, this amount is related to that. It is significantly higher than it was in the prior year. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022, you had only spent about \$10,000 of that ARPA funding.

It's worthwhile to note that you will have to have the Examination Engagement again every year as long as this number related to federal funding is in excess of \$750,000. So of this Unearned Revenue here, if you spend all of this during this fiscal year that you're in right now through the year ended March 31, 2024, you will also have the Examination Requirement for 2024 as well. If it does extend into multiple years, you will have that as long as that amount is above \$750,000 of federal funding. Also, if during the year you do receive federal funding from other federal streams, that is where it will impact whether you will have a Single Audit or the Compliance Examination as right now you only have federal funding under one stream.

You have Operating Expenses during the year of approximately \$5.9 million, with the majority of that being within grants awarded of approximately \$5.4 million. This is significantly higher from the prior year as well due to receiving the ARPA funding and the expansion of programs that you could do based off of the ARPA funding that you've received. You have Operating Income of approximately \$2.6 million. You also have Interest Income here of approximately \$200,000, and you will see that's also a significantly higher number than the prior year; you had a higher cash balance throughout the year that increased the interest earned as well as higher interest percentages which caused your interest income to be higher. Therefore, you have a change in Net Position of approximately \$2.8 million, which gets you to your end of year Restricted Net Position of \$21.7 million. Does anybody have any questions on your balance sheet or income statement before I go to your Statement of Cash Flows?

Okay, hearing none this is your Statement of Cash Flows. This is what describes the change in cash during the year. You have Net Cash provided by Operating Activities of approximately \$1 million and then you have Interest Income from investing activities of \$200,000. So, as you can see your Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents of \$1.2 million rates primarily to Operating Activities. And you can see that that relates to the cash received from the gaming revenue being offset by the cash paid as grant awards. So, the Net Impact there, as well as your cash received from the government grant of the \$737,500 related to the Beehive, is what's causing the increase in cash. So, this explains that you received cash but you have not yet paid the expenses that matches the cash that you've received, so you do have a higher cash balance this year. This here is your Reconciliation of your Operating Income which shows you the same amount as your Operating Activities. That's it for your Financial Statements.

These are your Notes to the Financial Statements. I'm not going to go through them in depth as they are consistent with prior years. There are a couple open items in here that we will need to receive from Tammi and Perry prior to the finalization which we are in contact with them in order to receive those items. So you will see two yellow highlights in the footnotes and they are related to those open items. Prior to finalization we will obtain those items, update them accordingly, and then those highlights will no longer be there.

As Michelle mentioned as well, as there were no new accounting standards adopted during the year there were no significant changes in these footnotes. So again, I'm not going to bore you with going page by page through these. Does anyone have any questions specifically on any specific footnote that I can go through? If not then I will go ahead and turn it over to Michelle for the Management Letter.

Ms. Bryan: Thanks, Amanda. So, in addition to the Financial Statements, we did issue a Management Letter which includes recommendations and areas of improvement efficiency that we think the Authority can work on as part of their operations. Comments are divided into three levels, material weakness being the ones that are the most concerning, significant deficiencies in the middle, and other matters.

So, the first comment is considered to be a significant deficiency – that middle level – and really the difference in how they're categorized is auditor judgment really related to how material the items are and the impact to the Financial Statements a whole. This comment is talking about the Financial Statement adjustments that were required as part of the audit process. So basically at year end in the ideal accounting world, the auditors come in, they take the information that you provide, they audit it, and the financial statements don't require any adjustments. This is indicating that there was an adjustment required that was material to the Financial Statements that really requires it to occur in order to be in compliance with GAAP. So that was really adjusting that \$2 million entry for Unearned. So really just knowing that any of those grant monies you receive at year end prior to spending them really don't sit in revenue, they sit in Unearned until you spend them. So that really is the most significant adjustment. There were a few other adjustments that are noted in this comment, but really the most significant and the adjustment that's really generating this comment does relate to that Unearned amount.

The next comment is on reporting and this is talking about the ARPA funding reporting, really for the ARPA and the Beehive grants that goes to Erie County. When we reviewed those reports, we noted that the General Ledger detailing the expenses did not agree to the quarterly reports that was submitted to the County. So, there were adjustments made by Tammi and Perry and resubmission of that information. I do believe that it has been corrected but we would recommend that there be a reconciliation to the general ledger that does occur, as those reports are completed.

This really encompasses all the deliverables as part of the audit process. Any questions, concerns, matters of note, happy to talk now also happy to talk to the Board throughout the year if anything does arise. My contact information and Amanda's contact information, Perry or Tammi would be welcome to provide that at any point. We're always welcome to talk to the Board; we know your involvement to the organization is important.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Michelle and Amanda. Are there any questions?

Ms. Loll: I was wondering if I could get a hard copy of all of this?

Dr. Wood: Yes, of course.

Mr. Barney: Will do. There is a question from Dom.

Mr. DiPaolo: I have a question. The cash received from borrowers, are we up to where we're supposed to be from the people that owe us money for the loans? Are we up to where we're supposed to be?

Ms. Bryan: I don't believe there are any delinquent payments, whether it's anyone who has paid or is paying interest-only payments.

Mr. DiPaolo: Very good.

Mr. Barney: Are there any other questions at this time? No? Okay then, Perry.

Dr. Wood: Just some summarizing comments. I want to start off by thanking the auditors at Maher Duessel; you guys do a fantastic job. We really appreciate all the work that you do – it's

always efficient. And of course, Tammi who is your main liaison during that process. Stellar. So, thanks to all of you.

Then to the Board. So, these are draft audit statements. This is the first time that you're seeing them. You just got to talk to the auditors directly but you may have some lingering questions and, as Michelle said, there's nothing wrong with contacting our auditors directly or if you have questions for staff, you can ask us those same questions. We can get you the information, they can get you the information. This will be the first time you're seeing this obviously, so it's part of the digestion process, but we will make sure everybody has this moving forward. And if there aren't any significant material changes, and in 12 years I don't remember one, then we'll put this on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting. If we need to delay it, though, we will. This is an important document for us – an archival document. Of course, we submit this to Erie County government as part of the records.

Mr. Winschel: So will the findings also be on there? The findings? We have a copy of the Financial Statements . . .

Dr. Wood: You mean the letters? Absolutely. The letters are all part of the packet that you received.

Mr. Winschel: Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Once again, we'd like to thank you two. If there are no other questions, we'll move forward.

Ms. Bryan: Great. Thank you for your time. Have a good day, all.

Dr. Wood: Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget is fine. No problems; in everything we're well under spent under every item. I just want to make one comment. If you looked at the financial reports that you received, you see, I think it's the first payment of the municipalities, it ranges from 37,000 to 100,000. Just a note to see that there's an agreement that was put together and not just a dollar amount. Other than that, I have nothing.

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

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: No meeting was held so there is nothing to discuss.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Shank is not present, so there is nothing to report at this time.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Smith: I appreciate this opportunity. I would just like to report to the Board that the County, along with Debbie Thompson's group, has been engaging groups, the zones that we spoke to you about throughout the County regarding the

EMS issue, and we've encountered a significant amount of agreement in terms of dealings from places like Edinboro, even East County where there is some question because of a township like Harborcreek where their issues aren't severe at all at this point. But generally we've encountered a lot of agreement that there isn't a significant issue with EMS across the County and that they're looking for a solution. We have meetings today with the City of Erie and with Millcreek and that will complete the five zone presentations that we spoke to you about this last time. As we gather some information from those meetings, we'll forward them to the Board for your review and we look for a chance to speak to you again about this issue.

I put a note in the comment, but I'm hoping at some point maybe you could let us know what's happening with the Beehive program. I just heard mentioned during the audit report that those funds are still, I guess, unused at this point but I'm just assuming you're putting programming together or something. If you could, maybe Dr. Wood could update me on what's happening with the Beehive.

Dr. Wood: I can give you a quick update on the Beehive right now.

Mr. Smith: Yeah, whenever it's a good point at the meeting today, Perry. But we're grateful for the time and attention and the work of the Board. Thank you.

Mr. Winschel: Dr. Wood, before you jump on the Beehives, can I ask Doug a few questions? Hey Doug, Gary Winschel. How are you this morning?

Mr. Smith: I'm very well, Gary. And you?

Mr. Winschel: Good. Just a couple of things. I know that just by watching TV and media you've been on the tour and I do notice that you were at East County – North East and Harborcreek – and in Harborcreek, Dean Pepicello the supervisor out there basically said, "I really don't see a need on that." But it sounds like you're still working through that.

Another item is I know last month, I wasn't here but I read the minutes where Mr. Grappy talked about that collaboration is already happening out in Cranesville and Albion and Conneaut out there. But also in the news this week, there seems to be an issue with, I think the fear of everyone, is these different municipalities now kind of these silo mentalities, and you know the situation out there is probably more fire where in Albion, I think, they took all their equipment. So Cranesville has got a building but no equipment out there. And I think the Auditor General stepped in to kind of say, "No, you got to give that equipment back because it's paid for by the taxpayers." So, I'm just wondering if those are some of the obstacles that you anticipate because of the silo mentalities going forward?

Mr. Smith: Well, I would say you're spot on. Mr. Winschel there and actually that West County convergence their work on their commission on the EMS side is exactly the sort of model that we'd like to see some others join in in terms of . . . I mean, East County is a little bit different because you've got a strong volunteer unit in Greenfield and obviously Harborcreek has been funding their operation right along but apart from those two communities in the east, you've got a community like Lawrence Park that their operation is in, they are only in operation about 10 hours a month, I want to say; and this is not unusual. So what we're looking at is putting together what we're calling a coalition of the willing and we believe that the vast majority of communities countywide fall into that category. And we'll begin working with those communities as soon as possible. We've identified not only the Lancaster model, which is a municipal authority, so that would be formed by particular municipalities, but the other model

that we're discussing is a county authority. And the county authority, while similarly untested in some ways, allows us to get going a little bit faster and allows us to take on any communities that are willing. And so that is something that Attorney Walczak has helped us flush out a bit and we continue to flush out. We feel like we're making some significant progress, and we're also seeing a significant agreement from a lot of communities. There are of course, those who are not suffering as much as others and that I suppose, is always going to be the case. It will be interesting today to I believe, talk with the city and Millcreek and get their points of view on this. But, you know, like any process, it's got to move along. It's not something that happens with a flip of a switch.

Mr. Winschel: Okay, and one other question, thanks for mentioning Millcreek. After last meeting I did meet with a couple of the supervisors and Dan Oulette, Supervisor Oulette, he is a deputy chief, so I think you know, he has a clear understanding of the needs and urgency on that. But also, as you probably are aware, last year Millcreek did institute a \$40 fire tax to fund their fire department. So I know that was a concern at last meeting talking about additional tax on top of the municipalities or also, as a current tax. Again, it's EMS versus fire and if I understand, fire may be right behind EMS. So I look forward to hearing the results of your meeting and hopefully you have a good conversation with Millcreek and Erie today. Thank you.

Mr. Smith: I appreciate it, Mr. Winschel. I look forward to it as well.

Mr. Barney: Are there any other questions of Mr. Smith? If not, Perry.

Dr. Wood: The question was about the Beehives. The Board saw presentations from the Beehives, the Board made awards to the Beehives – all five of them - and those contracts have been signed by the Beehives. Drawdowns to date are that four of the five Beehives have drawn down their funds. That's where we're currently at in the process.

Mr. Smith: I'm sorry, Perry. It was a little bit hard to hear you there. So, there are contracts out there that are being . . . did you say four out of five? No, it wouldn't be four out of five, but . . .

Dr. Wood: All five of the Beehives have been contracted with; the Board awarded funds to the five. Four of the five have drawn down the funds; the other you just don't see in the Financials because it took place in this fiscal year.

Mr. Smith: So, is there still remaining Beehive funds, Perry?

Dr. Wood: One of the five has not drawn down on the funds, so out of the \$737,500, there is still the balance of the one that is left.

Mr. Smith: I appreciate the update; thanks so much.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: There is an Executive Director's report in the Board packet and you'll see some information in there about some of the press we did, for example the event we just did in Edinboro and the press release for that event. You'll see some of the newspaper articles highlighting what's going on with ECGRA from the Corry Journal and some other sources, and then you'll see some letters of support, which I like to put in there. Whenever folks send a thank you letter, I like the Board to see that we've received some type of recognition, like from Asbury Woods, the Gertrude Barber Center, and others.

Let's take a look at the presentation ahead of us here. You do have a packet in front of you with some clarifying documents. It was clear after the several discussions we had that we need some kind of refresher, so I've titled this "Where does gaming revenue flow and why?" because we got here for a reason. There are a lot of actions and documents that led up to this so let's go over some of those key documents. Tim will chime in whenever he wants to from a legal standpoint.

These are the four areas that I'd like to cover. The first is, what are the benefits of gaming revenue for the state of Pennsylvania? So, how does the average citizen benefit? The second is, the concept of local share gaming revenue; it's a legal concept created in the Horse Race Gaming Act. Next is, what is the legal context for local share? I'm using the term local share because that is what we are administering, just to remind you. Local share comes to Erie County and to ECGRA; we're administering half of Erie County's local share. And then finally, the legal context for creating our grant programs.

This is handout number one in your packet if you want to flip to it with me. This is how the revenue flows. You see there out of the gross revenue that the single largest is going to be the casino's revenue itself, which is only at 46%. The second largest is 34% for property tax relief – I'm going to talk about that in two different slides because there are two main ways that Pennsylvanians receive property tax relief. The third is the Horse Race Gaming Fund and that's things like the prize purses or the development of that industry. Five percent goes to economic development programs at the state level. One example would be the tourism fund, so the convention and visitor's bureau is actually funded through that 5%. And then finally, 4% goes to local share. So, 4% of the total gross goes to the local share concept. I have a blown-up pie chart in front of you so you can see the numbers for yourself.

Let's dive into property tax relief; actually, I'm going to dive into two things – property tax and local share. There are two forms of property tax relief that everyone in Pennsylvania receives. The first thing to note is that 34 cents on the dollar goes to property tax relief. The first form of it is in the form of school property tax reduction; that's the next handout in your packet there. This is what the school districts receive, and this is the primary way that you as a taxpayer receive relief from the gaming industry. You can see there the largest amount there is the Erie City School district, followed by Millcreek, but if you look at the per capita tax relief in the far right-hand column, you'll see that the city still comes out on top, you have groups like Girard and Iroquois that are significantly higher per capita, whereas Millcreek might get a larger amount, but it has the lowest per capita. Per citizen, it varies. The statewide average is \$200, but I thought you'd like to see it here by municipality and locally how it benefits.

So, this is the biggest pot. If you hear a politician say that there was an unrealized tax reduction from gaming revenue, it's not an accurate statement. You can see here that 34% of the revenue goes to property tax reduction but it comes through the Homestead Act. So, everyone here who has a home and has filed for the Homestead Act, you are receiving that benefit on your school district tax bill. And Tim can tell you, when you get your paper tax bill, there is a line on it that says how much you have actually received. That's number one.

