

# MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIA ZOOM/In Person

Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510 August 17, 2023

# **ZOOM Meeting Information:**

Meeting ID: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85268190931">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85268190931</a>

Password: not required

### **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 2023
- 5. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS
- 6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 8. PRESENTATION
  - a. Infinite Erie Update Kim Thomas
  - b. eCAT Update Daria Devlin
- 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

a. Two year extension of Grant Management Software License

# 13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 12, 2023 Resolution to enter into agreement with four (4) entities as the recipients of the 2023 Multi-Municipal Collaboration grant
- b. Resolution Number 13, 2023 Resolution to enter into agreements with four (4) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2023 Renaissance Block program

# 14. ADJOURNMENT

# Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, September 21, 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 July 20, 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 July 20, 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 8:30 am.

### ROLL CALL

Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. 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. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 7-0.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 2023

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There are no other questions of the minutes. 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.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

There are no presentations at this time.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Dr. Wood, and everything seems fine; not seems fine, is fine. I had a couple of questions that were answered. If the Board has any questions, I'm certainly positive we can answer things. But everything is up and up and fine. End of report.

Mr. DiPaolo: I have a question. The credit cards – there's an entry, a couple of entries – for Jennifer Dworek; \$3,100, \$185. What is that for, Whitey?

Mr. Cleaver: I don't have a copy in front of me.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Tammi, would you explain that?

Ms. Michali: We had scheduled to do updated Board headshots with Jennifer Dworek, that's her photography studio. Then the date that we had scheduled it for wasn't going to work. There was a non-refundable fee attached to that. But if you read how I have it listed on there, the \$3,100 was the total charge but then below that, those three charges are actually a credit. So, she did refund the full amount, minus the non-refundable fee, which I believe was \$500.00.

Ms. Loll: If you do the math, it's \$1,235.

Ms. Michali: I believe there was a credit on last month's Visa as well.

Mr. DiPaolo: One other thing. The Amazon membership of \$139.00. Why do we have an Amazon membership?

Mr. Cleaver: I asked the same question. I think you can get an answer from Tammi or Perry.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: So, that's an Amazon Prime Membership. Basically, if you buy it every year, you get free shipping on anything you get through Amazon, which is primarily where the office supplies come from. Do you want to add anything, Tammi?

Ms. Michali: I would like to add that we order two to three times a month, so if we had to pay for shipping each time, you're looking at \$10-\$15 each time...

Mr. DiPaolo: Isn't there a local vendor that could supply office supplies? Does the County do the same thing, or do they have a supplier? If you know.

Ms. Michali: That I cannot answer for you in honesty.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: You know, the issue about a local vendor, I think it's a great question. We used to use Sanner Office Supply and then it got bought out by a national office supply entity. So, is there really a local vendor? Not that we're aware of.

Mr. DiPaolo: Okay.

Ms. Loll: Is this a year?

Ms. Michali: Yes.

Mr. DiPaolo: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Barney: Are there any other questions of the Treasurer's Report?

Ms. Hess 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: <u>Mr. Barney</u>: I know we didn't have anything, but I know we have some things lined up.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Tammi is going to be organizing the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting so we can do some grant reviews. The next round of grant reviews we're going to look at Multi-Municipal Collaboration and Renaissance Block. Part of the thing, and Tom and I had talked about this and we talked to some of the Board members about this, some of you want to see more presentations in person as opposed to just reviewing online. So, we'll bring in the Municipal Collaboration folks for the next round to present in person. Tammi, did you put out an email?

Ms. Michali: I did send out an email. I have three responses so far.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: So, she will be organizing the standard grant review. We'll do two presentations and then break for lunch and then we'll do two more presentations. Any questions about that?

Mr. Cleaver: Is there a date set for that?

Dr. Wood: The email asks for three or four different times to see what's best.

Ms. Michali: It's for the week of July 31, August 1, 2, and 4. Those are the dates.

- 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 is not present at this time, but joins the meeting later and gives an update before the conclusion of the meeting.

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Okay, good morning, everyone. This is the housekeeping Board meeting. We're working on internal stuff and as you can see, there are no grants to review on your agenda. However, you'll see three different housekeeping items. The first is renewal of our lease here at Knowledge Park; we're opting for a one-year renewal. Resolution Number 10 is the audited financials. So, we had the auditors come in and present, there were follow up questions, we talked to the auditors last week and there hasn't been any other questions from the Board to the auditors and the staff hasn't had any other questions about the audit. So, this is the finalized audit on the agenda. This is important because it kind of memorializes our finances for the fiscal year. It's an important document for County government because they enter it into record down at the courthouse, however they do that. This, along with the annual report, become the two things that we are obliged to do according to our bylaws, in order to communicate with County government. So those are the two official documents, which is why that's important.

Then you have Resolution Number 11, which is the Annual Report. There's a physical copy of it in front of all of you. This is what we did this current fiscal year. Remember the fiscal year is April 1 through March 31. So, it's 2022 - 2023 and it's a standard annual report. This is where our current cash position is, where all of our grant funds have gone, a list of everyone who's received it, and what grant category. Okay, so those are the housekeeping items on the agenda.

In the Director's Report, you'll see a report about our communication strategies including the press conference we did for small business development down at Enrique's; you'll see the press release from that. And then of course, we always get a couple of thank you notes or thank you letters from folks that come in. I like to put that in the reports so the Board can see it. There are some Corry Journal articles here about what's going on with EMS and our Renaissance Block program. And then some other activities we did in economic development, including a trip I took down in Corry just to check up on some grants that they had received from us. Okay, that's Director's Report. Any questions about this report? Okay, how about the three resolutions? Any questions about the lease, the audit, or the annual report?

Mr. DiPaolo: I have a question on the audit. According to our minutes of last month's meeting, actually we just got these, I had a question that I asked about the borrowers, if everybody was up on their payments, and if anybody had defaulted? Then Ms. Bryan said, "I don't believe there are any delinquent payments, whether it's anybody who has paid or paid interest only on the payments." According to the sheet here, the Authority was notified that the Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, and the Youth Leadership Institute of Erie got \$188,000 and they still owe \$121,000 as of March.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Let's take those one at a time. So that Note in the audit for the GEIDC is from 2016-2017. It's been in the audit every year since then. Is that when the bankruptcy was, Tim?

Mr. Wachter: Yes. The Authority was notified in 2016 that they had gone into Chapter 7.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Thank you. So that Note is in our audited financials every year for the GEIDC. Now, they went into bankruptcy; they didn't go into default to anything that they had with us. But it was important to put that Note in there for historical purposes because at the time, they were operating the CDFI

known as Enterprise Development Fund. They no longer operate that Fund, and part of what we did in response to the GEIDC bankruptcy to protect ourselves was we followed up with Enterprise Development Fund, both legally with the federal bankruptcy system to make sure that we would be in line to receive any funds that didn't – but Enterprise Development Fund didn't go bankrupt. It was an affiliate of GEIDC. So, they were able to separate and protect themselves from GEIDC bankruptcy as well.

We then restructured our debt to them. At the time, and I know now, but at the time we were about 60% of their fund. So, we were overleveraged with them. I mean, it depends on what your definition of overleveraged is. I would say anything over half of the funds is probably overleverage. But we had gotten there because at the time they were the only CDFI in Erie County. Since then, Bridgeway Capital, Progress Fund, and some other entities have stepped up. The RDA certainly stepped up its involvement in funding projects.

So, that was an opportunity to solidify in the historical record that we recognized that the bankruptcy happened, we took action, and it did not affect our position with the Enterprise Development Fund. So, that's a great story. Now, we had to extend the runway on the loan that we have to them, so that they did not collapse. We talked about that extensively at the time because we had the right to recall the loan at that time and then they would have collapsed as an entity. The good news is that they didn't and now they're flourishing under the Redevelopment Authority as their kind of fiscal manager. And you know, we continue to get reports from them on what they're doing, and they continue to be on time with payments. Are there any questions about the first one before I move on?

The second one is Youth Leadership. Youth Leadership Institute is the first loan that we did under the Community Entrepreneurial Financing concept. It's a concept you just approved not long ago. This was the very first loan – it's the only loan that we've done – and the idea behind that loan was that there are federal grants or big state grants streaming into the community and these nonprofits need cash flow. They need to borrow the money up front, and then as the grants come in, they can repay the loan. So, we could provide a financing vehicle to make that happen. At one point in time, they approached us about restructuring, I think it was about six months in, about restructuring the loan. We put the loan on hold, so they're not in default. They're not late; we put the loan on hold while we tried to figure out whether or not we would restructure with them. At the end of the day, the staff recommendation was to not restructure. I did not bring this to the board. I briefly discussed it with Tim, and they resumed payments on time.

Mr. DiPaolo: So, they don't owe anything?

Dr. Wood: No, no they do.

Mr. Wachter: But they're not in default.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: They're not in default. And that's a specific word, right? They're not in default. They were just put on hold while we decided whether or not to restructure them. I mean, this is a brand-new program. We decided not to restructure.

Mr. DiPaolo: How long did you put them on hold?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: They're no longer on hold; they are paying back their loan to us. Great questions. Any other questions about the audit? It's probably the most important document here.

Okay, very good. So, what's coming up next on the Board's agenda, we'll have, as I said, Tammi put out an email for a grant review of MMC, Multi-Municipal Collaboration and Renaissance Block. We have four Municipal Collaboration grants and four Renaissance Blocks coming in. The way we're going to structure it is we're going to have the four municipal collaboration folks come in and present to you guys, and the staff will make a recommendation on the four Renaissance Block. If you want to see them come in too, we can schedule another meeting. But to see the four MMCs is going

to take, we're going to estimate 20 minutes per – 15-minute presentations and 5 minutes for questions, and we'll hold them to it. So, about a two and a half hour total grant review.