The second type of property tax relief is through EMS and volunteer fire department grants. What I have put in your packet, page three in your packet, is the grants that come to Erie County in the last fiscal year; about \$589,000 to both EMS and fire. This list has gone up because as time has gone on, these folks have contacted us and asked for grants, and we tell them that the state has

these EMS and volunteer fire grants. So, we've made sure that we've got them connected with that program and as you can see here, almost all of them have some type of funding that ranges from \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. Let's put that in context for a moment; it's a reasonable grant for that amount. Some of these groups receive two grants if the volunteer fire department also has an EMS function. That's property tax relief area number two. You can see here on the list that 31 applicants received 49 grants totaling \$589,347. Are there any questions about property tax relief before I move on? The first is homestead, or if you have a farm it's farmstead, and the second is EMS and volunteer fire.

Let's go on to the concept of local share. We talked about the other areas of gaming revenue; we're not really going to go into detail on them because they don't really pertain to us. They are not the funds we are responsible for – that we're stewards of. Local share, as a concept, is a unique legal concept in the United States. I'm not aware of any other piece of gaming legislation from any other state that creates the local share concept. It was part of the negotiation that went on when Governor Rendell and the legislature looked at legalizing gaming revenue. Basically, what happened was, a conversation took place in which legislators were concerned about the effects of gaming revenue and what those effects would be on their local communities. As the negotiation went on, things like the EMS and volunteer fire pot was formulated at the state rather than at the local level. So, today you might see these announcements come out about EMS and volunteer fire from state legislators, for example. The state will contact them, they will make the announcement at the local level, so you'll see them putting out the press releases on these funds. Whereas other things were said that other things need to be dealt with at the local level, so that's why they would create local share. Primarily it was concerns about public safety, particularly crime, there were concerns about infrastructure – sewer and water infrastructure – roads, transportation issues, and of course human services issues around the addiction of gambling. And since counties run the human services for their region, it made sense for that to be part of the discussion.

The state has created significant programs around helping problem gamblers and you've probably seen some of the billboards and heard some of the advertisements – if you have a gambling addiction, call this number. In fact, it's a requirement when a casino advertises, to have that 800 number for addiction as part of their advertisement.

How do you mitigate the effects of a casino on your region? Well, there are two key ways. The legislation says 1) through contiguous municipalities. In other words, you're going to having the greatest impact on the host municipality – Summit - and the contiguous municipalities, which really just means that on a map, those municipalities that touch Summit Township. So, that's why there are six contiguous municipalities, we include Erie County as one of them, so five and Erie County makes six, that are affected by having a casino in your back yard.

The legislation, which was tweaked in every region of the Commonwealth by their sitting senator, said a second thing which was, "What will we do when we've mitigated those issues with the rest of the money?" In Erie County, it was Senator Earll. She said since it would be in Summit, the contiguous municipalities get their needs met through all the ways I mentioned like public safety, human services, infrastructure and so on, and then the rest ought to go to economic development. That's why on one hand over here with the contiguous municipality concept we have the PA Horse Race Gaming Act, I'll just call it the Gaming Act for short, and over here we have the Economic Development Financing Law of Pennsylvania. That's why we have two pieces of legislation that affect what we do.

At the time, there were many conversations over what this was going to look like. Some of the conversations got codified into reports. This is one of them, it's called the Report of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Committee. Doug can't see it, but his name is actually on this report; Doug you might remember. There were members of County Council, members of the Administration, County Council's CPA was on there, there was a member of the Chamber. They came forth and said that there were several concepts that they would like to see in terms of economic development. This was a major guiding document for me when I first took this job. At the same time, the Board of Directors at the time – which this would have been 2010 – before I got on board, created a framework. It was basically a strategic plan, but they called it a framework because it was full of guideposts, and it stated

the areas that they wanted to see investment in. Your orientation binder has the framework document in it. That is basically a strategic plan that echoes a lot of the stuff in this report and echoes a lot of the research at the time, like these are the things that we're interested in investing in.

The hot topic at the time was the creation of a Regional Asset District modeled after Allegheny County. That was funded through a 1% sales tax, but now that gaming revenue was coming on board everyone said that there was no longer a need to do a 1% sales tax; we can have our regional assets, and this is where the language comes from – regional assets and community assets. We call our big ones Lead Assets and in Allegheny County they call them Dedicated Assets; we just changed the language a little bit, but these are all the same concepts that ECGRA has built off of. That conversation evolved and it wasn't politically palatable at the time to do a 1% sales tax, which would need enabling legislation by the State, by the way, which Erie County doesn't have. So, they said they would use gaming revenue for this, and everyone agreed. They all agreed that gaming revenue should go toward funding economic development and regional assets once the contiguous municipalities are taken care of.

The three legal documents that we need to be aware of as a Board are the Horse Race Gaming Act, that came out in 2004 but is revised in 2016. It is revised, although not a lot changes for Erie County, other than \$1 million of ECGRA's money is removed and put into a land bank fund; that's the one key thing that changes. The rest of it stays the same. We worked heavily with Senator Laughlin on this issue. We also hosted, in 2015, we hosted the State Gaming Oversight Committee, which was the first and only time they have ever met outside of Harrisburg; we hosted them here in Erie County. It was a major push – we had a lobbyist at the time, Ridge Policy Group, we made regular trips to Harrisburg, we were communicating with leaders from all across the state about gaming revenue, we were one of the key organizations to help fix it for the Commonwealth because there was a clause in it that was declared unconstitutional, so they had to fix it. So, that got revised in 2016 and then we went back to business as usual.

Let me go into detail on each of these three things and we'll see if you have any questions as we go because this gets quite cumbersome from a legal standpoint. Let's start with the PA Horse Race Gaming Act. I want you to refer to the first legal memo on page four of your packet and it's headed March 22, 2023 Legal Memo. Tim wrote this memo; this is a summarization. The Horse Race Gaming Act is 1,000 pages long – an enormous document – but only a small section of it applies to Erie County. To remind you, the sitting Senator from each region of the Commonwealth where these casinos are has tremendous influence on that piece of the legislation. It doesn't say Erie County in the legislation by the way; it will say, "A home rule charter county that has a third-class city near it on a lake . . ." That only applies to Erie County. That gives you an idea of how that language evolved. Tim has done a great job summarizing this and I'm going to boil it down to these key points.

The revenue flows partly to Erie County and partly to ECGRA. The money that flows to Erie County government is unrestricted – completely unrestricted. That's a term that's used in the Gaming Act but it's the same as if an accountant would use it, as in there's no restrictions on it; Erie County can do whatever they want with it. And Erie County has done some very creative things with theirs in the past. I remember at the time that they floated a bond, and they were making improvements to the airport, improvements to the Convention Center Authority, grants to the EMTA for improvements – a lot of creative things. So, that's unrestricted.

The piece that comes to us, the other half, is restricted. Now, why is it restricted? It's restricted because the investment needs to go to the contiguous municipalities in order to address public safety, infrastructure, those key issues that we talked about. So, that's restricted, and it is committed to those groups. At the end of the fiscal year, the money that we don't spend on contiguous municipalities goes to economic development. The only reason we have a set budget for those funds every year is because we entered into a structured legal settlement with the contiguous municipalities. So, let's move on to that.

Restricted and unrestricted language in the Horse Race Gaming Act leads us into a situation where we're taking applications from contiguous municipalities. The legislation also says you have to be able to tie the money you're asking us for to a problem that is a result of having a casino in your backyard. That's key language right there – you have to be able to tie your problems that you're

asking us for money to solve – to the casino. Easier said than done. Some stuff was a no-brainer, like Summit Township saying, “Look at all the sewer and water problems we’re having now. We have to put in sewer and water lines, new flow stations and pumps and connectors,” and stuff that I don’t know about that’s in engineering. That’s a no-brainer; that’s a direct cause of that casino. Paving the road up to that casino – it’s all related. Traffic signal improvements because of the amount of traffic getting off of 90 and going to the casino. Pretty clear stuff.

Some of it was not clear, though, like volunteer fire departments in faraway places saying, “We need ladder trucks.” And that’s a \$1 million grant. So, now all of a sudden, the Board is in a real conundrum – “How do we decide whether or not it’s actually a result of the casino?” So, they go through the process of approving some of these things and denying some of them. Long story short, the groups that are denied funding decide to sue us. So, we enter into a long period, starting in 2008, of lawsuits. So, 2008 and 2009 we spend the majority of our time on litigation; huge legal bills for back in the day – like half a million dollars in legal bills. And people on County Council, like Mr. Cleaver and Ms. Loll, are looking at us thinking, “Why do we even have this group? All they do is deal with lawsuits. This is a waste.” But it’s growing pains. I want you to think of it that way – it was growing pains to get us to a point where we could understand that this is what the legislation was intended for. A lot of people were educated by then asking what can we do positive with those funds, so those were the key growing pains in those years.

It culminates in 2010 with a settlement between the contiguous municipalities; also, EmergencyCare is thrown in there and they get an ambulance out of it, and basically it says, “We understand that you’re going to have issues that are a result of the casino, but instead of taking competitive grant applications from you, we will agree to set aside 25% of the funds from the restricted gaming revenue and give it to you. We’ll just wire it right to you as soon as it comes in once a quarter.” Twenty-five percent of the funds, and that formula is 45% goes to Summit Township, and the other contiguous get 11%. Do the math, it adds up. So immediately Summit gets 45% and 11% for the others; that’s 25% of the revenue that we receive on a quarterly basis. You see that on the Schedule of Grant Reserve report; this quarter it was \$300,000 that went out to the contiguous municipalities.

One of the things we also did as part of the legality of it was, we told them, “Since we’re not taking competitive grant applications and holding you accountable for solving the problems around the casino, you’ll have to hold yourself accountable. Legally, you will hold yourself accountable for these funds. We’re stroking you the check, it’s part of the settlement, you must obey the law with the money that we give you.” What do they do? They’ve done all kinds of interesting things. Millcreek, for example, hired a new traffic police officer because that area of Millcreek close to the casino had a lot going on there so they needed to have increased law enforcement. I see there is a question.

Ms. Hess: When you send that money, though, it’s still restricted, and it’s still supposed to be tied to problems with the casino?

Dr. Wood: That is correct.

Mr. Wachter: And we have a notice that goes with it to every municipality that says, “This is what the law says. We are not auditing you.”

Ms. Hess: That’s what I thought - that we don’t audit them.

Mr. Wachter: “You do your thing.”

Dr. Wood: That’s a great clarifying question. We do not audit them; we do not hold them accountable. Tim wrote them a letter probably ten years ago, and we send it with every check that says, “Don’t forget – you’re responsible for this money once we give it to you.”

Mr. Oberlander: At the end of the day, does anybody audit them?

Dr. Wood: They hold themselves accountable.

Mr. Wachter: We are obligated under the settlement agreement to send money. We send the money and it's up to them to figure out what to do with it.

Dr. Wood: Are there any other questions about that? Anything that needs clarifying?

Mr. Cleaver: When they amended that Gaming Act, with the million dollars, do we split that with the County - \$500,000 from us and \$500,000 from them or do we give the full million?

Dr. Wood: For the land bank? They take the full million from our pot and our pot only. That was part of a compromise; that's what legislators do, right? They work stuff like that in.

Ms. Hess: Let's just walk back through this. So, 25% of the 1% that's split, like the local . . . ?

Dr. Wood: Correct. Of our percentage.

Ms. Hess: Okay, so 25% of your bucket.

Dr. Wood: So, every three months we get a check, or we get a wire, from the Commonwealth Department of Revenue, it comes into the County first, this is important. The full amount comes into the County and the County wires us the money for half of it. Then we immediately turn around and take 25% of those funds and send it to the contiguous municipalities as part of our structured legal settlement.

Ms. Hess: Just to clarify again though, it all originated from the lawsuit because some of these emergency management were asking for . . .

Dr. Wood: I was just getting to that. So, the lawsuits happen. Some of the lawsuits are municipalities, others were volunteer fire departments that we had turned down. They wanted a truck or whatever they wanted, and we said that they were not able to tie directly the use of that ladder truck to the casino, so we had to deny the application.

This is all stories that I have been told over the years because this was before my time as director, but I've talked with Board members, and they tell me this is what happened.

Those groups sue and part of the structured legal settlement that gets worked out is a conversation takes place between our legal team and theirs and we realize that these volunteer fire departments, for example that are suing us, the responsibility is with their respective townships. So, we'll enter a structured legal settlement with their respective townships, and they can decide how much of that money they want to give to their volunteer fire departments or other stuff related to casino impact. An example is Summit Township. They get about \$1 million from us a year in gaming revenue. They turn around and put that entire amount into Perry Hi-Way Hose Company.

Mr. Wachter: I think Summit gets about \$500,000 a year, but they . . .

Dr. Wood: I'm sorry. They put in an additional \$500,000 . . .

Mr. Wachter: They get other gaming monies that don't go through that, but Summit puts in an excess of \$1 million a year into Perry Hi-Way Hose.

Dr. Wood: Thank you for clarifying that, Tim. So, they make the determination in their minds that Perry Hi-Way Hose is really important because of the impact of the casino; they make that

rationalization, and they give all their gaming revenue from us to them. Other municipalities do other things. Some have it in savings, but let's not get into that because it's their responsibility.

That form of revenue that comes to us is restricted. The County gets unrestricted; we get restricted. Then we have the Settlement, which is both restricted and committed. The restricted is now committed – 25% to the contiguous municipalities. That leaves the other 75% as uncommitted. So, we have restricted committed which goes to the municipalities that we administer and then restricted uncommitted which is the 75% which we are dealing with at these Board meetings – competitive grant applications for economic development. That's where the language comes from. We administer restricted committed and restricted uncommitted. And I mentioned the land bank, that the \$1 million is taken out.

Ms. Hess: And the restricted uncommitted is supposed to be for economic development?

Dr. Wood: Correct.

Mr. Wachter: So that money is always a year old; we have to wait until the next fiscal year before it becomes uncommitted.

Dr. Wood: So, January 1 all the money from the previous year is available for economic development, which is why . . .

Mr. Wachter: April.

Dr. Wood: I'm sorry, April 1, which is our fiscal year, which is why we hold it in grant reserve. One of your Treasurer's documents says that we're holding money in reserve for that legal reason. It's not because it's our reserve, it's because it's actually not available yet. We will always be spending last fiscal years' revenue this fiscal year, which is actually really good from a cash flow standpoint; we'll never have an issue from that perspective.

Mr. Winschel: Perry, as far as the cash flow that we've been getting on a quarterly basis, how is the trend? Is it pretty stable, is it declining? I know you use \$10 million here, but how has that been over the last few years?

Dr. Wood: If you couldn't hear what the question was, the question was, "Is cash flow stable?" The answer is, it's incredibly stable for a couple of reasons. Number one is we have a regional casino, which means we basically have the same audience; it's not a destination casino so it doesn't fluctuate in revenues very much. Secondly, the way the law operates, I wasn't going to get into this, but I need to get into it to answer your question. The law basically says that our local share will be based on the revenue from the slot machines unless it doesn't reach a certain amount, in which case you'll get a base level. Now, our revenue isn't big enough to exceed base level. Base level is \$11 million, which is why at one point, we each get \$4.5 million. Basically, we are guaranteed the funds, and the state, the Department of Revenue, has looked at that and realized that we are never going to achieve Vegas-style levels of revenue, so they will just wire us a certain amount every quarter based on past numbers. That's why it's stable.

I used to hand the Board a chart, the revenue dashboard, that showed how the revenue came in by quarter and you could compare it year-by-year. It's pretty much obsolete at this point, except for one thing. Revenues are going to go up now, but not on slot machine revenue. They're going up because of i-gaming, or sports betting and these other forms of online gaming, which we are also supposed to receive a percentage of as well. And we have, actually. You might remember last year, when the revenue first started kicking in, we received an extra payment because of that, because the state was just catching up on collecting that revenue.