EMS funding – EMS funding has been an interesting discussion throughout the County, and we've been following it. There are different positions being taken on it. There are a lot of unresolved questions, but we continue to follow it. We continue to communicate with the paramedic's associations and the township supervisors. We are currently doing research on that. Tom and I, Tom, if you want to jump in, did a conference call with Allegheny County EMS system, which is actually pretty, pretty interesting what they've done there. It's not exactly what our County is proposing, but an interesting solution to help fund what's going on there and the role that the County plays is interesting.

But you have emerging, and you'll see this in the Municipal Collaboration grants, you have more of a confederated system emerging as opposed to a centralized one. So, you have, what I keep calling the Dean Pepicello model - that Pepicello model over here with Harborcreek, Lawrence Park, and Wesleyville. They have a system of using an intergovernmental cooperation agreement to collaborate. And that's been very effective as far as answering calls and cost effective as it hasn't required any kind of tax increase. The role we've played is we've helped them purchase emergency vehicles in the past, and you're going to see them on the agenda for a new vehicle. I think it was like five years ago, when we purchased last vehicle from them. You're going to see them on the Municipal Collaboration agenda for a new vehicle.

In the West County, we have the let's call it the Cranesville model. And I'm working with Brandon Kennedy over there. It's Cranesville, Albion, and then the two surrounding townships Wayne and Elk Creek. So those four townships, or those four municipalities, excuse me, are collaborating for an EMS service. They're also going to come to us for the same thing for a vehicle. The difference in their model is that they're using a commission model. So over here, you have intergovernmental cooperation agreements that basically say, "Harborcreek Township will supply the full time EMS employee. We got a grant from ECGRA for the vehicle. We will own the vehicle on behalf of the Cooperation." Over here in the West County you have a commission system, which I think is really interesting, which basically says, "Based on our size and participation in EMS, it's a two-tiered evaluation process, each municipality owes this much to the commission every year in order to solve the EMS issue."

So, two different models, similar, but both functioning very well and others are looking at those two models and trying to decide what to go with. Certainly if you're in the West County, I think it would make sense for you to have a conversation with that Commission about collaborating with them in support. The same is true over here in East County, but everybody's doing something different. You've got that same Commission that I just mentioned, has now publicly said, "Yeah, we're supportive of the idea of a countywide EMS Authority. Whereas some townships have literally passed ordinances saying, not ordinances but resolutions, saying, "We're not in favor of it, we're not going to participate in it." So, it's kind of a mixed bag across Erie County, but I continue to follow it and we'll continue to do research on it because it's obviously important. Are there any questions about EMS? Don't hesitate to follow up with me on it. There's a lot going on there and I'm just kind of verbalizing it. This isn't any kind of formal report, but at some point, I think we'll bring some type of solution to you guys to look at.

And then finally, Transformational Grants with the Erie Community Foundation. We have been doing Transformational Grants with ECF about every four years - on a four-year cycle. Last time, we contributed \$4 million to the ECF process. We haven't done this for two cycles now because first of all, COVID stopped us, and then when we were gearing up to do it, again, we got this huge influx of ARPA dollars, so we had to focus on administering that. But we're ready to get back to that phase. Some of the wins that have come out of that, for example, have been the Erie Community College. I guess probably the biggest one working with them and other funders. You want to talk about things that are truly big scale and transformational, that's kind of the area we look to. We can't do all these things ourselves, obviously. So, it's a nice opportunity to work with the largest funder in Erie County on it. So, I'll be bringing some type of process back to you on that as well. It worked really great the last time we did it. We had joint grant reviews with our Board of Directors and the Community Foundation Board of Directors and it was a nice opportunity for you folks to get to know them and then

to talk them through. We basically have the same alignment as far as mission goes. It's just we're the government entity and they're the private foundation. So, there's a nice opportunity to get together with those leaders and make some big things happen. I can talk more about that later on, but let me bring a process back to you about how we look at doing that again this time.

Mr. Winschel: This is a good transition here. So, the last time you reviewed the different flow of the monies, and we talked about the Lead Assets, the Lead Assets that the Community Foundation has the Endowment. You mentioned nine, but as I was looking through the minutes, I saw six or seven listed. Question - is the airport part of those regional assets, or Lead Assets?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: The airport is an interesting one. The airport is not a Lead Asset and has never received funds from us.

<u>Mr. Winschel</u>: The reason I ask is in today's paper, there's an article about Fly Erie Fund. And let's face it, I mean Erie has no airlines. In the way of doing business, you're going to have to pay these airlines to come in. American just added another one, a third flight, to try to get back low costs to Florida. If you read the article, \$6.5 million; \$5 million is going to come from the reserves. They're looking for \$1.5 million, a half million a year over three years. I'm just wondering if you know, clearly this is economic development, you know, for the key of Erie County. Then you mention the Erie Community Foundation. I mean, I would think they would have a role too. Is there something that . . .

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Let's talk about the airport for a second. We have been approached by the airport and they said, "Can you play a role in the Fly Erie Fund?" So, what is the Fly Erie Fund? I'm not representing it here; I'll just give you what I know about it. It is basically a subsidy to incentivize a carrier to come in. I guess this is common, especially in smaller airports all across the country. The Chamber has actually done a lot of research on this issue. They gave me a kind of a dog and pony show, and I told them, "I think you need to come in front of our Board at some point and do a study session on this." The Fund mentioned in the newspaper this morning was supposed to be a combination of well, \$5 million coming from the airport, and then a combination of private sector and public sector funds. Where will those public sector funds come from? They want one of the contributors to be us. We're always open to those ideas. I think it's up to the staff to kind of analyze the idea and then bring it to you guys at the appropriate time. It's getting close to being fully baked to the point where we can bring it to you. Typically, in a concept like this, we're normally the first ones in and it gives others confidence to get involved in concepts like that.

Mr. Winschel: The airport is at a tipping point right now.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: It is at a tipping point. I don't know how you guys feel about this. I think, instead of polling you outside the context of what they're asking, I think it makes sense to do a study session, to have them come in. This can be viewed different ways. This can be viewed as a class issue, but I would say this is an economic development issue. It's not a class issue. A functioning airport is important and an airport with a subsidy is ubiquitous at this point. And the fact is that there is no County support to our airport. I don't know if you know that. There is no County funding support to our airport.

Mr. Winschel: Maybe they could be approached for (inaudible)

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: They could. I don't know if it's up to us to do that. But this is certainly a discussion that I have with Doug – "Are you looking at subsidizing this? If so, do you want to go in on it? Do we want to be one of three public sector partners to subsidize it?" That's a discussion yet to be had. But, I think it should be on the agenda to be discussed by this Board. Does anyone object to it? Is everyone okay with a study session with the airport?

Mr. Wachter: Gary, one thing we didn't have at the last meeting was a list of all the dedicated regional assets. You said you got six of them.

Mr. Winschel: I looked through the minutes, and I know Perry listed off a few.

Mr. Wachter: I pulled up the list. It's the Erie Arts & Culture, Erie Art Museum, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoo, Children's Museum, Flagship Niagara League, Historical Society, Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture. There's your list.

Mr. Winschel: And that was decided way back as part of the Settlement?

Mr. Wachter: It was baked into the Settlement in 2010. It's a closed circle. You can add to it . . .

Mr. Barney: Oh, you can? We can add people in?

Mr. Wachter: You can add but not to take money out of that endowment. If you wanted to add more money to that endowment, yes, but that money in that group is closed.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: One clarification on that list. It's not like we arbitrarily decided that list. There was a report that County government had done in which basically they determined who it was years before ECGRA existed. We were really going off that report.

Mr. Winschel: I understand.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Any other questions?

Mr. Oberlander: I have a question about the lease. Just from an organizational standpoint, when did we start here? When did the lease start, I mean? Is it a yearly increase? I see there's an increase of \$150, but it ended May 31. We're in a little in between.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: When did we begin here? Let's start there. I believe it was 2009 that we moved here. The courthouse was going through renovation. We had an office at the courthouse, and they basically kicked us out, is my understanding. It was like – go find a home somewhere else while we're in this major renovation. There's not a lot of space down there. But it was also with the blessing of County government, since we are an independent authority, we should go out and be independent. For some reason we ended up here. Oh, I know why we ended up here – it's because at the time, all of the County Authorities were located here. And by all I mean, all the ones at the Redevelopment Authority now controls. At the time it was Develop Erie that controlled them, GEIDC. They were all located here, so we just took an office in this building, actually right down the hall. We had that space. And you know, all County Authorities were here. So that's why we ended up here.

What do we pay for it? We have, a couple times, have done a kind of mini research project on can we get a better deal on rent somewhere else. And there's always pluses and minuses to look at; location is one of them. This is a centralized location right off of I-90, especially if you're traveling from Corry, Union City, or Waterford. We basically found we're getting a pretty good deal on rent for what is not quite Class A office space, but pretty close. Plus, access to these rooms come at no additional charge. In many of the other places we looked at renting, we were going to have to rent rooms like this to hold Board meetings. We also get a nonprofit rate, which is part of the Penn State mission. Whenever they host a nonprofit, they get a lower rate. So, we're on board for that. Rent has gone up every year that we've been here, but I imagine that'd be the case wherever we were. But just so you know, at least twice in my memory, I can recall doing studies on other office locations and basically coming back and saying this is pretty good deal.

<u>Mr. Winschel</u>: I see they raised it 10% over last year. Question on when it expires. I know it expires at the end of May. Is there a reason you can't get that aligned with our fiscal year? It makes sense for that to expire at the end of April. Or the end of March, I mean.

Dr. Wood: I suppose we could do that.

Mr. Winschel: Just to kind of get this realigned to expire at the end of March.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I have no problem asking them to do that. We are paying the rent until it expires.

Mr. Winschel: Then it's more aligned and hopefully the County . . .

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Tammi is making a note of that. We'll follow up with the property managers.

<u>Mr. Barney</u>: I'd like to say that prior to the lease running out, if anyone knows of a place or identifies a place, numbers and stuff, you're always open to present that and we'll look into it. It's been done in previous Board meetings.

Mr. Winschel: Perry brought that up that before it was at the Courthouse and then there was no room and then everyone else was up here; not too many others up here.