Tim and I are in a bit of a research project right now that we're going to have to come back to you with confirming that we're getting the appropriate share based on the law as it goes from the

Department of Revenue to Erie County to us. We're making sure that we're getting the appropriate revenue. We will end up having a conversation with you about that because there have been some interesting findings. So, the cash flow is stable.

That leads us to the other 75% - restricted uncommitted – which is governed by the PA Economic Development Financing Law which we often just refer to as the Economic Development Financing Law. I mentioned the report of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Committee, I mentioned the framework for distribution; they are key documents in helping us create these grant guidelines. But one of the things the law does is it sets out some guideposts, which are pretty broad, as to what is the definition of economic development. This is where Tim's next memo comes into play. If you can, please turn to the document dated March 6, 2023.

Mr. Wachter: Before you jump to that memo, if I could mention one thing. There are other items that the Settlement Agreement obligated us to do – spending a certain percentages each year on the dedicated regional assets, or the Lead Assets that Perry had talked about. Those obligations expired at a certain point.

Dr. Wood: As in, they have been fulfilled.

Mr. Wachter: As in, they have been fulfilled. So, whatever year they expired – 2015 or 2017 – what this Board had done was, because there was a period of years where funding was not spent because it was being spent on lawsuits, and in order to ensure that the Lead Assets were taken care of in perpetuity, that is why the Gaming Authority created what was then the second largest endowment ever at the Erie Community Foundation, which states in the current audit that it's at \$15.2 million.

Dr. Wood: It's always going to be a note in our audit.

Mr. Wachter: There is that money that was created, and we created an agreement between all the named Lead Assets where they determine how the money is to be distributed on an annual basis using the spending formula that was provided by the Community Foundation such that it doesn't touch the corpus of the money so that there is always going to be money being generated and then they determine how to spend it amongst themselves. Once they get that determination, they come back to us and say that they decided to take that 4% of growth and spend it in a particular manner, it comes back to this Board and you approve it, and then the checks are cut out of the Community Foundation.

Ms. Hess: The Lead Assets will always be the Lead Assets?

Mr. Wachter: The Lead Assets were determined when Judge Dunlavey, who did the Settlement, took our Strategic Plan – the framework that Perry had mentioned earlier, and attached it to the Settlement Agreement that said, "Those Lead Assets identified in this Settlement Agreement on page whatever shall receive the following . . . ". So, that class is never going to change unless one of them goes out of business.

Dr. Wood: Let's stop right there and address any questions on the Lead Assets and the Endowment.

Mr. Barney: So, no new entities can become a Lead Asset?

Dr. Wood: Correct.

Mr. Barney: Even if it's doing the same thing, it won't become part of that group.

Dr. Wood: No sir. However, a Lead Asset can drop out, like if they dissolve for example. But no one can get in.

Mr. Wachter: So, that endowment is set and done. That is also why you don't see applications from those particular assets, because you have reserved now \$15 million specifically for their benefit forever.

Dr. Wood: And that's why I will come to you every December and say, "Here's the recommended distribution from the Endowment" even though it's not our money; it's the Erie Community Foundation's money. But we are the donor who advises them on how to distribute it. We have a conversation with a committee of the Lead Assets, this is all enshrined in a memo that we made them sign with us, that says they will all come together and propose a formula, and any changes to the formula, but all nine have to agree; 100% consensus in order for it to change. Otherwise, it defaults to what we've always done which is a distribution based on revenue. You get a bigger grant if you're a bigger organization; the zoo is the biggest so it's always going to get the biggest grant. But all nine have to agree. It has worked seamlessly since we implemented this.

Mr. Wachter: And they didn't prior to that, so it was a win for us. But the obligations of the Settlement Agreement can be summarized as the County is obligated to send us the money within 20 days of receipt, I think, . . .

Dr. Wood: Thirty.

Mr. Wachter: Thirty days. We are then obligated to send the 25% to the contiguous municipalities in the formula that Perry said within thirty days. Is there any other obligation?

Dr. Wood: Well, there's the Lead Assets, which has been fulfilled.

Mr. Wachter: Yes, then the Lead Assets, which has been finalized. There is no other legal obligations for us from a financial perspective relative to the Settlement Agreement. We comply with that every year. I just wanted to wrap that up.

Dr. Wood: You might ask yourself, "Why are the Lead Assets part of the structured legal Settlement Agreement? They had no standing to sue us." That's a legitimate question to ponder. Well, they didn't have standing to sue us, just like the volunteer fire departments didn't have standing, but there were obligations. Just like a township is obligated to take care of their fire department, at the time a lot of these municipalities were taking care of these regional assets and they did not want to anymore. They wanted to shift their taxpayer dollars away from things like the zoo and shift that burden to us. That's why they got written into the Settlement Agreement.

Ms. Hess: It was kind of a win-win.

Dr. Wood: It is unless you're the zoo and short on fundraising and now you're going back to Millcreek Township saying, "What about that \$100,000 you used to give us?" So, there is a little rub there.

Ms. Hess: They know those funds will always be there though too. It doesn't matter who is in office.

Dr. Wood: And they should be appreciative of that.

Ms. Hess: Even in times of strife, you're always going to have that money there.

Dr. Wood: It will be there in perpetuity as long as the health of that Endowment is maintained.

Mr. Winschel: What are the nine groups? The zoo and who else?

Mr. Wachter: The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, . . .

Dr. Wood: The PAC, the Zoo, the Flagship Niagara, the Historical Society, the Erie Arts & Culture, the Playhouse, the Philharmonic; things that are similar to what the Allegheny Regional Assets funds. The large nonprofits of your community that every community has. That's where that comes from.

Back to the March 6, 2023 memo, which breaks down the Economic Development Financing Law by giving us definitions of what economic development really is. Now those definitions are important because that's part of our legal review. It's been a while since we passed new grant guidelines but when we do pass grant guidelines, we do a certain number of things at the staff level. Number one, we identify that the need exists in the community, and it can be through studies, masters plans, reports, it could be through crises' that are going on - economic development problems that are affecting a community. Number two is the staff goes out and looks at how other communities are solving this through benchmarking. We've done a lot of benchmarking research.

A great example is Renaissance Block. What are we going to do to help these neighborhood groups who are on the front lines of revitalizing neighborhoods? The issue is in every master plan that Erie County has ever done, and all these communities have issues with housing especially around their commercial districts. The problem is identified. We then ask the Board if they want to take this up as an issue. If the board says yes, the staff goes out and does benchmarking research, we find a Renaissance Block concept in Jamestown, NY which was pioneered there and then taken state-wide throughout New York because it was so successful. Then we talked to the people in Jamestown. We even bring them in and have them talk to our neighborhood groups and everyone agrees that this is a phenomenal model and that we need to do this. We go back to the Board and say, "Based on Erie County's size, based on the number of groups we have out there on the front lines of neighborhood economic development, we recommend the bucket to be this size and the guidelines will look like this." The Board says they like it, so we give it to Tim to review. Tim looks at it with the Economic Development Financing Law to see if it meets the three areas of the Financing Law which are Findings and Declaration of Policy, Purpose of the Law, Purposes and Powers. He goes through a legal review and says that it is consistent with the Economic Development Financing Law and neighborhood revitalization is a legitimate economic development activity. We take that back to the Board, the Board passes the guidelines, and then we start a grant program.

So, that is the evolution of ECGRA. What you're seeing now, the grant making infrastructure, is a decade in the making to get us to the point that we are at now. I just say that because a lot of you are new and you may be wondering, "How did we get to this point? What went into it in order to legitimize the organization in your own mind that you are now in charge of governing from a legal and fiduciary standpoint?" A lot of time and effort went into this, even going back to this report in 2005 that Doug was a part of. There are a lot of pieces of information and parts of the puzzle that got us to this point. History is very important to understand how we got here, and then there's the legal context that is important to make sure that we don't get in trouble; to make sure that we're legit.

Mr. Wachter: This memo probably is the most important one because it does explain what under the Economic Development Financing Law you are authorized to fund. It should be in your packets. If not, we'll get you another copy. The Law says that we are able to fund projects. If you look solely at the definition of a project, you're going to see it's a commercial, industrial thing which is not what we fund a lot of. Except that there is also language in there that says that the definition of a project also includes those items that promote the public purposes set forth in the other sections of the Act. Then I list what those sections are and what they are. So, when you listen to the resolutions that Perry reads when we award the money, he identifies elimination of blight, the creation of . . .

Dr. Wood: The whereas clauses.

Mr. Wachter: The whereas clauses where he's summarizing the different findings within the Economic Development Financing Law which is justifying why it is that we're able to spend the money. So, if somebody says, "I want to spend the money on . . . (pause)

Dr. Wood: A jacuzzi for horses. That's an actual example.

Mr. Wachter: Oh, yes. We had a woman who wanted to have us spend money on a horse jacuzzi for her therapeutic riding ranch.

Dr. Wood: This was an actual grant request.

Mr. Wachter: A very passionate woman about the services she was providing and the need for the therapeutic jacuzzi-ing for the horses. We were able to deny that application because we could not fit that in with any of the purposes or policies under the Economic Development Financing Law. So, when you're looking at a project and thinking about it, peruse this or ask questions of how it fits within these particular items.

Dr. Wood: Let me give you an example – the Summer Job Program. In the Economic Development Financing Law, the legislature finds that unemployment is an issue in the Commonwealth and a significant issue as far as keeping the Commonwealth healthy. It finds that; that's a real problem. Then we look at it and say that a Summer Jobs Program can address that unemployment. Then we look at the purpose of the Law and the Law says as one of our purposes as an economic development authority, we can address unemployment through a program or a project. So, there we can check number two on the list. The law says they give us the power to use economic development money to address unemployment, so we can check number three. That gives you an idea of a real program that has gone through that process and is fitted directly to this language. Like blight is often talked about there, and that is how we justify our Renaissance Block Program because it is a blight prevention program. Commercial districts and facilities - Mission Main Street; the buildings that we're fixing up on the main streets and downtowns. So, they are all tied to the legal infrastructure. I'll pause there to see if there are any questions.

Discussion and clarification on anything you heard here today because there is a lot of information. If you think back to your orientation with me when you first agreed to come onto the Board, you get a thumbnail sketch of all of this. I give you a thumbnail sketch of this and I give you these legal documents. It may be out of context, but these stories, I think, help put meat on the bone. This is why we've evolved to this point, and this is why these documents make sense and all the procedures that we go through and the process that we go through makes sense.

Ms. Hess: So, this listing of all the ways that you can spend the money would be with that 75%?

Dr. Wood: Yes.

Mr. Wachter: Yes.

Ms. Hess: But they have to be tied to the Economic Development Financing Law?

Mr. Wachter: These are your Purposes and Powers and projects under the Economic Development Financing Law.

Ms. Hess: Most of the things you find in here are already earmarked through the different grant programs that we have, like Mission Main Street, Renaissance Block, and the other ones.

Dr. Wood: They are all somehow tied.

Ms. Hess: May I ask the million-dollar question? What the County is coming for regarding EMS and all that, does that fall into one of these?

Dr. Wood: Earlier conversations with the Board, not this one, but other Board conversations had to tackle this issue. Actually, numerous times through numerous County Executives and numerous Administrations and they've always said a couple of things. Number one – they've said that the state already has an EMS and volunteer fire department pot for grant money. But as you can see, \$589,000 that Erie County gets and it obviously is not enough to solve the problem, but it alleviates since these are equipment grants. So, the Board has resisted doing that funding in the past; they also say since the townships are in charge and the boroughs, then they ought to fund it through their tax base – that's the whole idea.

Ms. Hess: Because we have given them the 25%.

Dr. Wood: Well, the contiguous - we've given the contiguous 25%; not all of Erie County. So, 5 out of the 38 receive funding from this pot, which is interesting because if Perry Hi-Way Hose company is getting 100% subsidized by gaming revenue and is serving all of Erie County, it's kind of like it got regionalized. But what kicked this whole issue up was one day they woke up and said, "We're not going to," well they didn't say they weren't going to, but they said, "We need agreements with municipalities if we're going to provide mutual aid."

Mr. Wachter: They did end up saying, "We're not going to" as well and that got turned around due to the regulatory issue.

Dr. Wood: Because it's not legal to say they're not going to. So, there is an extent to which we are already funding the ambulance service for Erie County. That's the irony of the situation.

Mr. Wachter: To answer your specific question, Kelly, I'm very interested in the development of the program and the application. I don't think we have enough information to determine eligibility. I think Mr. Smith would also acknowledge that they are kicking the tires on a couple of different models. We don't have enough information to make a determination as to whether it's an eligible expenditure under the Economic Development Financing Law.

Dr. Wood: That is true, there are other models that are being looked at. Strategy Solutions has interviewed the staff at ECGRA because we have done research on this, so we have given them that information. There are several models to look at but there isn't a county-wide model; we have not found one. They are basically regionalized, or the county has basically an EMS facilitator concept like they have in Allegheny County, which is the one I think probably makes the most sense.

If you look at what's currently going on and what we're currently funding, we are currently funding the collaboration in Harborcreek and we have an application that is on its way in from Cranesville – the two that Doug mentioned today – and that is for equipment for a Multi-Municipal Collaboration grant. That is a concept that we developed. Instead of doing individual grants to volunteer fire departments and EMS, the Board said at the time, "Really these folks ought to be collaborating. It doesn't make sense to buy every single municipality an ambulance. But if they're in a region and are collaborating and have an intergovernmental agreement, then maybe that's when we buy them an ambulance." That's how we got to the point of funding stuff like that.

Coincidentally, and Doug can tell you this, when Doug and I and John Grappy and Jessica Horan met, that was one thing the County wanted from us was, "we don't want you to do any grants unless they are collaborative" which was an easy yes for us to say because that's where our policy already was. It was easy for us to say, "We will absolutely work with you from that standpoint on collaborations." Or commission style like they have in Cranesville.

Mr. Wachter: Look at the yard waste recycling on Millfair between Fairview with Millcreek. It doesn't make sense to do one in both communities. Look at the parks program between Edinboro and Washington Township.

Dr. Wood: These are things we funded that Tim is describing.

Mr. Wachter: Washington Township and Edinboro, for years, Couldn't talk to each other, but now they're collaborating on these particular items because there is opportunity to do so and the money is not available.

Dr. Wood: There is a West County recycling concept. We funded emergency operation centers (EOC); these are collaborations with municipalities that are required to have emergency communications with the state through PEMA. We have funded those things. We did a recent analysis on the issue of public safety and infrastructure, and we've done about \$4.5 million in grants in recent years. So, it's not that money is not going toward public safety. It's that we're now being asked to put half of our discretionary budget toward public safety. One half of \$3 million, so that's \$1.5 million, which is our discretionary restricted uncommitted. We're now being asked for half of that. That's why this research is necessary to understand how we got here. If you're going to take half of our discretionary funding away, we're going to have to eliminate half of our programs.

Mr. Cleaver: I have a comment, Perry. Anytime you get a new Board member, these two memos should be in the packet. I knew a little about all this, but I learned a lot from just these two memos. I think it's great to pass these on to give someone an opportunity. When I came on, maybe you figured that the old man knows everything, but I think it's good for new members to find out what's what. I think it was an outstanding job by Council and yourself. Now sit down!