Dr. Wood: Now there is no one up here!

Mr. Winschel: Is there space down at the courthouse now, since it is eight years later?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: No, there's no space at the courthouse. We did at one point in time look at moving into the library, the County-owned library, but then the Planning Department ended up taking that space.

Mr. Winschel: It would be nice to be right next to the incubator space there at the library.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Oh, the Beehive space?

Mr. Winschel: Since they're part of what we fund.

Ms. Loll: I did a little bit of homework on that and there is room at the courthouse. The Finance Department has quite a bit of space left.

Dr. Wood: Interesting.

Ms. Loll: So, there is room at the courthouse. And the airport, originally when they did the extension, the County put money into it. Even though they might not be right now, they did then.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: That's a great point, Carol. You're right. There was a bond issue and the County was using their gaming revenue to pay off that bond issue. But what I was referring to was direct operational costs, which most municipalities do subsidize the operational costs of an airport. There are none. And there haven't been since that bond was paid off. That bond was paid off in 2018 or 2019.

Mr. Cleaver: We got sold a bill of sale when we invested in that . . .

Ms. Loll: (giggles) Build it and they will come. Yeah, right.

Dr. Wood: Great discussion, folks. Thanks.

# SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: Perry and I are doing a regular review of things to make sure things are running well. There is nothing specific to report today.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. DiPaolo: I have some comments. I had brought up, asked some questions in regards to this contract, or this month-to-month that we have with Parker Philips. I believe, and this is my own opinion, but I think we spend too much money a month on different things that could be going to other possible things. Three thousand dollars per month, \$36,000 a year, for somebody to write a news release or send out emails. Basically, the County has the same position there that all County departments can use. Like I said, I don't think \$36,000 a year, I think we could be using that some other place.

And no disrespect to Tammi, but she's almost making \$45,000 a year. We only have three people in the Authority. I mean, if there's an email or newsletter to be spent, I don't understand why it can't be sent within. Eighty-one thousand dollars a year, the \$36,000 we're paying and then of course Tammi's salary, I think that's a lot of money for basically just news releases and emails.

At this time, I would like to make a motion that we end the services with Parker Philips to try to save that money and do something else with it. And that's my opinion. I don't know who Parker Philips is – I have no idea who they are. But that's my motion that I would like to make.

Mr. Wachter: So, in order to entertain that motion, we first have to take a motion to amend the agenda.

Mr. DiPaolo: Okay.

Mr. Wachter: So, you would make a motion to amend the agenda to terminate the Parker Philips contract.

Mr. DiPaolo: Okay. I make a motion to amend the agenda to terminate the Parker Philips contract.

Ms. Loll: I second that motion.

Mr. Barney: There's a motion and it's been seconded. Is there any discussion?

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Chairman, does she have a contract? Isn't it month-to-month?

Dr. Wood: Yes, it's month-to-month.

Mr. Cleaver: I just wanted that clarified.

Mr. Wachter: So, this is the motion to add it to the agenda.

Mr. Winschel: Dom, you had said, and you've been on the Board longer than I have, but you don't know what she does. Perry, per the conversation we had over the phone, I see some of the things she does. Would it make sense to have her come in and talk to explain to us exactly what we're getting for the dollars we spend per month? I see the notes in here that she met with Perry and

things. It looks like she worked on the Annual Report, and phone calls and discussions. But \$3,000 a month . . .

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Okay, so I'll defend it. For an organization our size, we have three employees. We're putting out the same amount of grant dollars that the Erie Community Foundation is with 15 employees. We do this through two key ways. The first is technology, which you see the memberships we have with various forms of technology in order to automate things. The second thing we do is we use consultants at ECGRA. That's why we have external auditors to do the finances rather than having a controller. Really, an organization handling this amount of money could stand to have a controller, a full-time financial controller. But the Board always opted not to do that. Let's keep the operational expenses down.

We need a communications strategy to be transparent, have accountability, be open to the public. We could go hire a different person every time we wanted to do things like the Annual Report and other special reports that we do, but to reduce it just down to press releases and press conferences, I think, misses the point of the overall communications strategy.

That being said, sure I'll take a full-time employee to do our communications. I'm not going to use the County's communications officer for that; it doesn't make sense. I doubt they would allow us to, by the way.

Ms. Loll: Yeah, they would.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: It's not going to work, Carol.

Ms. Loll: I know, but I already asked.

<u>Dr. Wood:</u> It doesn't matter. It's not going to work. We're a completely separate . . .

Ms. Loll: They are available to us.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: And so, if it was only for press releases, I could see. But there's a bigger communications strategy that needs to take place to make sure that we fulfill our duties to be open, transparent, and accountable to the public and to the people that we serve. So, I would say having some type of communications group is absolutely indispensable for our organization. There isn't an organization or Authority in town that doesn't use some type of agency; they all do, or they have a full-time employee doing it.

Mr. DiPaolo: When I asked the original question, you stated – I said, "What do these people do?" and you said, "News releases and emails." That was the answer.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Those are amongst their activities. That's why we put the monthly accounting of what they do in my report.

Mr. DiPaolo: Then why wouldn't you be able to use the County's, if they already have one?

Dr. Wood: We want the County to shape our communications strategy?

Mr. DiPaolo: No, you don't want that.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: The County has its own communication strategy.

Mr. DiPaolo: I understand that, but what I'm saying is that if in fact that is available, you couldn't sit down with them to let them know what you want as far as what these people are doing the same thing?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: That's never going to work. We're at a point in time where we're at odds with the Administration and you want me to sit down with their communications director?

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, I mean if you want to save some money, I think you should. At least try it.

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Chairman? Perry, just break down what this gal does. There is this report, but that's just one month. Give us a breakdown so we can get a better picture of what she does.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Her group designed the Annual Report that you see in front of you; that's one of the things that they do. Whenever I do a special report that comes out, they do the graphic design and some of the writing behind it. They might quantify what we're doing with Small Business or Renaissance Block with special reports on those areas. Economic Impact Studies – we've done economic impact studies with them. Now, that's a separate cost, but I'm going to be doing another update with them now that we're 15 years old. Yes, press releases, yes, press advisories, press conferences, writing for the website, interacting with the various media stations on a regular basis, some advising on the e-blasts and emails. Overall, what does a communications strategy look like for an organization of our size? You need professionals to continually help you analyze and execute on it.

Mr. DiPaolo: Who did these notifications for Building a Better Future and the Edinboro/McKean press conference that you had? Tammi is the one that sent them.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Yes, she is the one who sent them but if you look at the top, for example the Small Business one, this one that says Parker Philips.

Ms. Loll: Why aren't we doing it in-house?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Because we have three employees who are administering the same amount of funds as the Erie Community Foundation does and they are doing it with 15 employees. I'm just trying to put it in context for you. We're highly flexible but we have limits too. It's not an area of expertise for any of the three of us, the area of communications.

<u>Mr. Winschel</u>: Perry, with everything that's being said, it's a month-to-month contract, maybe since Dom asked it, Whitey asked it, do we need to have them come in and talk? And then with Carol saying that Erie County could do it, does it make sense since it is month-to-month to table this for a month to see if they could come in and see if Erie County could come in . . .

Dr. Wood: Gary, I'm not going to work with Erie County on our communications strategy . . .

Mr. Winschel: . . . how about we get a breakdown of . . .

Several people begin speaking, so it's inaudible.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I think we can continue to communicate with them and work just fine with them but the idea that we're going to allow them to articulate our communications strategies, that's just not acceptable.

Mr. Winschel: We don't even want to hear what they have to say and how they could help us maybe? If they could work with us on this, especially with EMS.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I think that's a really naïve position considering what we've been through with them just over the last six months.

Mr. Winschel: I just don't (inaudible) give it a try.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Trying is a two-way system.

Ms. Loll: So, they just compile the information, put it together on paper, and then it gets handed out.

Ms. Hess: Can I add something? My very limited expertise with communications. Communication and marketing, whether it be an organization like this or a school district or whatever the case, it's a very unique skill set. The skill set that, I'm just thinking, the skill set that Perry, Tom, and Tammi has, that's not the skill set that we probably hired them for. There is a skill set that there is a consistent message, there is consistent coloring, there are consistent graphics, all of those things take a consistent skill set. And to now just add another duty to a full list of job responsibilities seems penny wise, pound foolish. It just doesn't make sense to me.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: You made a comment, too, Dom about Tammi's salary. We've done salary studies for all the positions that we have here at ECGRA; we're somewhere between in-line and below with those averages for our region. The Office Manager position is underfunded, if you ask me, based on what we've seen with other organizations. The Executive Director position is underfunded based on salary studies of other Authorities that manage similar financial assets. But you don't ever hear us talk about that. We come in and we humbly ask for a cost-of-living increase.

That being said, this does feel like a conflict-based discussion rather than one in which we solve . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, you made it a conflict by saying that you don't want to work with the County. You're the one that made it a conflict.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I didn't say I don't want to work with the County. I do want to collaborate with the County; I do want to work with the County. I've never refused to collaborate with Doug . . .

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, then why don't you at least look into it?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: The idea that we're going to have a whole other organization develop and execute on our communication strategy is not realistic.

Mr. DiPaolo: If in fact you explain to them what you want done, they're going to tell you no, they're not going to do it? I mean, you're in charge.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I just think it's really naïve considering the relationship that we currently have with the Administration.

Mr. DiPaolo: Then to get back to my original point, you don't want to work with them.

Dr. Wood: I'm clearly working with the Administration on a regular basis.

Mr. DiPaolo: All I did was try to bring this up because I feel that it's a duplication of services. The County has one and you have one. The County is paying their people to do the same thing that this organization is doing. That's why I brought it up. But if you don't want to work with the County or even at least to sit down with them to find out what they can possibly do, I still think it's a waste of money. That's my opinion.

Mr. Wachter: The motion that is on the table right now is the motion to amend the agenda to add the question of whether to terminate the contract. So, I would say unless there are any other comments on whether to amend the agenda, now would be the time to call for a vote. A "Yes" vote would add the question of terminating the contract to the agenda. A "No" vote would not add the contract to the agenda to terminate the contract.

Mr. Winschel: I guess the only other comment I have, Dom, if we terminate that, then we have nothing going forward. Nothing.

Mr. DiPaolo: Well, we have the County available to us.

Mr. Winschel: But do we though?

Ms. Loll: Yeah, we do. I already did my homework.

Mr. Cleaver: Why are you getting the County involved with an Authority? That's like getting the City involved in an Authority. They're separate entities.

Mr. Barney: Correct. They are independent.

Mr. Cleaver: They are separate entities. We run our operation, and we run it good. Perry runs it well. I don't understand why we would do that. End of story.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Let's take a roll call vote. If you vote "Yes" on this, we're adding this discussion point to the agenda. If you vote "No", we're not adding it to the agenda.

Roll Call is taken and the motion to add the Parker Philips contract to the agenda fails, with Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Barney voting in the negative. Mr. Winschel gives his reason for his "No" vote after he votes.

Mr. Winschel: I'm going to vote "No", Dom, just because I would like to have them. I don't want to be naked here. I know you say the County, but this is a month-to-month so I would like to hear more about what they can do versus what the County can do. I'm going to vote "No".

Mr. Wachter: That vote was 4-3 to the negative, so the agenda is not amended.

Mr. Winschel: So, with that, can we have them come in?

Dr. Wood: Absolutely.

Mr. Winschel: Can we have both come in? I would like to see what Erie County can do. At least sit and talk to them.

Ms. Loll: I used them when I was on Council.

Mr. Winschel: So, they can make a commitment to the same thing?

Ms. Loll: Sure, they can. It's just compiling . . . would you look at that? (referring to the Annual Report in front of her) You compile the information, you put it on paper, and you make copies. That's all it is.

Mr. Winschel: I understand. But that's just one item. There's press conferences, press releases, etc.

# **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Resolution Number 9, 2023 – Resolution to renew the existing lease for the period of one
 (1) year

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver: And there was an increase, right?

Dr. Wood: There was a small increase.

Mr. Winschel: Ten percent.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to renew the lease. Ms. Hess seconds the motion.

Mr. Winschel: Are we going to try to change that before we vote on this because this actually says for one year. Are we going to try to amend that to have that end with our fiscal year of March 31<sup>st</sup>?

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: I see what you're asking and that's a great question. Why don't we go ahead and approve this, if you're okay with it, and I'll bring back an amendment adding the certain amount of time so that it starts in April of next year.

Mr. Winschel: Or should we just table this for a month until we get it for sure?

Dr. Wood: Yeah, we could do that. It's up to you.

Mr. Wachter: Another option, Perry, would be to approve it subject to a termination that coincides with our fiscal year.

Mr. Oberlander: Is that an advantage over tabling it?

Mr. Wachter: The matter is completed. That way, the authorization is only if you achieve that which you've asked for.

<u>Dr. Wood</u>: Mr. Cleaver could amend his motion to ask for that, if that makes sense.

Mr. Cleaver: I'll do that to add that comment in there.

Mr. Wachter: The motion is to approve the extension of the lease agreement contingent upon the termination date to coincide with our fiscal year.

Mr. Cleaver: Right.

Mr. Winschel: Yes.

Ms. Loll: So, what you're doing, in essence, is extending it for a year?

Mr. Wachter: It would be less than a year.

Mr. Barney: Yes, because it will end at the fiscal year and not go until the time stated.

Dr. Wood: Which would be March 31st.

Mr. Wachter: Kelly, would you amend your second?

Ms. Hess: Yes.

There are no other questions of the resolution. Motion carries 4-3, with Mr. DiPaolo, Ms. Loll, and Mr. Oberlander voting in the negative.

b. Resolution 10, 2023 – Resolution to accept the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the financial statements. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There are no other questions or discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

c. Resolution Number 11, 2023 – Resolution to adopt the 2022-23 Annual Report

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to adopt the report. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There are no questions or further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Barney: Before I ask for a motion to adjourn, I see we have Mr. Smith on the call and would like to give him the opportunity for comments at this time.

Mr. Smith: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for joining late. I just want to convey to the Board that our discussions with communities around the County regarding an ambulance authority are continuing well. I spoke with Deborah Thompson, our consultant, today and they are still conducting interviews with areas in the east. What we are finding is there is significant interest in this ambulance authority idea.

There is some concern in places about the County taking over ambulance, which is not what we want to do, but I understand the concern. It's a natural one, I think. When people even hear the word authority, sometimes, they curl in a lot of blanks. We're hearing those concerns and we're also finding through legal research that there are in fact five ambulance authorities now created in other parts of the state beside Lancaster, which is a positive note that they were created all under the same statute that we're looking at. So, an Emergency Services Authority is not something that in fact is new, it does exist, and it is in practice in other parts of the state.

We're also finding that where we had created these geographical areas that were created under the radio call system, that in fact we're seeing some movement where some of those geographical partners, I'll call them, might change just because of a number of factors. I also see that as positive because that means that people are in fact envisioning this concept in action and thinking about what would work best for their community. Even those who have expressed concern about – let me say it this way. That major concern seems to be about governance of any sort of ambulance authority and so they want to be involved, they want to participate, and that's the vision that we on the County side have.

I feel like there is in fact a lot of momentum going forward and we're going to continue that work. I appreciate your work, Board, and of course the ECGRA team as well. With that, I won't hold you up anymore. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Keep us posted and informed. Are there any questions for Mr. Smith? If there is nothing else, I do see where we have next month's Board meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing everyone then.

# <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 9:28 am.

# Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Profit & Loss July 2023

_	July	YTD	Budget YTD	2023-24 YTD
Ordinary Income/Expense	_		!	
Income			ļ	
44000 · ARPA Fund			ļ	
44800 · Gaming Revenue		300,245.10	į	
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue			i	
46400 · Other Types of Income			i	
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	43,803.29	172,545.60		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Growt	th	7,583.33	!	
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	1	
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct	3,250.00	6,500.00	ļ	
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive		6,319.44	<u>I</u>	
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway	904.89	904.89	į	
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT	2,556.00	5,112.00	i	
46510 · Interest Income - YLI	5,000.00	13,272.00	i	
Total Income	60,514.18	517,482.36	į	
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	4,188.44	32,582.28	24,232.00	72,700.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	2,745.00	6,282.49	8,000.00	24,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,040.80	4,923.04	7,900.00	23,700.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	4,867.60	21,790.88	18,700.00	56,100.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	26,474.71	84,727.70	114,300.00	342,900.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	45,913.74	124,564.98	133,332.00	4,000,000.00
			į	
Total Expense	85,230.29	274,871.37	306,464.00	4,519,400.00
Net Ordinary Income	(24,716.11)	242,610.99	i i	
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs			i	
70030 · Community Assets		249,272.00	İ	
70050 · Municipal Settlements		75,061.27	i	
70070 · Special Events		213,424.73	•	
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration			!	
70100 · Mission Main Street	50,000.00	50,000.00	1	
70120 · Summer Jobs Program			ļ	
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI			į	
70130 · Small Business Financing			İ	
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive			i	
70140 · Pilot Projects			i	
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow			:	
70170 · Renaissance Block	33,333.00	33,333.00	!	
70180 · Anchor Building			ļ	
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief			ļ	
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	83,333.00	621,091.00	 	
Net Other Income	(83,333.00)	(621,091.00)		
Net Income	(108,049.11)	(378,480.01)	;	

# Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2023

	July
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	336,926.38
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,239,350.00
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,166,516.89
10104 · ARPA Fund	2,058,906.47
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	10,676,598.73
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	17,141,372.09
Total Checking/Savings	17,478,298.47
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	9,320.96
Total Other Current Assets	6,271,544.96
Total Current Assets	23,749,843.43
TOTAL ASSETS	23,749,843.43
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
20100* · Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 · Unerarned 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	(378,480.01)
Total Equity	21,372,743.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,749,843.43

# Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Budget vs. Actual July 2023

134.15% 33.59% 33.30% 38.00% 23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65% 26.18%
33.59% 33.30% 38.00% 23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
33.59% 33.30% 38.00% 23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
33.59% 33.30% 38.00% 23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
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38.00% 23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
23.16% 44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
44.82% 15.75% 29.65%
15.75% 29.65%
29.65%
29.65%
26.18%
39.90%
41.36%
17.50%
21.04%
29.65%
12.72%
28.00%
5.83%
21.06%
0.00%
20.77%
50.00%
76.99%
53.89%
33.21%
0.00%
6.69%
38.84%
00.0170
24.16%
26.87%
0.00%
0.00%
33.50%
24.71%
19.75%
3.17%
25.15%
60.77%
108.84%

# **Schedule of Grant Reserve**

	July	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	3,166,516.89		
Committed Funds	1,239,350.00		
ARPA Funds	2,058,906.47		
2023 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement paymer	ato)		
	its)	000 045 40	
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		300,245.10	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue			000 045 40
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue	-		300,245.10
2023 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2021-2022	_		0.00
FY Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		557,111.92	
Second Quarter Disbursements	125,000.00	125,000.00	
Third Quarter Disbursements	120,000.00	120,000.00	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			682,111.92
	<u> </u>		,
	ments Detail		
<u>Grants/Settlements/MRIs</u>			
	July	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			
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Small Business Ecosystem			
Mission Main Street			
Downtown Girard	75,000.00	75,000.00	
			75,000.00
Renaissance Block			
Downtown Girard	50,000,00	50 000 00	
DOWINOWIT GITAIU	50,000.00	50,000.00	50 000 00
			50,000.00

# **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

# **Schedule of Grant Reserve**

as of July 31, 2023

•	a.y 0., 2020		
	July	YTD	Subtotal
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (cont)			
Erie County Investment Playbook			
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	
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
Parks, Fields, Trails			
Humane Society of NWPA		18,500.00	
			18,500.00