Dr. Wood: Thank you. I am done. Coming up we will be having a grant review for Community Facilities and Renaissance Block.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Dr. Wood. If there are any other questions, please contact Dr. Wood and I'm sure he will answer them.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter has nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Renewal of Diligent contract (Board Effect software)

Dr. Wood: The staff has a software that we use to communicate with you called Board Effect. We need to renew the software license there. It costs a little over \$5,000.00 and I don't have the discretionary capability to do it without a motion from the Board to move forward.

Mr. Winschel makes a motion to approve the payment for the software. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the Board Effect software. Motions carries 7-0.

Mr. DiPaolo: I have something to discuss. I had brought up prior in regards to our Special Events that basically we had talked about there's a cap of \$20,000 and I had some questions on it. I had asked how much money the Jefferson Society has received over the years and I never got an answer on that. That's number one. I went through the Special Events and the Albion Fair got \$2,707 over the \$10,000, naturally Celebrate Erie got the full \$20,000, Barber Center got \$17,600, Jefferson Society got \$19,300, and Wattsburg Fair got \$12,300. Basically that's \$32,000 over an

amount of \$10,000. There was 45 different events that was awarded money; these are the only five that were over \$10,000. I would like to make a motion that we would put a cap on the Special Events for any organization that they could be awarded up to \$10,000. There again, I'm not basically saying that any of these organizations don't deserve the \$20,000 but I think that under the circumstances that we're looking to give money away maybe for this EMS, we should be looking to save some money in the meantime. So, that's my motion.

Ms. Loll: I'll second that motion.

Mr. Barney: I have a question because I want some clarity. You're saying right now the limit is \$10,000.

Mr. DiPaolo: No, right now the limit is \$20,000.

Mr. Barney: Right, \$20,000. And you're saying that each one of these programs have received in excess of \$20,000?

Mr. DiPaolo: That's correct. Only 5 of them out of the 45.

Mr. Wachter: You're saying they received in excess of \$10,000?

Mr. DiPaolo: Right, they have received in excess of \$10,000 because Albion Area Fair received \$12,707 so they only received \$2,700 over the \$10,000. That's what I'm saying.

Mr. Barney: Yeah, but you said that the limit is \$20,000, right?

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, the limit now is \$20,000. Yes. I want to make a motion to make the limit be \$10,000. So, in other words, if the Albion Area Fair next year puts in the same amount, they'll only get \$10,000 instead of \$12,700.

Mr. Barney: And they asked for \$12,000 because the limit was \$20,000.

Mr. DiPaolo: Exactly.

Mr. Winschel: Tim or Perry, all those are based on a formula, right? Isn't it 5% of their revenue?

Dr. Wood: Special Events grant guidelines say that we look at the size of your budget and you will be eligible to apply for up to 5% of your event budget. That's why Celebrate Erie is the largest because they have the largest budget.

Mr. Winschel: So, all of those seem to be under 5% because otherwise it would be 5% of \$20,000, but no one actually receives \$20,000.

Dr. Wood: No one actually receives 5% because we have to prorate based on the number of applications. So we end up paying somewhere between 3.5-4% depending on the year.

Mr. Winschel: Oh, okay.

Dr. Wood: The 5% concept is based on the idea that they are sponsorship levels.

Mr. Winschel: Sure.

Dr. Wood: Sponsorship levels are arbitrary. Anyone can come to us and ask for a \$20,000 sponsorship. So, in order to right size the sponsorship level, we did the financial formula. Then about 3 or 4 years ago, we actually added the \$20,000 cap because we had Roar on the Shore which had just a massive budget and they were eligible for a significant amount. So, that's when we put the \$20,000 cap on Special Events.

Mr. Winschel: Dom, what were the dollars amounts of the five organizations?

Mr. DiPaolo: \$12,700 – Albion Fair, \$20,000 – Celebrate Erie, \$17,600 – Barber Center, \$19,300 – Jefferson society, and \$12,300 – Wattsburg Fair. Those are the only five.

Mr. Barney: But those five, they reach the largest number of people too. So, of course their amounts would be more. You're talking about Celebrate Erie, Wattsburg Fair – they got . . .

Mr. Oberlander: Tha Albion Fair is pretty small.

Dr. Wood: Actually, the Albion Fair is now the largest fair.

Mr. Oberlander: It's larger than Waterford's?

Mr. Barney: That's why when you say Gertrude Barber Center, the number of people that they service and . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: I understand that. But the Barber Center, you have to understand, they are a multi-million-dollar organization, and they do a great, great job. But it's just the idea that we're looking to try to save money, and this is one way I think we could do it without hurting anybody.

Mr. Winschel: I understand about trying to save money. Where it makes sense to maybe instead of cutting it by 50%, maybe we could do 75%, to \$15,000.

Mr. DiPaolo: That way you'll catch all of these. Well, you'll lose . . .

Mr. Winschel: You'll lose two for \$4,000. It's just a thought.

Mr. DiPaolo: Right.

Mr. Winschel: It's just a thought but we should have a commitment to let them know we are looking to reallocate some because of the EMS. It would be a 25% cut, instead of 50% cut. Just a thought.

Mr. Barney: I could go \$15,000. We have a motion to bring it from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

Ms. Hess: I would like to have at least a minute to think about that. To have a motion and pass it today seems a little premature. It's not that I disagree, I just want to get more information as to . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: I just gave you the information.

Ms. Hess: I hear what you're saying but there might be more . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: We talked about this three months ago.

Ms. Hess: But I don't think Perry has talked to it in length. I would like more information prior to making a motion today. It seems a little premature. We've given the Special Events out for this year already, so we have time to do this.

Dr. Wood: We deal with it in January.

Mr. Wachter: What I hear, just so I can summarize where we are, . . .

Ms. Hess: Like, why \$10,000? Why \$15,000? Is there any more information to be given? Or maybe there isn't. Perry, is there any more or are we just randomly picking a number and saying \$15,000?

Dr. Wood: To a certain extent it's arbitrary. The \$20,000 cap was arbitrary; before then we didn't even have a cap. I think caps are good, actually. I think it's a good thing because if a massive event comes forward, it could screw up the entire budget for the grant program. I mean, \$20,000 was a compromise based on the analysis done that it's only going to affect five or six of the organizations. But, like Dale said, they have the largest reach. I look at a group like Albion – that's the biggest thing that we do in Albion every year, is the Special Event grant and the fair. We don't do anything else for Albion. Albion is not set up to get Mission Main Street, Renaissance Block, or Parks grants. Those are the big things that we do so we're crippling the amount we put into Albion by doing that.

I can see it from both perspectives. The question is, are we oversubscribed on the program? And the answer is no. The program is right where it needs to be, it's about \$175,000 a year. Do you have anything?

Ms. Michali: Even if we were to decrease that limit, we still get 45 plus applications every year. It's very consistent.

Ms. Hess: I like the idea of, like I said, I just want to think it through for a minute. One of the reasons that might make it a good reason to decrease it, you said that we are only giving 3-4%?

Dr. Wood: Yes, we're already prorating it.

Ms. Hess: So, if we did cap it at \$15,000 or whatever arbitrary number we come up with, then potentially what would happen is some of those organizations that would get less money because of percentages would now get a little more. Correct? Am I thinking that through correctly? If you add the total of dollars and now all of a sudden you have three or four organizations that . . .

Mr. Winschel: Like the Barber Center . . .

Ms. Hess: Yeah, you're going to distribute it more . . .

Dr. Wood: Maybe the Italian Fest gets more and the Barber Center gets less.

Ms. Hess: In that respect, I would agree with Dom.

Mr. DiPaolo: Then we have Lawrence Park Township getting \$37.50.

Dr. Wood: That's because they're not investing in (inaudible).

Mr. DiPaolo: I understand.

Ms. Hess: In that respect, I like that. I like being able to give some of these other organizations closer to that 5%, which is the objective.

Mr. Barney: I agree but it still doesn't solve his objective. He's looking at an overall to wo be put elsewhere and this would do it.

Ms. Hess: That's what I'm saying . . .

Mr. Barney: That would do it because it would still be from the pool of money that we set of \$175,000.

Mr. DiPaolo: We'd save \$30,000 a year. That's what you would save.

Mr. Barney: But we wouldn't save it, Dom. It would just be redistributed to the other organizations.

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, you could put it toward something else. That's what I'm saying.

Mr. Barney: Okay.

Mr. Wachter: Procedurally, if you want to get the savings, then you would restrict the amount of money dedicated to the grant program instead of the internal guidelines if you want to see a net balance savings. But, I just want to be clear before you go to a vote as to what you are voting on. Because Dom, you said \$10,000.

Mr. DiPaolo: Right.

Mr. Wachter: And then it was brought up \$15,000. I saw you nod your head but I don't know if you're amending your motion.

Mr. DiPaolo: The motion is on the floor for \$10,000.

Mr. Wachter: The motion is on the floor for \$10,000. That's what I'm asking just so that everyone is clear on what you're asking. Ok. Motion is on the floor for \$10,000.

Ms. Hess: What is the objective? To make the grant less money? Did you say it's at about \$175,000 right now?

Dr. Wood: It's still going to be about \$175,000.

Ms. Hess: So is the objective now to make it \$165,000 and put that \$10,000 elsewhere, or is it still staying \$175,000 and we're just redistributing that money the same way? So, we're not really saving any money.

Dr. Wood: To Kelly's point, the objective of the motion doesn't save money. It just redistributes it from larger events to smaller ones by lowering the cap size. We would have to make a separate motion to restrict the overall amount set aside for Special Events. But listen, saving \$30,000 a year on Special Events, first of all, Special Events are the most popular program that ECGRA does every year. It touches the most people. You've got these events that go on across all of Erie County, mostly in the summer and fall and they are major leadership opportunities for people here locally. Secondly, saving \$30,000 a year in order to address a \$30 million-dollar problem, it is not sized right. The EMS problem is a \$30 million-dollar problem. If you look at just the saving of the \$30,000 to go toward the County's request of \$1.5 million, it's only \$30,000.

Mr. Barney: It's been moved and seconded.

Mr. Wachter: The motion on the table is to reduce the cap from \$20,000 per applicant for Special Events to \$10,000 per applicant for Special Events. Maximum.

Dr. Wood takes a roll call vote where Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Winschel have comments.

Mr. Cleaver: Let me clarify why I feel that way. I feel that the six or seven that Dom just mentioned have a large community involvement. We're not talking a fortune, so I'm voting no.

Mr. Winschel: I'm voting no on this because I think we should ease into this a little bit more with the \$15,000. I agree with the large group, but the groups like the Barber Center and the Jefferson, they have a much larger outreach to get their support also. They do have their fingers in a lot of outreach both locally and statewide and maybe nationally whereas the Albion Fair and Waterford Fair maybe not. I'm voting no but I will probably be coming back with another motion for the other dollar amount.

Motion fails 3-4, with Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Barney voting in the negative.

Mr. Winschel: I would like to make a motion for a cap of \$15,000.

Mr. Barney: Excuse me. Before you make your motion, I want to clarify that we're going to keep the dollar amount at \$175,000 and now we're just looking at a different proportion for distribution.

Mr. Winschel: Tim, I guess I have a question. I don't want to change the dollar amount but the formula is a certain percent. I don't understand.

Mr. Wachter: The reason is because we allow people to apply for up to 5% of their expenditures – the cost of their program. But we only put \$175,000 into the pot, so at the end of the day, I don't think we've ever hit 5% because the budgets are so large that they're only getting 3%. But if you do a cap differential between \$15,000 and \$20,000, then looking at the list, that's going to generate an extra couple of grand that is able to be distributed, which would insignificantly raise the percentage but raise the percentage that everybody would be eligible to receive.

Mr. Winschel: And we'll always have an excess amount of grants?

Mr. Wachter: We have an excess amount of requests.

Mr. Winschel: Grant requests, I should say.

Mr. Wachter: We have yet to fund 100% of the requests under that grant.

Mr. Winschel: What makes that approved versus denial of those grants? Just the purpose of the grant request itself?

Dr. Wood: What's the question?

Mr. Winschel: What causes a denial of someone who has submitted? They just don't meet the qualifications?

Dr. Wood: It's our most popular program; almost everyone gets funded. If you don't get funded it's because you didn't submit an application, or you have not submitted paperwork that you owe us, or you've lost your IRS status.

Mr. Winschel: With that said, I'd like to put together a motion to limit it to \$15,000.

Mr. Barney: There's a motion. Is there a second?

Ms. Hess seconds the motion.

Mr. Barney: Are there any questions to this motion?

Ms. Hess: Can I just clarify that it's staying at \$175,000 and that this is just a redistribution of funds?

Mr. Wachter: Whatever the total grant pool is has not changed.

Ms. Hess: Perfect.

Mr. Wachter: And just looking at last year's numbers, \$15,000 would be a reallocation of about \$13,000.

There is no further discussion or questions.

Dr. Wood takes a roll call vote. Motion carries 4-3, with Ms. Loll, Ms. Hess, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Barney voting in the affirmative.

Dr. Wood: We will adjust the grant guidelines accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 10:16am.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
June 2023**

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2023-24 YTD</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · ARPA Fund				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		300,245.10		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue				
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	42,430.21	128,742.31		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow	7,583.33	7,583.33		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund				
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		3,250.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive	6,319.44	6,319.44		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway				
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		2,556.00		
46510 · Interest Income - YLI	8,272.00	8,272.00		
Total Income	<u>64,604.98</u>	<u>456,968.18</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	6,650.76	28,393.84	18,174.00	72,700.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	0.00	3,537.49	6,000.00	24,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,471.43	3,882.24	5,925.00	23,700.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	8,614.78	16,923.28	14,025.00	56,100.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	16,366.28	58,252.99	85,725.00	342,900.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	5,776.49	78,651.24	100,000.00	4,000,000.00
Total Expense	<u>38,879.74</u>	<u>189,641.08</u>	<u>229,849.00</u>	<u>4,519,400.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	25,725.24	267,327.10		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets	30,000.00	249,272.00		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		75,061.27		
70070 · Special Events	4,611.55	213,424.73		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration				
70100 · Mission Main Street				
70120 · Summer Jobs Program				
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive				
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block				
70180 · Anchor Building				
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>34,611.55</u>	<u>537,758.00</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(34,611.55)</u>	<u>(537,758.00)</u>		
Net Income	<u>(8,886.31)</u>	<u>(270,430.90)</u>		

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2023

	June
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	353,945.59
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,239,350.00
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,166,516.89
10104 · ARPA Fund	2,100,573.47
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	10,724,417.55
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	17,230,857.91
Total Checking/Savings	17,584,803.50
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12004 · NR - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · NR - Progress Fund	1,000,000.00
12010 · NR - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · NR - EDF Restructured	1,300,000.00
12060 · NR - BWC - Inclusive Erie	2,500,000.00
12070 · NR - Blue Highway	250,000.00
12080 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Sm Bus	520,000.00
12085 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Nnprofit	100,000.00
12090 · NR - eCAT	500,000.00
12500 · NR - Youth Leadership Institute	121,824.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,529,600.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,262,224.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	10,865.04
Total Other Current Assets	6,273,089.04
Total Current Assets	23,857,892.54
TOTAL ASSETS	23,857,892.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
20100* · Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 · Unearned Revenue	6,377,099.69
Total Current Liabilities	2,377,099.69
Total Liabilities	2,377,099.69
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	18,824,159.57
Net Income	(270,430.90)
Total Equity	21,480,792.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,857,892.54