# **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Schedule of Grant Reserve**

July	YTD	Subtotal
Special Events		
Albion Area Fair, Inc.	12,707.00	
AmeriMasala	3,543.55	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	1,520.11	
Barber National Institute	17,683.00	
Borough of Edinboro	1,625.00	
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	
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	
Trationally / ignocitatal Occioty	12,040.00	

# **Schedule of Grant Reserve**

	July	YTD	Subtotal
Special Events (cont)			
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
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING Beehive Network			
Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More		7,143.92	
	-		7,143.92
Total Funds Disbursements	125,000.00	682,111.92	682,111.92

# **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Schedule of Grant Reserve**

	July 31,			
		July	Amount Remaining	Original Commitment
Commi	tted Funds:	_		
N&C	Renaissance Block 2018			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2022			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Downtown Girard	50,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Anchor Building			
	19 Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	20 Borough of Union City		15,000.00	64,375.00
	22 Christian Ministries		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Mission Main Street			
	1 City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	3 Waterford Borough		84,600.00	249,800.00
	Mission Main Street 2022			
	Downtown Girard	75,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
	Downtown North East		87,500.00	175,000.00
	Edinboro Community & Economic Development		62,500.00	125,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		125,000.00	125,000.00
MUN	Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
	21 Borough of North East		50,000.00	100,000.00
SB	Beehive Network			
	Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
	Small Business Ecosystem			
	Impact Corry		87,500.00	175,000.00
PP	Pilot Program			
Y&E	Shaping Tomorrow			
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
Total Cor	mmitted Funds	125,000.00	1,239,350.00	2,489,675.00
ARPA 1	Fransformative Funds			
	Subawards	41,667.00	1,864,272.18	3,622,025.00
	Contracted Services	0.00	172,165.20	273,274.00
	Salaries & Wages	3,815.68	12,404.81	93,406.00
	Indirect Costs	431.06	5,817.54	11,295.00
	_	45,913.74	2,054,659.73	4,000,000.00
Total ARI	PA Funds			

# Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Transaction List Detail

July 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
07/03/2023	EFT	VISA	2023 June Statement	-694.41
07/06/2023	EFT	Altair Real Estate	2023 June, July Rent	-3,050.00
07/07/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	06/17/2023 to 06/30/2023 Payroll	-9,717.21
07/07/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	06/16/2023 to 06/30/2023 Simple IRA	-250.00
07/07/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 6/30/2023	-737.48
07/07/2023	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2023 June Phone/IT	-915.02
07/17/2023	EFT	Highmark Health Insurance	2023 June, July Health Ins.	-8,967.86
07/17/2023	2940	Penn State	2023 ERIE Conference	-1,000.00
07/19/2023	EFT	Downtown Girard	2022 RB - Final Payment	-50,000.00
07/19/2023	EFT	Downtown Girard	2022 MMS - Final Payment	-75,000.00
07/19/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 07/14/2023	-737.48
07/19/2023	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2023 Legal - General	-1,101.60
07/19/2023	EFT	Parker Philips	2023 July	-3,000.00
07/19/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	07/01/2023 to 07/14/2023 Payroll	-9,717.20
07/19/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	07/01/2023 to 07/14/2023 Simple IRA	-250.00
07/19/2023	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2023 July Copier Lease	-345.95
07/21/2023	EFT	Uplift Foundation	Outreach	-1,500.00
07/31/2023	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00

**Account Summary** 

# BL ACCT 00100029-10000000 **ERIE COUNTY GAMING**

Account Number: #### #### ###-8643 Page 1 of 3



CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00

CASHBACK **PAYOUT DATE** 05/15/2024

\$694.41

Billing Cycle 06/09/2023 Days In Billing Cycle 30 Previous Balance \$2,872.20 Purchases \$707.96

Cash \$0.00 **Balance Transfers** \$0.00 Special \$0.00 Credits

\$77.63-**Payments** \$2,808.12-Other Charges \$0.00 **Finance Charges** \$0.00

**NEW BALANCE Credit Summary** 

> **Total Credit Line** \$40,000.00 Available Credit Line \$39,305.59 Available Cash \$39,305.59 Amount Over Credit Line \$0.00 Amount Past Due \$0.00 **Disputed Amount** \$0.00

SCOR=CARD

**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** 

\$694.41

MINIMUM PAYMENT

\$694.41

**PAYMENT DUE DATE** 

07/04/2023

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

Corporat	e Activity			
			TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY	\$2,808.12-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
06/02	06/02	1618370094	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$2,808.12-

# **Cardholder Account Summary**

TAMMI MICHALI Payments & Other Purchases & Other Cash Advances **Total Activity** #### #### #### 9468 Credits Charges \$77.63-\$707.96 \$0.00 \$630.33

**Cardholder Account Detail** Trans Date Post Date Plan Name

rans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description
05/16 05/21 05/25 05/29	05/16 05/22 05/28 05/31	PBUS01 PBUS01 PBUS01	CB000107 24692163141102892369946 24121573146000145250143 24789303150892802608029	SCORECARD CASHBACK RWRD STAMPS.COM 855-608-2677 TX KOLDROCK WATERS, INC. 000-0000000 GANNETT NEWSPRPR NE 888-8710686

00 PA 6 IN

\$64.08-\$21.19 postage \$9.00 0.5

\$65,00 gubscription

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

Amount

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

**Closing Date** 06/09/23

**New Balance** \$694.41

**Total Minimum** Payment Due \$694.41

**Payment Due Date** 07/04/23

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

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



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

<u>ինունգիրկանությիլին գիկուգոիվիկ դիուինի</u>

VISA PO BOX 4517 CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517 BL ACCT 00100029-10000000 **ERIE COUNTY GAMING** 

Account Number: #### #### 8643

Page 3 of 3

Trans Data	Dont Date	Diam M	il Continued		1897.547.A598.T00.5676
05/30 06/05 06/04 06/02	05/31 06/06 06/06 06/06	PBUS01 PBUS01	24801973151690135595373 24226383157400006754452 24164073156105003412853	SAMSCLUB #6675 ERIE PA	Amount \$498 00 membersh \$103.12 grant recup \$11.65 0.5. \$13.55-0.5. Credu

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!

CORECARD	RD Beginning Balance \$0.00		Current Earned \$0.00	CashBack Adjusted \$0 00		Ending Balance \$0 00		CashBack Payout Date		
Finance C	harge Summ	ary / Pla		Ormation	\$0,00	Dr.	1.00	05/1	5/2024	
Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM1	Average Daily Balance	Periodic	Corresponding	Finance	Effective APR		Ending	
Purchases			Duny Duidrice	Nate	APR	Charges	Fees **	APR	Balance	
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	Ε	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$694.4	
Cash CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.97916%(M)	11.7500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00	
* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily  ** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees  1 FCM = Finance Charge Method							Days in Bi APR = An	Days in Billing Cycle: 30 APR = Annual Percentage Rate		



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

# Tammi Michali

From: Mary Wassell <wassell@parkerphilips.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:00 AM

Cc: Kate Philips

Subject: RELEASE: Three Playbook Initiatives Gain Momentum, New Investments



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS\*\*\*NEWS

# Three Playbook Initiatives Gain Momentum, New Investments

Work Begins Efforts to Revitalize Erie's Eastside Community and Preserve Affordable Housing

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

**ERIE, PA (July 26, 2023)** – Infinite Erie, formed and funded by Erie Insurance, The Erie Community Foundation, and ECGRA, marked significant progress on three investment ready projects outlined in Erie's Investment Playbook.

In June, the Hamot Health Foundation and The Erie Community Foundation pledged \$15,000 to study the feasibility of the Burton School Project; the Erie County Land Bank was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to form the Cornerstone Community Land Trust (CCLT), and a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Grow Erie initiative to begin a generational transformation of Savocchio Opportunity Park.

"This is just the beginning," said Karen Bilowith, The Erie Community Foundation President & CEO. "Each of these initiatives is part of the Investment Playbook — place-based neighborhood strategies — to revitalize neighborhoods and increase equity across Erie County. By coordinating inclusive growth strategies, Infinite Erie is organized across public, private, and civic leadership to implement Erie's Investment Playbook."

Infinite Erie worked with the Erie County Landbank and members of the CCLT steering committee to secure \$400,000 in funding to form the CCLT, an initiative committed to creating and preserving affordable housing throughout Erie County. Money awarded through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) fund will be dedicated to increasing the supply of permanently affordable housing and reducing future potential gentrification of struggling neighborhoods.

Revitalization of the Burton School is another Infinite Erie Investment Playbook initiative designed to transform Erie's East Bayfront Neighborhood. Infinite Erie commends the Hamot Health Foundation and The Erie Community Foundation for funding a feasibility study of the Burton School Project. As a historic site, the Burton School can play a critical role in providing important services to Erie's neighborhoods. The school can serve as a hub for childcare, pre-K, and workforce development while stimulating the economy by creating jobs and increasing foot traffic.

"Investment in the historic Burton School is vital to transforming a neighborhood plagued by violence and tragedy. With 50% of our population age 18 and under, the highest in the city, bringing the building back to life as a neighborhood hub of education will work to rebuild hope and aspiration among not just our youth but all residents," said Gary Horton, founder and CEO of the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, which made an offer to purchase the building in February of 2023. "The project is in line with the City of Erie's Comprehensive Plan, Infinite Erie, and the strategic plan of the Eastside Grassroots Coalition. When combined with other projects, like the revitalization of Rodger Young Park and the development of Savocchio Opportunity Park, the Burton project will have a profound impact on the transformation of the Buffalo Road corridor, an area that the private sector has historically neglected."

The revitalization of the Savocchio Opportunity Park was celebrated at the June 15 groundbreaking of the Grow Erie project. An equitable economic development project establishing controlled environment agriculture, the project marks the end of a 15-year effort to revitalize the park and the beginning of a generational transformation of the space. Initially working with Cornell University's Engineers without Borders, who surveyed residents that identified access to land and urban agriculture as a priority, and partnering with the Erie County Redevelopment Authority (ECRDA) and Integrated Agriculture Systems (INTAG), Grow Erie is a public-private collaboration that merges cutting-edge research, technology, and agriculture science with marketplace expertise to produce local goods, create meaningful jobs, and revitalize a long-vacant lot.

"As a key project of Erie's Investment Playbook, Grow Erie will work to transform the East Erie neighborhood through long-term, sustainable, and equitable growth — exactly what the Playbook was intended for," said Kim Thomas, executive director of Infinite Erie. "By ensuring ongoing collaboration between local residents, community leaders, and funders, Grow Erie is transforming Erie by putting plans into action."

MCIC's Grow Erie project was also the first recipient of the Infinite Erie's Community Impact Fund, which The Erie Community Foundation has already committed \$5 million to. The Grow Erie project, which received \$500,000, directly aligns with what the fund's mission is all about — working to advance progress in Erie County and close the social, economic, and racial inequities.

Collectively, these projects will move the Infinite Erie Investment Playbook forward by focusing on place-based neighborhood initiatives. The CCLT project will increase home ownership, reduce blight, repair housing across the affordability spectrum, and allow BIPOC residents to benefit from the construction boom. Public and private funding can revitalize neighborhoods by reviving commercial corridors, like the Savocchio Opportunity Park, and anchor properties, like the Burton School, ultimately bringing about generational change and increasing equity throughout Erie.

### **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, Infinite Erie 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. Erie Action Team members include: The 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).

###



# **July 2023**

Meeting with Executive Director

**Ongoing Social Media Management** 

**Ongoing Consulting** 

**July Comms** 

# **IMPLEMENTED**

14 Total July posts 10 Total graphics created Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director 2022–23 Annual Report

# IN PROGRESS | 2023 Grant Releases and Graphics

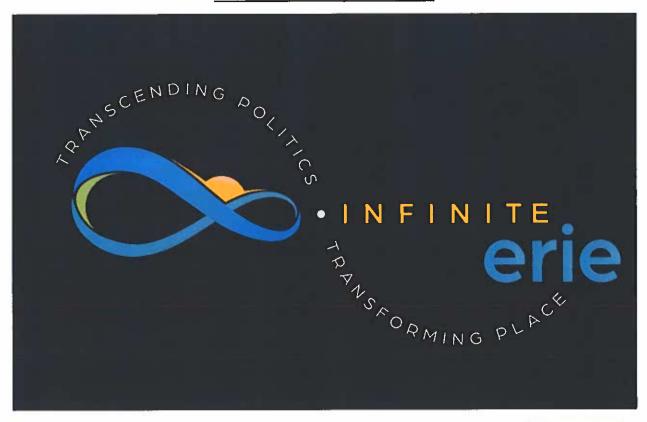
Holiday Graphics 2022–23 Annual Report Graphics

# IN PLANNING

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report ECGRA Playbook Roadshow Tours



# View this email in your browser



# **INFINITE PROGRESS**

By coordinating inclusive growth strategies to deliver transformative change, <a href="Infinite Erie">Infinite Erie</a> has begun the hard work to implement <a href="Erie">Erie's Investment</a> <a href="Playbook">Playbook</a> and position Erie to attract and secure more public and private sector funding than like-size regions.

Recently, Infinite Erie marked significant progress on **three investment-ready projects** outlined in the Investment Playbook.

- In June, the Hamot Health Foundation and The Erie Community
  Foundation pledged \$15,000 to study the feasibility of the Burton School
  Project.
- The Erie County Land Bank was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to form the Cornerstone CommunityLand Trust (CCLT).
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held for Minority Community Investment Coalition's (MCIC) Grow Erie project to begin a generational transformation of Savocchio Opportunity Park.

Through key collaboration, these place-based neighborhood initiatives will move the Playbook forward by revitalizing neighborhoods and increasing equity across Erie County.

Learn more about these projects that are working to revitalize Erie's Eastside community and preserve affordable housing <a href="https://example.com/here.">here</a>.

#InfiniteProgress

**Burton School** 

Cornerstone Community Land Trust

**Grow Erie** 



**ERIE'S INVESTMENT PLAYBOOK** 

### BROADBAND INITIATIVE

TAKE ERIE COUNY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Big things are happening that can help Erie County define its future — and one of those key initiatives is broadband expansion in underserved and unserved areas. Excellent and accessible broadband is a necessity that impacts nearly every

aspect of life. Currently, Pennsylvania is developing plans to expand broadband availability and address digital needs and is expected to receive substantial federal funding for the purposes of broadband expansion, adoption, and literacy.

Last month, Infinite Erie hosted the Internet For All: Connecting the Commonwealth with thePennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), in partnership with VNET and the Jefferson Educational Society, where Erie County community members had the opportunity to voice their opinion on their Internet experiences to help the PBDA with their broadband action plan to equitably close the digital divide.

If you were unable to make the meeting, you can still provide feedback through a survey. Your participation is essential to supporting our collective interests in fast, reliable high-speed internet service for everyone.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY

# APPLY TO BE AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY CORPS FELLOW

In partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration and International Economic Development Council, the Economic Recovery Corps is seeking 65 fellows.

Fellows will have infinite opportunity to serve as catalysts, working in partnership with local leaders and communities to activate economic development strategies that drive innovation, sustainable growth, and build long-term resilience.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE

# Transform Economic Recovery

APPLY TO BE AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY CORPS FELLOW

**Applications Due By August 15!** 

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





### IN THE NEWS

Infinite Erie has been making headlines. Please take a moment to read these insightful articles and insights to learn more about the collaborative efforts that are driving Erie's economic and community development.

**ERIE NEWS NOW** 

**WJET 24** 

\*\*HAMOT HEALTH

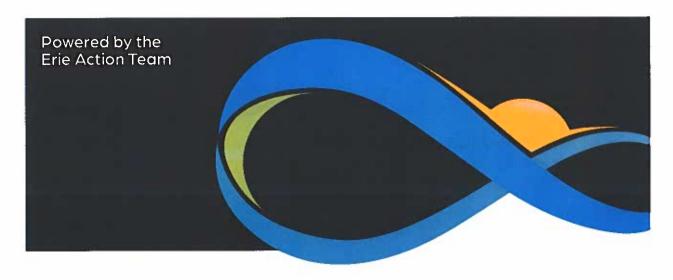
FOUNDATION: THE INSIDER

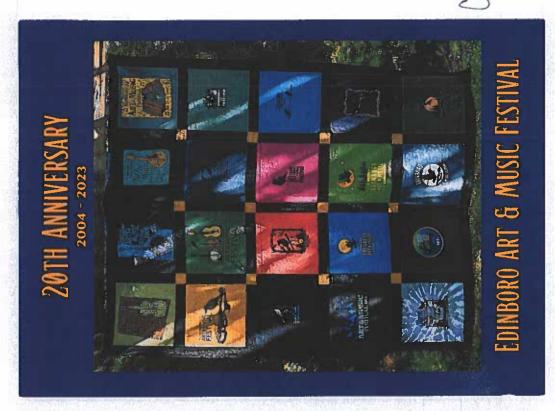
\*\*Infinite Erie's Permanent Supportive Housing initiative discussed beginning at 18:27.

### LIKE, FOLLOW, SHARE

Infinite Erie transcends politics to transform place. Through the collaboration and coordination of inclusive growth strategies, the Erie Action Team will put Infinite Erie plans into action to serve as a catalyst for equitable and inclusive growth to deliver transformative change.

Our social media pages are filled with resources, information on the 35 projects, and shareable graphics. Please like, follow, and share our posts to help spread the word.







A gracious THANK YOU for your support of the Edinboro Art & Music Festival. Whether it was time, money, expertise, goods, or services - your generous contributions help to make this event a success - we are most grateful and appreciative!

CR enexultator

**⊕ EAMF** 



### **UNION CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Union City Police Department 13 South Main St. Union City, PA 16438 814-438-3441 secretary@ucpolice.us

August 8, 2023

ECGRA 5340 Fryling Road Erie Pa 16510

We would like to thank you for your donation to our National Night Out event. Contributions like this help make the evening a huge success. It brings us great joy seeing the community come together with events like these. This year we had different activities and tables set up to provide information concerning safety, we had over 250 people in attendance. We were also able to give away 10 Bikes & many other prizes along with food and a beverage.

Again, we want to thank you for your support in this event & our department. We look forward to working with you again!

Sincerely, Union City Police Department

Thursc = y, June 29, 2023

# Impact Corry receives \$175K, sets priorities for completing projects



Chuck Gray, executive director of Impact Corry, laughs with others during an award ceremony on Tuesday in Erie

# BY CHLOE FORBES

chloe@thecomyjoumal.com

Impact Corry is focused on fostering entrepreneurial values with a new grant from the Erie County Gam-Revenue Authority

The grant, which is part of the Building a Better Fufrom the Coronavirus State ture program, comes from funds Erie County received and Local Fiscal Recovery (ECGRA) totaling \$175,000. Fund.

"ECGRA has been dedi-

cated to supporting small nouncement is the next big step toward that goal." said Dr. Perry Wood, executive director of ECGRA, during an awards ceremony on Tuesday. "Today's anbusinesses in rural areas,'

See Priorities, P.2

# **Priorities**

(Continued from front page)

Bridgeway Capital got 0,000; Erie's Black Wall Street, \$48,000; Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, \$57,750; and U.S. Committee for Refuges and Immigrants, Along with Impact Cor-\$150,000

grant for its Increasing Rural Businesses through Erie County project. Charles Gray, Corry, explained that while the plan focuses on building Impact Corry received the executive director of Impact rural businesses, it can be broken into two parts.

this grant funding to bring linny Peyronnel on board as Impact Corry was able to use ability to work successfully. an "economic gardener." The first is viability

Peyronnel will meet with sustain it. The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership will accompany him 144 local businesses a year to find their strengths, challengthem with the resources they need to be successful and es and goals, then connect on those visits.