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
June 2023

Expense	June	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	11,000.00	8,200.00	2,800.00	134.15%
62130 · Professional Services	4,170.92	10,435.92	40,000.00	(29,564.08)	26.09%
62140 · Legal Services	1,253.00	5,557.40	20,000.00	(14,442.60)	27.79%
62145 · Website Design	1,140.00	1,140.00	3,000.00	(1,860.00)	38.00%
62150 · Payroll Services	86.84	260.52	1,500.00	(1,239.48)	17.37%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	6,650.76	28,393.84	72,700.00	(44,306.16)	39.06%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	944.99	6,000.00	(5,055.01)	15.75%
62890 · Rent	0.00	2,592.50	18,000.00	(15,407.50)	14.40%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	0.00	3,537.49	24,000.00	(20,462.51)	14.74%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	504.00	634.00	3,000.00	(2,366.00)	21.13%
65020 · Postage	44.07	82.21	250.00	(167.79)	32.88%
65040 · Office Supplies	249.13	342.98	2,000.00	(1,657.02)	17.15%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	631.22	3,000.00	(2,368.78)	21.04%
65060 · Copier Lease	311.35	934.05	4,200.00	(3,265.95)	22.24%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	0.00	63.62	500.00	(436.38)	12.72%
65080 · Bank Fees	35.00	105.00	500.00	(395.00)	21.00%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	350.00	6,000.00	(5,650.00)	5.83%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	327.88	739.16	4,000.00	(3,260.84)	18.48%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	1,471.43	3,882.24	23,700.00	(19,817.76)	16.38%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Outreach	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.00%
65110 · Advertising	0.00	3,079.77	4,000.00	(920.23)	76.99%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	7,070.70	8,876.66	18,000.00	(9,123.34)	49.31%
65120 · Insurance	1,544.08	4,632.24	18,600.00	(13,967.76)	24.90%
65130 · Grant Management Software	0.00	0.00	5,500.00	(5,500.00)	0.00%
65150 · Travel	0.00	334.61	5,000.00	(4,665.39)	6.69%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	8,614.78	16,923.28	56,100.00	(39,176.72)	30.17%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	13,480.88	48,880.84	300,000.00	(251,119.16)	16.29%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,410.44	4,231.32	21,000.00	(16,768.68)	20.15%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
66700 · PMRS	1,474.96	5,140.83	19,750.00	(14,609.17)	26.03%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	16,366.28	58,252.99	342,900.00	(284,647.01)	16.99%
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)					
67005 · Contracted Services - ARPA	0.00	42,375.00	214,540.20	(172,165.20)	19.75%
67010 · Subawards - ARPA	0.00	19,353.92	1,925,293.10	(1,905,939.18)	1.01%
67025 · Indirect Costs - ARPA	820.23	1,523.87	7,772.47	(6,248.60)	19.61%
67030 · Salaries & Wages - ARPA	4,956.26	15,398.45	31,618.94	(16,220.49)	48.70%
Total 67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	5,776.49	78,651.24	2,179,224.71	(2,100,573.47)	89.06%
Total Expense	38,879.74	189,641.08	2,698,624.71	(2,508,983.63)	7.03%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
May 31, 2023

	June	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	3,166,516.89		
Committed Funds	1,239,350.00		
ARPA Funds	2,100,573.47		
 2023 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		300,245.10	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			300,245.10
 2023 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2021-2022			0.00
 FY Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements	34,611.55	557,111.92	
Second Quarter Disbursements			
Third Quarter Disbursements			
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			557,111.92

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements/MRIs

	June	YTD	Subtotal
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township		33,777.57	
Greene Township		8,256.74	
McKean Township		8,256.74	
Millcreek Township		8,256.74	
Waterford Township		8,256.74	
Erie County		8,256.74	
			75,061.27

Multi-Municipal Collaboration

	June	YTD	Subtotal
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Small Business Ecosystem			
 Mission Main Street			
 Erie County Investment Playbook			

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
May 31, 2023

	June	YTD	Subtotal
NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES			
Anchor Building			
Mission Main Street			
QUALITY OF PLACE			
Community Assets			
Arts, Culture, & Heritage			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		5,000.00	
AmeriMasala	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Community Resources for Independence		3,500.00	
Dafmark Dance Theater		12,000.00	
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival		15,000.00	
Downtown North East, Inc.		12,000.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		7,500.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		12,000.00	
Erie Yesterday		8,325.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		15,000.00	
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society		5,935.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		10,000.00	
Harborcreek Historical Society		9,822.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		12,000.00	
Lawrence Park Township		1,400.00	
North East Arts Council		3,000.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		10,000.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		8,000.00	
Unitarian Universalist Congregation		2,500.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		15,000.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		15,000.00	
WQLN Public Media		15,000.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		15,000.00	
			227,982.00
Community Centers			
Martin Luther King Center	15,000.00	15,000.00	
			15,000.00
Parks, Fields, Trails			
Humane Society of NWPA		18,500.00	
			18,500.00
Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		12,707.00	
AmeriMasala	3,543.55	3,543.55	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		1,520.11	
Barber National Institute		17,683.00	
Borough of Edinboro		1,625.00	

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
May 31, 2023

Special Events (cont)

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Borough of Union City		230.00	
Borough of Wesleyville		965.50	
CAFE		20,000.00	
Community Blood Bank of NWPA		1,400.00	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,		4,594.55	
Downtown North East, Inc.		887.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		2,525.00	
Erie Bird Observatory		265.00	
Erie County Veterans Memorial Park		300.00	
Erie Downtown Partnership		6,000.00	
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc		3,011.20	
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	1,068.00	1,068.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		5,000.00	
Erie-Western PA Port Authority		6,866.00	
Film Society of Northwestern PA		9,255.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		2,050.00	
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team		915.00	
Harborcreek Township		1,400.00	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church		6,925.00	
Humane Society of NWPA		7,500.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		19,300.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		5,000.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society		3,000.00	
Lawrence Park Township		37.50	
McKean Community Development Group		500.00	
Mercy Center for Women		1,200.00	
Mercy Hilltop Center		400.00	
Nonprofit Partnership, The		3,882.00	
Pinkracks		750.00	
Presque Isle Light Station		297.00	
Presque Isle Partnership		4,692.50	
Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity		2,287.50	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		5,412.74	
SafeNet		3,942.50	
Saint Joseph Church		4,450.00	
Saint Patrick Church		7,746.92	
St. Stanislaus Catholic Church		250.00	
Union City Pride		1,273.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		9,250.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		12,345.06	
YMCA of Corry		3,072.10	
YMCA of Greater Erie		400.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		4,500.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		1,200.00	

213,424.73

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of
May 31, 2023

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING			
Beehive Network			
Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More		7,143.92	
			<u>7,143.92</u>
Total Funds Disbursements	34,611.55	557,111.92	557,111.92

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Transaction List Detail
June 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
06/02/2023	EFT	VISA	2023 May Statement	-2,808.12
06/07/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	05/20/2023 to 06/02/2023 Payroll	-9,717.21
06/07/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	05/20/2023 to 06/02/2023 Simple IRA	-250.00
06/09/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 6/2/2023	-737.48
06/09/2023	EFT	Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	2023 Special Events	-1,068.00
06/09/2023	EFT	Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.	2023-24 Membership	-300.00
06/09/2023	EFT	Martin Luther King Center	2021 Community Assets - CC	-15,000.00
06/09/2023	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2023 May Phone/IT	-914.95
06/20/2023	EFT	Diligent Corporation	2023 Board Effect	-6,941.38
06/20/2023	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2023 June Legal	-1,253.00
06/20/2023	EFT	Parker Philips	2023 June Professional Services	-3,000.00
06/20/2023	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2023 June Copier Lease	-345.95
06/21/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	06/03/2023 to 06/16/2023 Payroll	-9,717.21
06/21/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	06/03/2023 to 06/16/2023 Simple IRA	-250.00
06/21/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 06/16/2023	-737.48
06/21/2023	EFT	Grise Audio Visual Center, Inc	Edinboro Press Conference	-327.88
06/27/2023	EFT	AmeriMasala	2022 Special Events	-1,427.55
06/27/2023	EFT	AmeriMasala	2023 Special Events	-2,116.00
06/27/2023	EFT	AmeriMasala	2023 Community Assets - ACH	-15,000.00
06/30/2023	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00



SCORECARD CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00 CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE 05/15/2023

Account Summary

Billing Cycle		05/10/2023
Days In Billing Cycle		31
Previous Balance		\$849.27
Purchases	+	\$4,817.20
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$1,945.00-
Payments	-	\$849.27-
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00
NEW BALANCE		\$2,872.20

Credit Summary

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$37,127.80
Available Cash	\$37,127.80
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

Account Inquiries

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

Payment Summary

NEW BALANCE	\$2,872.20
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$2,872.20
PAYMENT DUE DATE	06/04/2023

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				\$849.27-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
05/03	05/03	1617257806	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$849.27-

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

ERIEBANK
PO BOX 42
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

Account Number

####-####-####-8643

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

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Closing Date	New Balance	Total Minimum Payment Due	Payment Due Date
05/10/23	\$2,872.20	\$2,872.20	06/04/23

\$

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



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:



VISA
PO BOX 4517
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517

Cardholder Account Summary

TAMMI MICHALI #### #### #### 9468	Payments & Other Credits \$1,945.00-	Purchases & Other Charges \$4,817.20	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$2,872.20
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Cardholder Account Detail

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
04/10	04/11	PBUS01	24692163100100504464351	SQ *JENNIFER DWOREK PHOTO gosq.com PA	\$3,180.00
04/11	04/16		74692163105104133080398	CREDIT VOUCHER	\$180.00-
04/11	04/16		74692163105104140615772	SQ *JENNIFER DWOREK PHOTO Erie PA CREDIT VOUCHER	\$265.00-
04/12	04/18		74692163108106551035652	SQ *JENNIFER DWOREK PHOTO Erie PA CREDIT VOUCHER	\$1,500.00-
04/18	04/19	PBUS01	24692163108106947145087	AMZN Mktp US*HV3R263J2 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$149.93
04/21	04/23	PBUS01	24692163111109072241833	STAMPS.COM 855-608-2677 TX	\$19.07
04/26	04/27	PBUS01	24692163116102937486789	STAMPS.COM *USPOSTAGE 855-608-2677 TX	\$25.00
04/25	04/27	PBUS01	24121573116000115250202	KOLDROCK WATERS, INC. 000-0000000 PA	\$9.00
04/28	05/01	PBUS01	24789303120759002244813	GANNETT NEWSRPRR NE 888-8710686 IN	\$65.00
05/05	05/07	PBUS01	24492163125000040102445	EWS CO HTTPSWWW EPIC PA	\$1,140.00
05/08	05/09	PBUS01	24692163128102907840037	Amazon Prime*V23JB3SC3 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$139.00
05/09	05/10	PBUS01	24692163129103598703640	AMZN Mktp US*8R1768WVY3 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$90.20

prof serv.
 prof. serv. credit
 o.s.
 postage
 o.s.
 subscription
 website
 membership
 o.s.

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 05/09/2023

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2023

Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information

Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM ¹	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance
Purchases									
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$2,872.20
Cash									
PBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00
* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily							Days In Billing Cycle: 31		
** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees							APR = Annual Percentage Rate		
¹ FCM = Finance Charge Method									
(V) = Variable Rate. If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.									



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
JULY
2023**

June 2023

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

IMPLEMENTED

14 Total June posts

3 Total graphics created

Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

Edinboro Event (June 6th)

- Media Advisory, distribution, and pitching
- Press Release and distribution

Small Business event — SSJNN (June 27th)

- Media Advisory, distribution, and pitching
- Press Release and distribution

IN PROGRESS | 2023 Grant Releases and Graphics

Holiday Graphics

2022–23 Annual Report

IN PLANNING

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report

ECGRA Playbook

Roadshow Tours

Tammi Michali

From: Mary Wassell <wassell@parkerphilips.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:14 AM
Cc: Kate Philips
Subject: RELEASE: ECGRA Grants Spur Small Business Development, Build Collaborations, Strengthen Community



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NEWS*NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS*****

ECGRA Grants Spur Small Business Development, Build Collaborations, Strengthen Community

Invests More Than \$600,000 in Building a Better Future Grants

ERIE, PA (June 27, 2023) — The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded \$630,750 for their 2023 Building a Better Future Entrepreneur and Small Business Grants, which will be distributed to five Erie County organizations working to ignite economic and community development.

“The spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and well in Erie County,” said Dr. Perry Wood, executive director of ECGRA. “Through transformative business and technical assistance programs, as well as loans and financial support systems, these organizations work to spur economic development in the communities they serve, ensuring no one is left behind.”

Erie County received grant funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). These grant funds will be devoted to a program Erie County is calling **Building a Better Future**. ECGRA is a subrecipient of Erie County’s grant award and are being used to fund transformative projects throughout Erie County. These

Building a Better Future grants are awarded to entrepreneur and small business programs that can uplift the regional economy.

“In the U.S., nearly half of the Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, so it is critical that Erie is supporting new business owners in this demographic,” said Dylanna Grasinger, Senior Field Office Director at International Institute of Erie/USCRI. “ECGRA has helped USCRI Erie shape a micro-lending program for refugee entrepreneurs in the wake of the pandemic. We all know how devastating COVID-19 was for the U.S. economy overall and for all kinds of businesses, but refugee entrepreneurs were faced with extra challenges. We devised the R3 Revolving Loan Fund to target the exact supports that will help Erie’s refugee business owners to move past the pandemic and thrive in the future — for Recovery, Renovation, and Resilience.”

“Bridgeway Capital is proud to have been selected by ECGRA and its Board as a Building a Better Future grantee,” says TJ King, Director of Bridgeway’s Erie Office. “The grant will enable Bridgeway to offer two industry-specific intensive business education programs — ErieMade, which supports creative small businesses, and Building Inclusive Development, or BID, which engages minority-owned contracting firms. Both programs help entrepreneurs develop peer and professional networks while also ensuring that they have sound financial and operational plans in place to propel their success.

“The time to increase opportunity for Erie’s small business owners is now. Doing so is essential to realizing the diverse, inclusive, and equitable economy that Erie County needs for all its residents to thrive.”

These five recipients will put this grant money towards the support of job creation, wealth building, local business development, and strategic projects that will directly benefit Erie County.

- **Bridgeway Capital** will use the grant for their (Re)Making Erie, which will catalyze equitable community and economic development in Erie County via two intensive business education programs — ErieMade — which engages small creative businesses; and Building Inclusive Development (BID), which supports BIPOC contractors and real estate developers.
- **Erie’s Black Wall Street** will continue to provide programs & support that fill crucial gaps in knowledge for Erie’s Black & minoritized entrepreneurs. These programs will increase financial literacy, & build strong, stable businesses, wealth through entrepreneurship, & improved living conditions for Black & minoritized participants.
- **Impact Corry** will use the grant money to focus on rural businesses. This will scale up via replicable program combining Main Street transformative strategies, economic gardening, mentorships, and local trust relationships leveraging needed connections between rural businesses and region’s business growth and marketing organizations to the benefit of all.
- **International Institute of Erie (USCRI)** will put this grant towards the R3 Revolving Loan Fund, which will focus on 3 key factors for immigrant / refugee entrepreneurs: RECOVERY from the pandemic, RENOVATION of commercial space. RESILIENCE in a rapidly changing world. The goal is to keep businesses open and sustainable by providing access to otherwise unavailable capital.
- **Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN)**, in partnership with Paramount Pursuits, will put the grant money towards developing a 3-year pilot project to provide critical assistance to small businesses, facilitating the deployment of capital and support to help these organizations not just persevere, but recover on solid ground.

Below is the full breakdown of the 2023 Building a Better Future Entrepreneur and Small Business grants approved:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT AWARDED
Bridgeway Capital	(re)Making Erie	\$200,000.00
Erie's Black Wall Street	Erie Minority Business Support Program	\$48,000.00
Impact Corry	Increasing Rural Businesses Throughout Erie County	\$175,000.00
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	Small Business Technical Assistance Program	\$57,750.00
U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants	R3 Revolving Loan Fund	\$150,000.00
TOTAL		\$630,750.00



About Infinite Erie

By coordinating inclusive growth strategies to deliver transformative change, Infinite Erie will implement Erie’s Investment Playbook and position Erie to attract & secure more public and private sector funding than like-size regions. Powered by the Erie Action Team, the team consists of public, private, philanthropic, and civic leadership in Erie County, who bring influence, guidance, and resources to empower the work of the Delivery Teams and put plans into action, including: Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), Erie Insurance, Jefferson Educational Society, Hamot Health Foundation, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Erie County Redevelopment Authority, City of Erie, Diverse Erie, Erie’s Black Wall Street, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, Greater Erie Economic Development Corporation (GEEDC), and the Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania (ex-officio).

Infinite Erie Delivery Teams also work with the Erie Action Team to help determine specific needs, costs, funding sources, and next steps on investments and strategies to put plans into action. The Inclusive Entrepreneurship delivery team is made up of Erie’s Black Wall Street (co-lead), Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership (co-lead), Greater Erie Economic Development Corporation (GEEDC), Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), Booker T. Washington Center, Bridgeway Capital, Erie Community Foundation, and Erie Racial Justice Policy Initiative, and play a big role in driving Erie’s inclusive, small business and entrepreneurial growth.

###

On behalf of the Harborcreek
Community Engagement
Team, we would like to say **Thank You**
thank you for your support of
our community and our 2023
Special events calendar of events.

We could not do it without your
assistance. ECLGRA's support
of all of Erie County is
immeasurable.
Warm regards, HCCET



June 23, 2023



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

Dear Dr. Wood,

I hope you are enjoying your summer! I am writing to you because you care about downtown Erie, and I have some exciting news to share about the Erie Downtown Partnership (EDP).

With a commitment to our strategy, **we hired Christine Eddy as our development director.** We are happy to have someone who shares our enthusiasm for our mission with 20 years of fundraising experience as a champion for our organization.

And there's a lot to be enthusiastic about..

Did you know that EDP puts on over 140 FREE events annually? Outside of the fun programming we produce—Downtown D'Lights, Winter Carnival, Fall Fest, Summer Concert Series, Small Business Saturday to name a few—we introduced the Erie Downtown Community Skating Rink in Perry Square to broaden year-round activities. All of our events are focused on creating inclusive and accessible programming that is family-friendly.

Did you know that EDP has a team doing homeless and vulnerable wellness checks? Not only are our Safety + Hospitality Ambassadors responsible for keeping downtown clean and safe but they also assist vulnerable individuals including our homeless neighbors to provide relief to businesses impacted by those undersheltered or experiencing crisis. In 2022 the Ambassadors completed 121 wellness checks.

Looking to the future, we will begin a community-led process to develop **downtown's Engaged + Energized Public Space Plan**, which will explore what amenities, infrastructure, and programming are needed in public spaces to support downtown's economic vibrancy for businesses and quality of life for residents.

We remain more ardent than ever in **our mission of creating a safe, fun, and welcoming downtown for all--** and we hope we can count on your support to help us meet the needs of the downtown community in the near future.

You can learn more about us at eriedowntown.com, Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

I hope to see you downtown supporting our small businesses or at one of our events!

Sincerely,



Emily Fetcko
CEO

Thank you for the support + collaborations over these many years!

UC Renaissance grants

Jun 4, 2020



Contributed photos

Union City Borough has been awarded \$60,000 from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority through its Erie County Renaissance Block Grant Program. Photos are from 2018, the last time the community received funds to offer property owners as a match for improvements.



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Pharmacy**

EMS

(Continued from front page)

Richard "Sparky" Warner, Wayne Township board chairman, asked what the timeline was for Lancaster's joint municipal authority.

Horan-Kunco said it took them two years to establish it, and it includes eight municipalities. If all municipalities in Erie County wanted a part, there would be 39,

Monday, June 12, 2023

The Corry Journal • www.thecorryjournal.com

Erie County officials present EMS solutions to area agencies

BY CHLOE FORBES
chloe@thecorryjournal.com

Sunday morning saw a different kind of service in Waterford as members of local municipalities and emergency medical service providers convened to hear about an effort to combat an ongoing crisis. The meeting included people from south and east areas of Erie County.

In attendance were representatives from Corry, Union City, Watsburg, Summit, Elgin, Waterford and Mill Village, as well as Wayne and Amity townships, among others. Members of Erie County's government gathered the group to talk about possible ways to solve a shortage in EMS staffing and funding, which has created a strain on service availability.

"We know the stress on EMS," said Jessica Horan-Kunco, head of the county's department of planning. "The county is trying to support municipalities."

When the crowd was asked in a poll during the meeting their thoughts about EMS challenges, 67% said something needs to be done now, 29% said there are significant issues and 4% said there are major issues.

Horan-Kunco laid out two options: create a joint municipal authority, or create a

countywide authority with regional service districts.

The joint municipality model would be similar to one implemented in Lancaster County, except it would not provide EMS services. It would just act as an umbrella. It would be made up of however many municipalities want to join, and it would contract with willing EMS providers to provide a certain service level in exchange for financial support.

Local municipalities, Erie County and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) would provide funding, and the county may assess a fee.

The fee in Lancaster for comparison, is \$75 per resident and \$85 per business. Under current legislation, municipalities are permitted to levy a tax up to half of a mill for services. Horan-Kunco explained that a tax wouldn't include tax exempt places like nursing homes, churches and nonprofits, who arguably use EMS the most. She said it doesn't make sense for them to use the services but not have to chip in for EMS, which makes the authority model advantageous.

The disadvantage of it is the amount of red tape cutting it would take to create an authority. All municipal-

which would prolong the process.

The other option would be for a countywide authority. This would require passing a single ordinance, and a governance board with representatives for each area would be appointed by county government officials.

The funding and assessing fees would be the same as the first option, but it would have a lesser degree of direct, local control.

Union City Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Nick Kucydzinski asked if the county would take control of managing EMS calls and ambulances.

Horan-Kunco said the authority would be for funding, not necessarily for control.

Kucydzinski expressed frustration in the current system, saying it's unfair for volunteers to have to manage everything. He asked if in the model created, there can be assistance for those fire departments that provide EMS.

Warner questioned the fee, saying if people get a tax bill one day that asks them to pay a fee for EMS, they may be less likely a week later to attend a fundraiser for the fire department and give more

money.

Horan-Kunco replied, saying fundraising wouldn't necessarily be needed anymore, which led the crowd to collectively scoff. Members in attendance said fundraising is an important source of revenue for the departments.

When asked at the end of the presentation, which option they preferred, one-third of the audience leaned toward neither, saying they don't know enough yet to make a decision.

As far as next steps, Debra Thompson and Jacqui Catrabone of Strategy Solutions will be working toward a study of the area to determine best practices for the model and gather more input. Then, in July or August, they will present the findings to municipalities and discuss recommendations and models.

Horan-Kunco said she is searching for a consultant in EMS that would assist them and coordinate with municipalities, but it's costly and hard to find.

Some people in the crowd were dismissive of the county's efforts, while others showed signs of willingness to work together.

Challenges

(Continued from front page)

John Spaulding, department president of Perry Highway Hose Co., mentioned creating a countywide academy to complement the EMS municipal authority. He said that on a countywide level, they could train groups of people, then have spots all across the county to plug them into right away.

He said more outreach in technical schools and high schools would be beneficial.

Union City Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Nick Kucydzinski agreed, saying some sort of academy or training program to funnel people into local departments would be helpful.

Currently, in Erie County, a lot of people are taking

"We're working on solutions. We're working on grants. We're working with groups." Horan-Kunco said. "But the solutions are few and far between. There aren't any real clear models in Pennsylvania to fix EMS. We're not the only ones who don't know how to fix EMS, but this is the option to try to do something."

Kucydzinski said he appreciates that the concerns of EMS providers aren't falling on deaf ears.

"I've got to hand it to you guys, honestly," he said. "At the end of the day, it's a battle, and you guys are doing a good job. I'm not going to sit here downing you. Yes, we all have questions, and it does come down to dollars, but at the end of the day, we have to figure out how to make those dollars."

Erie County Councilman Charlie Bayle, who represents District 6 in Erie, said it's better to act now and get a solution going than wait to implement something until it's perfect—a boots-on-the-ground method.

"We've got some good plans and we need to move," he said. "If we wait for perfect, it's never going to come."

decisions regarding EMS. That way, the resources are going where the help is needed most.

Horan-Kunco said the authority would help to formalize relationships and work toward providing help across the county.

"There's currently no EMS system in Erie County," she said. "It's currently every municipality for themselves, solving their own problems. Like you said, you'd love to have an EMS academy, but wouldn't have a place to put everybody that came through that academy. But if we create an authority, it begins to create a system where we're partners together, and we're working collectively on problem solving instead of each entity trying to solve all these problems by themselves."

emergency medical technician (EMT) courses but aren't passing the national registry.

Erie County Councilman Charlie Bayle said it was found that the Pennsylvania EMT training was not up to par, so that issue is being resolved currently.

Horan-Kunco also mentioned a scholarship awarded by Erie Community Foundation. It's full tuition to complete an EMT, AEMT or EMR course, and the scholarship recipient is required to work or volunteer in the EMS field in the county for at least one year.

Concerns were raised as someone could technically be active for a year, but never run an EMS call. Those in attendance asked that call volume be taken into serious consideration with any decision.

ECGRA awards five grants for economic growth

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

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority on Tuesday awarded more than \$600,000 in grant funding to five Erie County organizations working to spur economic growth in rural and minority communities.

The grant funding, which totaled \$630,750, is funded by American Rescue Plan dollars and administered by ECGRA as a part of its Building a Better Future program. The program awards grants to local transformative projects that seek to uplift the regional economy through job growth, local business development and strategic projects.

"Today's investment is about small business," said ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood, who hosted a reception for grant recipients Tuesday at Enrique's Southeast Mexico Taqueria and Tortilleria, 1801 Liberty St.

The recipients, all of which aim to use their grants toward supporting small business growth, were the following:

- \$200,000 to Bridgeway Capital
- \$175,000 to Impact Corry
- \$150,000 to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- \$57,750 to Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
- \$48,000 to Erie's Black Wall Street

Wood said the grants also represented "forward steps toward inclusive entrepreneurship" to ensure

See GRANTS, Page 2A

Grants

Continued from Page 1A

funds reach stakeholders considered historically disadvantaged.

"Specifically, we see in the numbers that both rural- and minority-owned businesses in Erie County are behind both state and national averages in sales covering from the pandemic," he said. "Changing those numbers requires purposeful investment and encouraging new entrepreneurs in growing existing companies."

How will the awardees use their grants?

Bridgeway Capital, a nonprofit and a community development financial institution that provides affordable, lower-interest business loans in disadvantaged communities, will use the grant toward two intensive business education programs: ErieMade, which engages small creative businesses; and Building Inclusive Development, which supports minority contractors and real estate developers.

Impact Corry, a community development nonprofit in Corry, will use the grant to assist rural businesses via economic gardening, mentorships and the building of connections with the region's business growth and marketing organizations.

"Every business seems overwhelmed with time commitments and keeping the lights on, so they don't have time or the resources to connect," said Impact Corry Executive Director Chuck Gray.

"The economic gardener is working with them to connect them to the resources that we have in the county and in the region to get what they need to grow their businesses."

The International Institute of Erie will use the grant towards its R3 Revolving Loan Fund, which will assist immigrant or refugee entrepreneurs with keeping their businesses open and sus-

tainable by providing access to otherwise unavailable capital.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, in partnership with economic development consulting firm Paramount Pursuits, will put the grant money towards developing a three-year pilot project to provide critical assistance to small businesses and help facilitate the deployment of capital and

support.

Erie's Black Wall Street, a nonprofit that helps cultivate and promote black entrepreneurship, will use the grant to secure a program coordinator who can work alongside its business owners and provide guidance and expertise.

"The impact of this grant reaches far beyond just monetary value," said Kyra Taylor, co-founder and executive director of Erie's Black Wall Street. "It symbolizes a belief in our mission and the

recognition of the incredible potential within our community. With this support, we are empowered to continue our work, breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for African American and minority entrepreneurs."

Grant recipients provide matching funds as per the grant program.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@erietimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @E77N-Rao.



The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awarded more than \$600,000 in grant funding to five Erie County organizations to boost economic development. ECGRA hosted a reception for the awardees on Tuesday at Enrique's Southeast Mexico Taqueria and Tortilleria, 1801 Liberty St., in Erie. A.J. RAO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

County leaders look for viable methods of EMS funding

By *Chloe Forbes*
Staff writer

Erie County Executive Brenton Davis is looking to crack down on the emergency medical services crisis by creating an authority that would use annual fees imposed on property owners to fund the county's EMS providers.

According to published sources, the Davis administration presented the plan to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's board on May 18 in hopes that ECGRA would make an annual investment to use in conjunction with the revenue raised by fees.

This comes as the county's EMS services are facing staffing shortages and are unable to meet the demand for medical calls.

In North East, the Crescent Hose Co. provides emergency medical services while Emergycare provides advanced life support when necessary.

"We're not immune to the staffing crunch that's going on," Emergycare's Executive Director David Basnak said. "It's certainly an interesting time for EMS because we're starting to look at different funding models. The EMS municipal authority is the first of its kind in our area. There are ones in other areas that are very similar and that work."

The proposed Erie County municipal authority is reportedly being modeled

after one created in northwest Lancaster County.

That authority encompasses eight municipalities and is funded through annual fees and contributions from community organizations.

Basnak explained that expenses fall into two categories: cost of readiness and expense of providing services.

The cost of readiness is having people and vehicles ready to go 24/7. The expense of providing service is what it takes to complete a call. Insurances are typically billed for the expense of providing service, but there's no funding currently for cost of readiness. Basnak said it's especially troublesome since that's how they pay their workers.

Insurance doesn't always cover the expense of providing services.

"Each individual municipality is the one charged with making sure EMS is provided to its community," he said.

In 2022, a Collaborative Emergency Medical Services Response Plan was implemented to ensure EMS services throughout the county by providing mutual aid.

"The problem is that those entities still receive the benefits of EMS and fire protection, however they don't contribute to it at all because they're tax exempt under that half mill tax," Basnak said. "Whereas the authority has the ability to spread that cost out over

everybody instead of just property owners."

Councilman Andre Horton and ECGRA's Executive Director Perry Wood have both voiced concerns that these funds may still not be enough to cover EMS across the county.

Basnak cautions people from jumping the gun and said there's no black and white solution to this issue. He emphasized that the authority has the possibility to be successful, but only if structured correctly.