The purpose is to nurture and mentor businesses that already exist.

ward and pulling people in, we're focused on the busi-"Rather than growing outnesses here in Corry," Gray She mentioned that out of the 15 businesses Peyronnel has connected with so far,

taining a website or establishence, whether through main-

ing a social media presence. With this grant, Impact partnership with Corry High-er Education Council to hold Corry is planning to utilize its small workshops that help those business owners to revamp their web presence.

ees, not looking to what social for the day, so it's crucial to Gray said businesses are often focused on keeping the media post they can put up lights on and paying employhave those resources.

The other part of the plan is are prominent in the public visibility. That means making sure Corry's rural businesses

in photographers and writers way, when people visit Erie County, they can extend their stay by easily locating things Impact Corry plans to bring to document all the assets in the area and build out a web stop-shop tourism hub. That portal that will act as a oneto do outside the city.

This project comes as a line of others hangs in the balance. Gray said that her top prion funding. So far, projects Impact Corry completed in-clude: Listing Downtown Corry as a historic district on development for Corry Rails naissance Block grants to reorities right now are based the national registry; brand + Trail and Corry Greenway unction Trail; invested in Revive over 42 homes; plans for North Hills Municipal Golf Course, Pl.AN Corry

The projects she said she needs to focus on now are the Corry Area Technology Conter and Hub (CATCH) facility, fiber optic internet roll-out, Renaissance Block funding, changes to Corry City ark and working jointly with

the Hi-Ed. While she expresses gratitude for her team so far, she said they need help.

to grow to be able to move all the projects as quickly as "Things could move more quickly, but until we solve the capacity issue, "We know that we need they need to move," Gray we'll just have to keep task switching. Our ambition has brought a lot in, and now we need the capacity to deliver

on everything." She said she'll be cutting back on fundraising efforts so she can focus on projects like CATCH and Renaissance Block grants, but she's worried at what cost it will come.

won't have any grants in the pipeline, and we'll have to plementation exclusively, we "We need to expand because if I have to focus on imstart all over again," she said. She said Impact Corry will come to a point where

nity for that support. In the plans to draw on the commuinterim, she thanked the Corry Redevelopment Authority or paying for Deb Thompson of Strategy Solutions to work

"She's working with us to find a way forward and build that capacity," Gray said. with Impact Corry.

for the

Thursday, July 20, 2023

# Museum sees improvements thanks to ECGRA grants

chloe@thecorryjournal.com BY CHLOE FORBES

As its artifacts age, so does

the building that houses torical Society. That's why the them at the Corry Area Hissociety's museum is having some work done.

was awarded a total of \$2,000 through a grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). The grant is In the spring, the museum through Erie Yesterday, a collaborative effort across local museums in Erie County.

way to the museum near the parking lot and enhance its There was a slight delay in the museum is rearing to get started. The funding will help to improve the entrancereceiving the funds, but now facade.

way will make it safer and more inviting to guests," said Ann Clark, president of the historical society. She said in the winter due to the ice it will be especially helpful "Improving the entrancebuildup on the entrance.

This comes as the museum just completed a project to repair its siding.

ly rotted.

replaced.

In 1991, an addition was

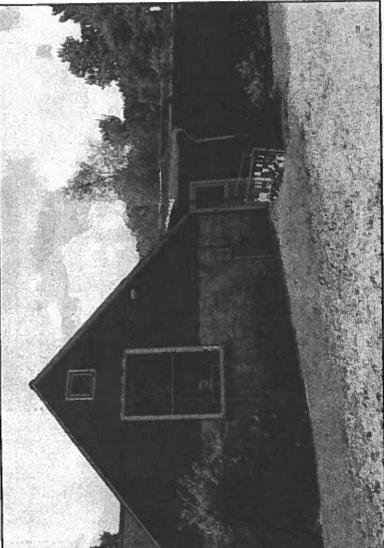
The lower section around the building has now been siding on the addition had deteriorated and was partial-

After the entryway is reprovements to the building.

With the ECGRA grant the museum has a year to complete the project. With the delay in distributing funds, Clark said she's unsure when

ends, but she said it's all the same nonetheless because the society is going to move as quickly as possible on the exactly that year starts and

"We hope to have it done way before the deadline," she



Rebekah Wallace/The Corry Journal

made thanks to a \$2,000 ECGRA grant through an Erie Yesterday program. done, the museum has plans to work on even more imconstructed connecting the pole barn to the central museum building. The wood

A view of Corry Area Historical Museum's main entrance and parking lot show where improvements will be



Timothy S. Wachter, Esq. twachter@kmgslaw.com

July 19, 2023

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

RE: ECGRA Funding

Dear Dr. Wood:

The Erie Times News recently published an article, on May 2, 2023, entitled *County Council approves casino gaming revenue to fund EMS grant program*<sup>1</sup>. In the article, it is reported that "Erie County receives roughly \$11 million in revenue each year from Presque Isle Downs & Casino. Of that \$11 million, \$5.5 million goes to county government, \$1 million goes to the Land Bank and the remaining \$4.5 million foes to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority." Later in the article, however, the County Director of Finance, Paul Lichtenwalter was reported to have noted to County Council that "the annual \$11 million figure is now closer to \$14 million as a result of the increased patronage at the casino." As a result of this statement, you asked that I investigate the amount of gaming funds received by the County and whether the gaming funds are being properly distributed. This correspondence replaces the opinion dated July 11, 2023, which is hereby rescinded.

Erie County receives five (5) distributions of gaming funds on an annual basis from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. These distributions include quarterly distributions of the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenue, Interactive Gaming Funds and the Slot Machine License Operation Fee, and one additional distribution of Interactive Gaming Funds.

Upon receipt of the funds, Erie County allocates all of the funds between the Erie County Land Bank, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority ("ECGRA") and the County itself. Upon receipt of the first quarter distribution, Erie County takes half of the gross distribution and allocates it to the Land Bank, and then allocates 55% of the remainder to the County and 45% to ECGRA. The County takes the necessary amount from the second quarter gross allocation to ensure the Land Bank receives \$1 million in funding, and then allocates 55% of the remainder to the County and 45% to ECGRA. In the third and fourth quarter, the County allocates the receipts such that the County receives 55% of the distributions and ECGRA receives 45% of the distributions. At some point between the second and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A.J. Rao, County Council approves casino gaming revenue to fund EMS grant program, Erie Times News, May 2, 2023

third quarter distributions, the County receives a separate distribution which is limited to the receipt of Interactive Gaming Funds (I Gaming Funds), which is also distributed using the 55%/45% allocation.

The 55%/45% allocation was started by the County at the time that the Horse Race Development and Gaming Act (the "Gaming Act") was amended to require the distribution of \$1 million from ECGRA's share of the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenue to the Erie County Land Bank. 4 Pa.C.S. §1403(c)(2)(ii)(D)-(D.1). The argument provided by the County was that the allocation was necessary to reflect that the \$1 million was to come specifically from ECGRA's share of the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues, and was not to impact the County's receipts.

The question that has been posed as a result of this review is whether the 55%/45% split remains appropriate, and whether ECGRA is receiving the statutorily required share of gross Gaming Funds. Prior to preparing this opinion, I reviewed the allocations from 2022, which are reflected in Exhibit A. The table provides that \$14,371,955.98 of gross Gaming Funds was received by the County, and was ultimately distributed such that the County received \$7,354,575.80, ECGRA received \$6,017,380.18 and the Land Bank received \$1 million. After subtracting the \$1 million distributed to the Land Bank from ECGRA's gross share, the distributions to the County and ECGRA comply with the 55%/45% split methodology. As is discussed below, the 55%/45% allocation is close to resulting in a statutorily compliant distribution of gross Gaming Funds, but an annual true up should occur to ensure an appropriate distribution.

To understand this opinion, it is necessary to review each of the three implicated funding streams, including the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenue, I Gaming and the Slot Machine License Operation Fee. Each will be examined separately below.

### LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT FROM GROSS TERMINAL REVENUE

The Gaming Act provides that licensed facilities are subject to a Slot Machine Tax, which is a "daily tax of 34% from its daily gross terminal revenue from the slot machines in operation at its facility and a local share assessment as provided in subsection (c)." 4 Pa.C.S. §1403(b). The definition of Gross Terminal Revenue provides that it is "the total of cash or cash equivalent waters received by a slot machine" minus various expenditures, and "cash received as entry fees for slot machine contests or slot machine tournaments." 4 Pa.C.S. §1103. Accordingly, the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues is derived solely from the wagers made at slot machines.

The Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues is distributed by the Department of Revenue to the County on a quarterly basis in accordance with the below schedule, as "the licensed facility is a category 1 licensed facility [] located at a thoroughbred racetrack and the county in which the licensed facility is located is:

**(D)** A county of the third class which is also a home rule county: 1% of the gross terminal revenue to the county hosting the licensed facility from each such licensed facility. An additional 1% of the gross terminal revenue minus the amount contained in clause (D.1) to the county hosting the

licensed facility from each such licensed facility for the purpose of municipal grants within the county in which the licensee is located.

**(D.1)** \$1,000,000 of the gross terminal revenue annually to a land bank jurisdiction established by a county of the third class which is also a home rule county. Until a land bank jurisdiction is established by a county of the third class which is also a home rule county after the effective date of this subclause, \$1,000,000 to the county redevelopment authority. (emphasis supplied).

4 Pa.C.S. §1403(c)(2)(ii)(D)-(D.1).

Accordingly, the funds that are to be distributed to the Land Bank are to be taken from the Local Share of the Gross Terminal Revenue that would otherwise be allocated to ECGRA.

Of the 34% Slot Machine Tax assessed upon the daily wagers made on slot machines in Erie County, 2% is to be distributed to Erie County as the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues. Half of the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues received is to be distributed to Erie County as Unrestricted Funds. Of the second half of the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues, \$1 million is to be distributed to the Land Bank, and the remainder is to go to ECGRA for the purpose of making municipal grants, also known as "Restricted Funds" and for the distribution of Unrestricted Uncommitted Funds<sup>2</sup>.