In West County, municipalities and organizations have come together to loan money to or donate to continue EMS services for the time being. In Summit, Perry Hi-Way Hose Co. threatened pulling its services before signing onto the EMS Collaborative Plan.

In a letter to municipalities in March, Davis had stated "In order to solve this EMS crisis, it is imperative that we are taking steps forward as an entire region to better protect our community and provide the best possible service we can."

The administration is having ongoing meetings with EMS providers throughout the county to gather information and input needed.

"This whole thing is in its infancy," Basnak said, emphasizing that he wants to take care of people and come together as a region to create a sustainable solution.

CAIDC cuts ribbon on \$3.5M expansion of FurHaven facilities



Chloe Forbes/The Corry Journal

Members of the Corry Area Industrial Development Corporation (CAIDC), Corry Redevelopment Authority and others involved in an expansion project celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 30.

BY CHLOE FORBES
chloe@thecorryjournal.com

The ribbon is cut as the Corry Area Industrial Development Corporation (CAIDC) opens a 30,000-square-foot expansion to the Enterprise Place multi-tenant manufacturing facilities. The latest development is home to Furhaven, a manufacturer of pet beds.

"It's a great day for Corry and the local manufacturing community," said Dave Sample, president of CAIDC. "This expansion not only aligns seamlessly with the existing half-million square-foot facility but also reaffirms our commitment to keeping good manufacturing jobs in Corry for generations to come."

The significant construc-

tion project was largely possible due to Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funds. The total cost of the new expansion was a little over \$3.5 million.

Porter Consulting Engineers, and Bob Grice, who volunteered many hours on regulatory compliance and grant administration, oversaw the project. Sample praised MGM, the general contractor, for its exceptional work, alongside its subcontractors.

"We are thankful to MGM for their quality work and professional approach," Sample said. "This was a team effort involving countless individuals and organizations, and I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Ashley Porter, Bob Grice, and the CAIDC board, RDA board

and staff."

Ben Kafferlin, executive director of the Corry Redevelopment Authority, added, "This is a significant investment in our community's future. It wouldn't have been possible without the shared vision and collaboration between all partners."

Some issues with the pandemic delayed the project, but Sample said the mild winter this year allowed for substantial progress that led to the final facility opening. Now, there will be enough time to get everything set up in time to have the extra space for fulfilling holiday orders in the fall and winter.

Businesses looking to expand and develop in the Corry area can contact CAIDC and the RDA by calling 814-664-3884 or visit corryidc.org.

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

The Corry Journal • www.thecorryjournal.com

ECGRA checks in on Impact Corry



Mason Bennett/North East News-Journal

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Executive Director Dr. Perry Wood visited Corry on June 30 to follow up on a \$175,000 grant given to Impact Corry. "It's my responsibility to see the grant is being used properly," he said. "I wanted to 'come into the field' and see the project come to fruition." Impact Corry Executive Director Charles Gray said that, in light of the new funding, a number of new developments are in the works for downtown: "The Railway Express Agency is a focal point for future developments," she said. "I want to see it utilized for commercial use."

RESOLUTION NUMBER 9, 2023

Resolution to Renew the existing lease for the period of one (1) year

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, hereby adopts the extension of the lease for the property occupied at 5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201 for the period of one (1) year, to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 20th day of July, 2023 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

July 20, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

SIXTH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT OF LEASE

This SIXTH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT OF LEASE (this “Amendment”) is made as of June 1, 2023 (the “Effective Date”), by and between THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY a state-related institution and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania subject to the Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation laws, located at 208 Old Main, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802 (the “Lessor”), and the ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY, having an address at 5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201, Erie, Pennsylvania 16510 (the “Lessee”).

BACKGROUND

- A. Lessor is the fee simple owner of certain parcels of real property situate in Erie County, Pennsylvania, commonly known as Knowledge Park.
- B. The parties entered into an Agreement of Lease dated May 22, 2015 for 1,135 square feet of commercial office space on the second floor of 5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201 in Knowledge Park Building #4, which was amended by the parties (i) on September 15, 2017, to extend the Term to May 31, 2018 (the “First Amendment”), (ii) on May 1, 2018, to extend the Term to May 31, 2019 (the “Second Amendment”), and (iii) on April 17, 2019, to extend the Term to May 31, 2021 (the “Third Amendment”) and (iv) on June 1, 2021, to extend the Term to May 31, 2022 (the “Fourth Amendment”), (v) on June 1, 2022, to extend the Term to May 31, 2023 (the “Fifth Amendment”) (as previously amended, hereinafter referred to as the “Lease”).
- C. The parties now desire to amend the Lease to further extend the Term of the Lease to May 31, 2024 on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants hereinafter set forth, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereby agree as follows:

- 1. The Term of the Lease is hereby extended from June 1, 2023, until May 31, 2024 (the “Sixth Extended Term”). The Sixth Extended Term shall be governed by all the terms and conditions of the Lease, as amended.
- 2. Commencing June 1, 2023, the Base Rent during the Sixth Extended Term shall be \$20,130 annually, payable in monthly installments of \$1,677.50 per month.
- 3. All provisions of this Amendment shall be effective as of the Effective Date. Except as modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the Lease shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and the Lease in all respects is hereby ratified and affirmed by each of the parties hereto.

4. This Amendment shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, and their successors and permitted assigns. The Lease and this Amendment represent the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements with respect to such subject matter, whether written or oral.
5. Each capitalized term which is not defined by this Amendment shall have the meaning given to such capitalized term in the Lease. Unless otherwise indicated in this Amendment, all section and article references in this Amendment refer to the Lease.
6. The validity, interpretation and construction of this Amendment shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without giving effect to any choice or conflict of law provision or rule (whether of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any other jurisdiction) that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
7. This Amendment may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which shall be one and the same document. The parties agree that this Amendment may be executed by means of electronic signatures and that each copy to which such electronic signatures are affixed shall be deemed to be an original.

(Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Sixth Amendment to Agreement of Lease has been executed on the dates set forth below, but effective as of the Effective Date.

Lessor:

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

By: _____

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

Lessee:

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE
AUTHORITY

By: _____

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

RESOLUTION NUMBER 10, 2023

Resolution to accept the 2022-23 audited financial statements

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to accept the 2022-23 audited financial statements into record as outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 20th day of July 2023 by a vote of _____ - _____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
July 20, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

**Erie County Gaming
Revenue Authority**

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023
with Independent Auditor's Report

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditor's Report

Financial Statements:

Statement of Net Position	1
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position	2
Statement of Cash Flows	3
Notes to Financial Statements	4

Independent Auditor's Report

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

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (Authority), a component unit of the County of Erie, Pennsylvania as of and for the year ended March 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority, as of March 31, 2023, and the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the Management Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial

statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
MONTH XX, 2023

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

MARCH 31, 2023

Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,845,992
Prepaid expenses	15,472
Notes receivable	121,824
Total current assets	17,983,288
Noncurrent assets:	
Notes receivable, net	6,134,635
Total Assets	\$ 24,117,923
Liabilities and Net Position	
Current liabilities:	
Unearned revenue	\$ 2,377,100
Net Position:	
Restricted - economic development	21,740,823
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$ 24,117,923

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

Operating Revenues:

<u>Gaming revenue</u>	\$ 6,017,380
Governmental grants	2,349,888
Interest income - note receivable	<u>104,962</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>8,472,230</u>

Operating Expenses:

<u>Economic Development:</u>	
Grants awarded	5,374,672
Employee costs	329,776
Professional fees	110,704
Office space	16,347
Marketing and communications	1,225
Office expenses	16,421
Data processing	17,775
Insurance	11,885
General and meeting	<u>11,588</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>5,890,393</u>

Operating Income (Loss)	<u>2,581,837</u>
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Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):

<u>Interest income</u>	<u>226,330</u>
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Change in Net Position	2,808,167
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Net Position:

<u>Beginning of year</u>	<u>18,932,656</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 21,740,823</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

Cash Flows From Operating Activities:	
Cash received from gaming revenue	\$ 6,017,380
Cash received from governmental grant	737,500
Cash received from borrowers	104,962
Cash paid to borrowers as loan disbursements	2,256
Cash paid to employees and for employee benefits	(329,776)
Cash paid as grant awards	(5,374,672)
Cash paid for operating expenses	(193,455)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	964,195
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:	
Interest income	226,330
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,190,525
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Beginning of year	16,655,467
End of year	\$ 17,845,992
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Flows Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:	
Operating income (loss)	\$ 2,581,837
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Change in operating assets and liabilities:	
Prepaid expenses	(7,510)
Notes receivable	2,256
Unearned revenue	(1,612,388)
Total adjustments	(1,617,642)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 964,195

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

1. General Information

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (Authority) was established in 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.

Under the guidelines for determining the definition of the reporting entity, the Authority has been determined to be includable as a component of the County, the primary government. These financial statements reflect only that portion of the activities and transactions which are attributable to the Authority. The accounts and operations of the County are addressed in separate general purpose financial statements.

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

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

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.

The Authority is considered a special purpose government entity operating a single government program. Non-operating revenue and expenses consist of those revenues and expenses that are related to the financing and investing type of activities.

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, approximately \$3.2 million represents notes receivable (net) from various borrowers as described in Note 6, and approximately \$2.2 million represents grant funding committed via award agreements but not yet spent. The remaining funds are restricted by the County for economic development.

The Authority's policy is to use funds in the order of the most restricted 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

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

uncollectable notes totaled \$1,540,000 as of March 31, 2023. As of March 31, 2023, 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.

Unearned Revenue

The Authority received grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) in the amount of \$4,000,000 during the 2022 fiscal year and an additional \$737,500 of APRA funds were received during the fiscal year 2023 related to a Beehive Grant. During the year ended March 31, 2023, the Authority spent \$2,349,888 of these amounts, with the cumulative spending of such grant funding through March 31, 2023 totaling \$2,360,400. Amounts received prior to incurring qualifying expenditures are reported as unearned revenue as of March 31, 2023. Unearned revenues will be recognized as revenue in the fiscal year they are earned in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting.

Risk Management

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts (mitigated through the Pennsylvania Political Subdivision Tort Claims 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.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

Adopted Pronouncements

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements were adopted for the year ended March 31, 2023: Statement Nos. 87 (Lease), 91 (Conduit Debt obligations), 92 (Omnibus 2020), 97 (Deferred Compensation Plans), and 99 (Omnibus 2022 – paragraphs 26 through 32). These statements had no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023.

Pending Pronouncements

GASB has issued statements that will become effective in future years, including Statement Nos. 94 (Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships), 96 (Information Technology Arrangements), 99 (Omnibus 2022), 100 (Accounting Changes and Error Corrections), and 101 (Compensated Absences). Management has not yet determined the impact of these statements 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 March 31, 2023, \$17,595,992 of the Authority's bank balance of \$17,845,992 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 March 31, 2023 of \$17,845,992, which are reported as cash and cash equivalents in the statement of net position.

4. Operating Leases

The Authority entered into a short-term lease with an organization for rental of office space.

The Authority's base rent will be payable in equal monthly installments of \$1,525. This will be charged monthly. The total expenditures for the year ended March 31, 2023 were \$18,163.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

Minimum future rentals to be paid as of March 31, 2023 are as follows:

2023	\$	<u>18,163</u>
2024	\$	<u>19,825</u>
2025	\$	<u>3,355</u>

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 March 31, 2023 was approximately \$15.2 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 fiscal year, \$534,268 in 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 March 31, 2023. 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 uncollectible notes. The Authority staff and Board will continue to monitor this dynamic situation to confirm ongoing viability of the Fund. The Fund is current on the quarterly interest-only payments.

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

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

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 \$4,635 as of March 31, 2023.

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 March 31, 2023.

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 March 31, 2023.

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 March 31, 2023.

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 March 31, 2023.

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 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 March 31, 2023.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

In March 2020, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Bridgeway Capital to develop two separate coronavirus COVID-19 emergency loan funds, one to provide loans to small businesses within Erie County that have demonstrated actual negative economic impact due to effects of coronavirus COVID-19 in the amount of \$520,000, and one to provide loans to small Erie County nonprofit organizations for the purpose of providing the nonprofit organization with resources to aid in their mission based on local response to the pandemic in the amount of \$100,000. The loan bears zero interest. The entire outstanding balance is due in October of 2026, unless the forgiveness clause is exercised. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$620,000 as of March 31, 2023.

In August 2020, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Erie Center for Arts & Technology for \$500,000. The purpose of the loan was to rehabilitate Wayne School building in support of workforce development, educational, and healthcare programming anchoring a distressed neighborhood. Minimum Interest, as that term is defined in the loan agreement, is due to the Authority quarterly. 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 August of 2027, unless extensions are exercised. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$500,000 as of March 31, 2023.

In January 2022, the Authority entered into a loan agreement with Youth Leadership Institute of Erie for \$188,000. The purpose of the loan was to create the Community Enterprise Financing Loan as a funding stream to make mission-related investments within Erie County for the purpose of assisting established community-based entrepreneurs that do not have access to available bank financing to provide upfront and startup capital to fund startup costs related to the receipt of a grant or service contract to provide a community enriching program. The Authority has designed this program as a means for gap financing, as banks often require collateral to make lines of credit available, leaving small budget or undercapitalized organizations no alternatives but to use high-interest loans. This is a zero-percent interest rate loan with an original maturity date of February of 2023. Subsequent to the original maturity date, the Authority and the Youth Leadership Institute of Erie agreed to extend the maturity date until approximately June 2025. The loan has an outstanding principal balance of \$121,824 as of March 31, 2023.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

7. Cash Benefit Plan

The Authority established a defined contribution Benefit Plan (Plan), which is administered by PMRS, on January 1, 2021. All employees of the Authority are required to participate in the Plan. Members are eligible for retirement at 65 years of age or early retirement at 60 years of age with the benefit being actuarially reduced for each year or partial year prior to the attainment of age 65. The Authority contributes 8% of each member's compensation. Contributions made from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 by the Authority were \$19,893.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 11, 2023

Resolution to Adopt the 2022-23 Annual Report

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

Whereas, the ECGRA Board of Directors and staff have effectively executed on all legal agreements, designed grant guidelines and an application process that is fair, open and transparent for multiple grant categories;

Whereas, ECGRA has funded seventy-nine (79) nonprofits and municipalities in the 2022-23 fiscal year totaling an investment of \$5,972,050 in Erie County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to present an Annual Report to the community detailing the funding categories, nonprofits and municipalities that were funded, the amount they received in funding and the results of that funding, to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 20th day of July 2023 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

July 20, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



YEARS



E • C • G • R • A

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Annual Report

2022-2023

MISSION: An impact investor, ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by empowering nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development.



ECGRA Board of Directors

Dale E. Barney, Chair
 Dominick D. DiPaolo, Vice-Chair
 Ronald G. Cleaver, Treasurer
 Kelly S. Hess
 Carol J. Loll
 Gary J. Winschel
 Robert S. Oberlander

ECGRA Staff

Perry Wood, Executive Director
 Tom Maggio, AICP, Grants Manager
 Tammi Michali, Executive Assistant

ASSETS:

Checking: \$467,198.74

Savings: \$17,444,969.42

Accounts Receivable: \$6,266,859.00

Prepaid Expenses: \$18,529.00

TOTAL ASSESTS: \$24,197,556.16

EQUITY:

Begin: \$16,015,592.00

Net Income: \$1,262,355.26



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CREATIVE CONNECTIONS THAT SUPPORT GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION


For 15 years, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has been a catalyst for positive change throughout Erie County. Since 2008, it has dedicated more than \$76 Million to impact investments and grants that touch every corner of Erie County. From small businesses that line Erie County's Main Streets to cultural events that foster community pride, ECGRA understands how strategic investments can address issues and solve challenges in a collaborative way.

While ECGRA celebrates 15 years of local connections that support growth and revitalization, this year in review acknowledges the work yet to be done. In the summer of 2022, ECGRA embarked on a listening tour that took our team to rural areas throughout Erie. Residents and decision-makers learned more about local share gaming revenue investments, about how Building a Better Future (American Rescue Plan Act) funding may be used, and solicited feedback on projects important to their communities. Our discussions focused on ongoing projects, shovel ready projects, and aspirational projects.

In each community visited, we heard about the power of strategic investments to solve challenges. One challenge many rural communities face is the lack of residential and commercial broadband internet services. To combat this, ECGRA has embarked on a feasibility study with county planning and the Erie Area Council of Governments to learn about the needs for rural broadband throughout the county and then consider what federal funding may be available to address these needs.

We also learned that many smaller communities and municipalities lack grant writing experts who can help them secure grants, putting Erie County's boroughs and townships at a disadvantage that can be overcome with additional funding. Further, concerns about unrestricted working capital often keep local coalitions from pursuing bold projects that can be transformative when implemented. Targeted funding opportunities can help to propel these projects to completion.

The listening tour helped inform ECGRA plans for the next several years. By understanding community needs and focusing on our people, our places, and our progress, we can plan for ways to best serve Erie County. Consensus and collaboration are the foundations on which ECGRA has based its work for the past fifteen years. These principles have led to an inclusive development strategy that has guided ECGRA and will continue to inspire the work we do for decades to come.



"As a catalyst for economic and community progress, ECGRA is dedicated to constant communication and continual analysis of the projects happening across Erie County," said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. "Through a productive series of rural listening sessions, we were able to learn about creative connections to support regrowth and barriers to putting plans into action."

IMPACT

NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Neighborhood and local community grants, including the Mission Main Street grants, are used to reinvigorate neighborhoods and commercial corridors through programs like buy-local efforts to support small businesses. Through the Anchor Building Program, underused and vacant buildings, which have historical and architectural qualities that make them unique, are redeveloped to serve as hubs for commercial and social activities. Housing blight can be combatted with the Renaissance Block Program that seeks to reverse the impact properties in poor conditions can have on the value of adjacent homes.

In keeping with a focus on the needs of rural communities, ECGRA announced a \$150,000 investment in the borough of Girard through the Mission Main Street grant program. The grant award was announced at a local coffee shop on Main Street. Employers along Girard's Main Street were hit hard by the impact of the COVID pandemic and will use funds to help recover their losses.

"The Mission Main Street grant will provide a funding stream for smaller communities, part of the county that is often overlooked," said Peter Burton, mayor of Girard. "We are grateful to ECGRA for their attentiveness and willingness to provide much-needed funds to small towns. This grant will improve the appeal of our Main Street while attracting new visitors."



Recipient	Program	Amount
Borough of Edinboro	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Borough of Girard	Mission Main Street	\$45,000.00
Borough of North East	Renaissance Block	\$30,000.00
Borough of North East	Mission Main Street	\$110,000.00
Borough of Union City	Renaissance Block	\$150,000.00
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith	Anchor Building	\$50,000.00
Downtown Girard	Mission Main Street	\$75,000.00
Downtown Girard	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Downtown North East	Mission Main Street	\$87,500.00
Edinboro Community & Economic Development Inc.	Mission Main Street	\$62,500.00
Emmaus Ministries Inc.	Anchor Building	\$81,000.00
Erie Center for Arts & Technology	Mission Main Street	\$25,000.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	Mission Main Street	\$134,108.00
Housing & Neighborhood Development Services	Anchor Building	\$40,000.00
Impact Corry	Renaissance Block	\$40,000.00
Impact Corry	Mission Main Street	\$28,000.00
Maggie Knox Western	Anchor Building	\$20,000.00
Our West Bayfront	Renaissance Block	\$50,000.00
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	Anchor Building	\$55,000.00
Preservation Erie	Mission Main Street	\$8,185.82
SSJ Neighborhood Network	Mission Main Street	\$55,500.00
Union City Pride	Mission Main Street	\$150,000.00
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$1,380,422.18

IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES

Designed to invite collaboration among Erie County's 38 local governments, municipal grants foster progress across the county. Multi-Municipal Collaboration grants, launched in 2012, support economic growth and community vibrancy while promoting functional cooperation. In September 2022, the Borough of Edinboro and Washington Township received \$50,000 for their collaboration on a Multi-Municipal grant. The grant will be used to enhance the fishing experience for residents of both municipalities who have disabilities.

“One of our greatest assets is our natural resources,” said Mary Jo Campbell, mayor of Washington Township. “The amazing parks that surround Edinboro Lake offer spectacular fishing for our residents. We want all of our residents to enjoy this great natural resource and are grateful to the ECGRA for this grant that will allow us to make fishing more accessible for residents with disabilities.”

Recipient

Amount

County of Erie \$165,477.96

Edinboro Community & Economic Development Inc. \$50,000.00

Erie Area Council of Governments \$50,000.00

Girard Township \$19,000.00

Greene Township \$165,477.96

Jefferson Educational Society of Erie \$100,000.00

McKean Township \$165,477.96

McKean Township \$86,500.00

Millcreek Township \$165,477.96

Summit Township \$676,955.24

Waterford Township \$165,477.96

TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

\$1,557,867.08



IMPACT

SMALL BUSINESSES

The entrepreneurial ecosystem across Erie is spurred by small businesses. ECGRA offers a series of grant programs and networks designed to start, grow, and reinvent small businesses. This, in turn, builds collaboration among businesses and allows for business acceleration. Small businesses spur job creation and business growth; they are the backbone of Erie County. Small business grants are transformative as they drive economic and community development, which uplifts the entire community.

The ECGRA awarded \$896,000 in 2023 NWPA Innovation Beehive Network grants. The funds will be distributed to five Erie County nonprofits and universities. Beehive funding provides a catalyst for nonprofit organizations to participate in economic development through matching grants that encourage entrepreneurial support services. This unique partnership grew out of our Ignite Erie initiative, which was developed through a collaboration among 26 leading agencies and businesses as well as 350 entrepreneurs, educators, policymakers, and elected officials.

"This ECGRA grant will allow the PennWest Edinboro Beehive to continue offering free branding and marketing services to hard-working Erie County small businesses," said **Christopher Lantinen, Director, PennWest Edinboro Beehive**. "The COVID-19 pandemic introduced new economic hardships and exacerbated existing ones, and the collective Beehive Network will help in the county's continuing recovery efforts."

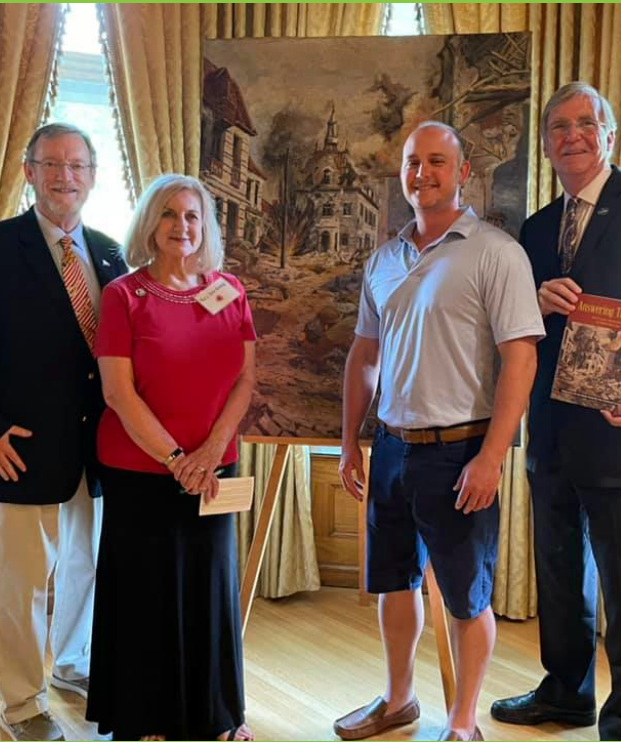




Recipient	Category	Amount
Bridgeway Capital	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Edinboro University Foundation	Beehive Network	\$200,000.00
Erie Regional Library Foundation	Beehive Network	\$101,877.00
Erie's Black Wall Street	Beehive Network	\$48,000.00
Gannon University	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Impact Corry	Beehive Network	\$87,500.00
International Institute of Erie	Small Business	\$150,000.00
Mercyhurst University	Small Business	\$200,000.00
Penn State University	Beehive Network	\$100,000.00
SSJ Neighborhood Network	Beehive Network	\$57,750.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Small Business	\$63,920.00
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$1,409,047

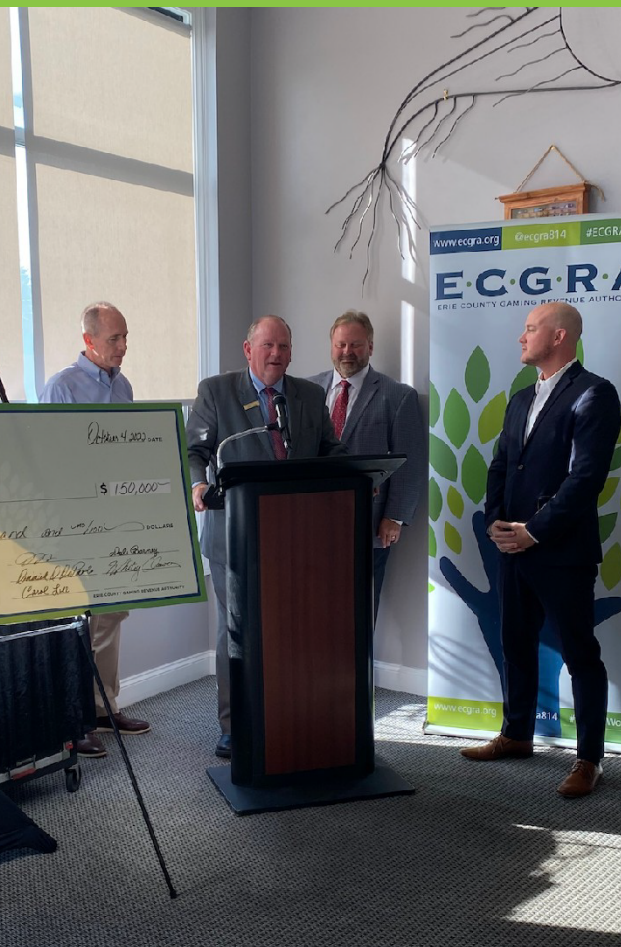
IMPACT

QUALITY OF PLACE



Residents of Erie County take pride in their communities. Through grants that sponsor special events and support lead assets, as well as community assets, ECGRA funding promotes well-being while fostering civic pride. Grants not only invite tourists to our area but also attract and retain creative talent to staff local businesses.

Nearly \$212,000 was awarded to 49 Erie County nonprofits and municipalities as part of the 2023 Special Events Grants. The grants fund activities designed to bring the community together while driving Erie forward.



"As a nonprofit organization celebrating 110 years of serving the most vulnerable in our region, EHCA is grateful to all of our community partners for their role in our mission," **said Samantha Giddings, Development Specialist, Erie Homes for Children and Adults (EHCA).** "And ECGRA is one of those caring partners that provide EHCA with funding opportunities to help us assist individuals with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives."

Recipient	Program	Amount
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$9,560.40
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$1,855.16
Borough of Edinboro	2022 Special Events	\$1,315.95
Borough of Wesleyville	2022 Special Events	\$781.53
CAFE	2022 Special Events	\$16,507.50
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$2,504.22
Downtown North East, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$2,979.26
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	2022 Special Events	\$3,022.50
Edinboro Legion Pool, Inc.	2022 Community Assets	\$4,195.60
Erie Art Museum	2022 Lead Assets	\$41,206.83
Erie Arts & Culture	2022 Lead Assets	\$44,436.65
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	2022 Special Events	\$5,068.04
Erie Downtown Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$6,300.75
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$930.70
Erie Philharmonic	2022 Lead Assets	\$65,568.42
Erie Playhouse	2022 Lead Assets	\$48,205.78
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner	2022 Special Events	\$4,650.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	2022 Special Events	\$6,165.46
Erie Zoological Society	2022 Lead Assets	\$149,905.88
expERIENCE Children's Museum	2022 Lead Assets	\$24,724.62
Fairview School Foundation	2022 Community Assets	\$50,000.00
Film Society of Northwestern PA	2022 Special Events	\$6,863.40
Flagship Niagara League	2022 Lead Assets	\$62,585.30
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	2022 Special Events	\$841.65
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2022 Special Events	\$1,655.40
Hagen History Center	2022 Lead Assets	\$53,312.67

Recipient	Program	Amount
Harborcreek Township	2018 Community Assets	\$11,942.55
Harborcreek Township	2022 Special Events	\$1,162.50
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	2022 Special Events	\$6,347.25
Humane Society of NWPA	2022 Special Events	\$4,650.00
Impact Corry	2022 Special Events	\$1,148.55
Iroquois School District Foundation	2022 Special Events	\$1,962.30
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie	2022 Special Events	\$20,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	2022 Special Events	\$4,394.25
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2022 Special Events	\$7,440.00
Mercy Center for Women	2022 Special Events	\$910.24
Mercyhurst Institute for Art & Culture	2022 Lead Assets	\$44,321.83
Northwest PA Trail Association	2022 Community Assets	\$17,000.00
Presque Isle Light Station	2022 Special Events	\$576.60
Presque Isle Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$4,008.30
Saint Patrick Church	2022 Special Events	\$6,783.19
SSJ Neighborhood Network	2022 Special Events	\$4,726.61
The Nonprofit Partnership	2022 Special Events	\$3,514.24
Union City Pride	2022 Special Events	\$1,209.00
Washington Township	2022 Community Assets	\$50,000.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2022 Special Events	\$7,851.76
Wattsburg Agricultural Society	2022 Special Events	\$10,481.57
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	2022 Special Events	\$1,304.33
YMCA of Greater Erie	2022 Special Events	\$1,422.90
TOTAL		\$693,625.46

IMPACT

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Initiatives to strengthen Erie's youth and educational systems are focused on partnerships. Through past and current investments, ECGRA continues to enhance and strengthen Erie County's educational infrastructure and workforce that drives local and regional economic growth and helps to reduce poverty.

ECGRA is making a difference for Youth and Education grantees by providing skills and job training for youth and displaced workers, connecting them with the Erie County employers. Through the critical investment of over \$180,000, ECGRA is helping to shape our workforce of tomorrow by creating and providing new opportunities that might otherwise not exist.

ECGRA is also dedicated to educating Erie businesses and residents. We sponsored a 2022 global summit on "Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands." The free event focused on how healing polarized politics can strengthen Western democracies and featured John Austin, whose work in Michigan has helped transform the state economy.

Recipient	Category	Amount
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2022 Summer Jobs	\$156,551.27
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2023 Summer Jobs	\$25,034.63
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES		\$181,585.90





Annual **Report** 2021 - 2022

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ECGRA.org