### **INTERACTIVE GAMING FUNDS**

The Gaming Act was amended through Act 42 of 2017 ("Act 42") to permit Interactive Gaming in Pennsylvania. 4 Pa.C.S.A §§ 13b01 *et seq.* "Interactive gaming" can be summarized as internet

(v) Unless otherwise specified, for the purposes of this paragraph money designated for municipal grants within a county, other than a county of the first class, in which a licensed facility is located shall be used to fund grants to the municipality in which the licensed facility is located and to the municipalities which are contiguous to the municipality in which the licensed facility is located and which are located within the county in which the licensed facility is located. Grants shall be administered by the county through its economic development or redevelopment authority in which the licensed facility is located. Grants shall be used to fund the costs of human services, infrastructure improvements, facilities, emergency services, health and public safety expenses associated with licensed facility operations. If at the end of a fiscal year uncommitted funds exist, the county shall pay to the economic development or redevelopment authority of the county in which the licensed facility is located the uncommitted funds.

4 Pa.C.S. §1403(c)(2)(v).

Pursuant to the December 13, 2010 Settlement Agreement, which is more fully described in prior correspondence, ECGRA is Erie County's economic development authority tasked with the distribution of municipal grants, known as the Restricted Funds, and the distribution of the uncommitted funds at the end of each fiscal year (the "Unrestricted Uncommitted Funds") in accordance with the Economic Development Financing Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regarding the municipal grants, the Gaming Act provides:

based gambling<sup>3</sup>. Act 42 also implemented an Interactive Gaming Tax, levying a tax on the "daily gross interactive gaming revenue" of "each interactive gaming certificate holder that conducts interactive gaming." 4 Pa.C.S.A §13B52. Ten percent of the Interactive Gaming Tax is to be deposited with the State Treasury to distribute to counties that experience a reduction in Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues as compared to the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The intent of the Interactive Gaming Tax is to provide for a "true up" from the reduction in Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues which presumably was caused by to the adoption of Interactive Gaming. 4 Pa.C.S.A §13B52(D)(2)(ii)(A). This true up is seen as the payment received between the second and third quarters in 2022.

Additionally, Act 42 creates a Local Share Assessment from Interactive Gaming Revenues. 4 Pa.C.S.A §13B53. The Local Share Assessment from Interactive Gaming Revenues is calculated as 2% of the interactive gaming certificate holder's daily gross interactive gaming revenue, half of which is to be distributed to the Commonwealth Financing Authority, and the other half to county's hosting licensed facilities which is to be distributed in accordance with section 1403(c)(2) of the Gaming Act, which is the provision relating to the distribution of Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues.

Accordingly, the Interactive Gaming Funds distributed to Erie County include both the Interactive Gaming Tax Revenues as well as the Local Share Assessment from Interactive Gaming Revenues. These funds are derived specifically from the wagers made through interactive gaming and are to be distributed through the same model used for the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Interactive Game and Interactive Gaming are defined by the Act as follows:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Interactive game." Any gambling game offered through the use of communications technology that allows a person, utilizing money, checks, electronic checks, electronic transfers of money, credit cards or any other instrumentality to transmit electronic information to assist in the placement of a bet or wager and corresponding information related to the display of the game, game outcomes or other similar information. The term shall not include:

<sup>(1)</sup> A lottery game or Internet instant game as defined in the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L. 351, No. 91), known as the State Lottery Law.

<sup>(2)</sup> iLottery under Chapter 5 (relating to lottery).

<sup>(3)</sup> A nongambling game that does not otherwise require a license under the laws of this Commonwealth.

<sup>(4)</sup> A fantasy contest under Chapter 3 (relating to fantasy contests).

<sup>&</sup>quot;Interactive gaming." The placing of wagers with an interactive gaming certificate holder or interactive gaming operator using a computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks through which an interactive gaming certificate holder may offer authorized interactive games to registered players. The term shall include the placing of wagers through the use of a multi-use computing device.

### **SLOT MACHINE LICENSE OPERATION FEES**

Act 42 of 2017 also created an annual Slot Machine License Operation Fee on each Category 1 licensed gaming entity in the County, which includes the Casino in Erie County. 4 Pa.C.S. §1326.1(a). The Casino is located in Summit Township, which is a Township of the Second Class. The Slot Machine License Operation Fee is to be distributed in accordance with section 1403(c)(3) and (4)<sup>4</sup>. 4 Pa.C.S. §1326.1(e).

The slot machine license is the "license issued by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board authorizing a person to place and operate slot machines..." in accordance with the Gaming Act. 4 Pa.C.S. §1103. The Slot Machine License Operation Fee is distinct from the Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues as the former is a fee assessed as a result of holding a slot machine license, and the latter is assessed as a result of the wagers made at slot machines on a daily basis.

A \$10,000,000 Slot Machine License Operation Fee is required to be distributed to Summit Township, subject to a budgetary limitation. 4 Pa.C.S. \$1403(c)(3)(v)(A). The budgetary limitation is that Summit may not receive more than 50% of their total budget for fiscal year 2003-2004, as adjusted by inflation. <u>Id.</u> "Any remaining money shall be distributed in accordance with paragraph (2) based upon the classification of county where the licensed facility is located." <u>Id.</u> The reference to "paragraph (2) based upon the classification of county where the licensed facility is located" is a reference to section 1403(c)(2) of the Gaming Act. Thus, the same model used for the distribution of Local Share Assessment from Gross Terminal Revenues is to be used for the Slot Machine License Operation Fee.

### APPLICATION TO 2022 FUNDING EXPERIENCE

A review of Exhibit A will show that the gross 2022 Gaming Funds equated to \$14,371,955.98, which is made up of \$4,002,853.99 of I Gaming, \$1,888,058.99 of Local Share Assessment of Gross Terminal Revenues, and \$8,481,043 of Slot Machine License Operation Fees. The Gaming Act provides that \$1,000,000 of the Local Share Assessment of Gross Terminal Revenues that would otherwise be applied to ECGRA is to be distributed to the Land Bank Authority. However, only \$1,888,058.99 of Local Share Assessment of Gross Terminal Revenues was received, meaning that half of that, or only \$944,029.50 would be allocated to ECGRA. That amount is insufficient to meet the \$1 million distribution to the Land Bank. The difference is then made up by the true up payment from the Interactive Gaming Revenues, which was intended to make up for the loss in Local Share Assessment of Gross Terminal Revenues experienced due to the impact of Interactive Gaming. As there was over \$4 million in Interactive Gaming Revenues distributed to Erie County, there was sufficient funding to ensure payment to the Land Bank.

The 55%/45% split used by the County to distribute the gross Gaming Funds was established as a mathematical means to ensure that the County's portion of the Local Share Assessment of Gross

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Section 1403(c)(4) is not applicable to this discussion as it only pertains to counties and cities of the first class, e.g. Philadelphia.

Dr. Perry N. Wood July 19, 2023 Page 6

Terminal Revenues and Interactive Gaming Revenues was not impacted by the \$1 million distribution to the Land Bank. However, the 55%/45% split is applied to the entirety of the Interactive Gaming Revenues and the entirety of the nearly \$8.5 million of Slot Machine License Operation Fees received. As only a small amount of the Interactive Gaming Revenues are needed to fund the Land Bank Allocation, and only a 50% split should be applied to the Slot Machine License Operation Fee, the allocation has resulted in an over funding of the County in 2022.

Exhibit A shows that in 2022, \$7,354,575,80 was distributed to Erie County, and \$6,017,380.18 was distributed to ECGRA. The intent of the 55%/45% split was to ensure that Erie County was not impacted by the \$1 million distribution to the Land Bank, which should ensure that the County receives only \$1 million more than ECGRA. However, in 2022, Erie County received \$337,195.60 more than ECGRA. In order to ensure that ECGRA and the County receive the proper amount of funding each year, a true up should occur at the end of the year. If a true up was conducted at the end of 2022, then Erie County would have cut a check to ECGRA in the amount of \$168.597.80.

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL & SENNETT, P.C.

Timothy S. Wachter

# 2445394.v1

Enclosure

### Exhibit A 2022 Gaming Funds Distribution

		Erie County Distr. (total	ECGRA Dist (Total *.45 -
	Total	*.55)	Landbank)
2022 Q1	\$1,456,700.29	\$400,592.58	\$327,757.56
I Gaming	\$34,403.54		
Local Share	\$441,253.75		
Slot Machine Lic.			
Fee	\$981,043.00		
2022 Q2	\$3,011,719.05	\$1,507,038.06	\$1,233,031.14
I Gaming	\$17,520.14		
Local Share	\$494,198.91		
Slot Machine Lic.			
Fee	\$2,500,000.00		
Igaming True Up	\$3,928,544.92	\$2,160,699.71	\$1,767,845.21
		4	4
2022 Q3	\$3,029,084.91	\$1,665,996.70	\$1,363,088.21
I Gaming	\$15,374.87		
Local Share	\$513,710.04		
Slot Machine Lic. Fee	\$2,500,000.00		
166	\$2,500,000.00		
2022 Q4	¢2.04E.006.91	¢1 620 249 7E	¢1 225 659 06
•	\$2,945,906.81 \$7,010.52	\$1,620,248.75	\$1,525,056.00
I Gaming Local Share	• •		
Slot Machine Lic.	\$438,896.29		
Fee	\$2,500,000.00		
	, ,		
Grand Total	\$14,371,955.98	\$7,354,575.80	\$6,017,380.18
I Gaming Total	\$4,002,853.99		- , ,
Local Share Total	\$1,888,058.99		
Slot Machine Lic.			
Op. Fee Total	\$8,481,043.00		

### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 12, 2023**

## Resolution to enter into agreement with four (4) entities as the recipients of the 2023 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant

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

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

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

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

Whereas, the four (4) recipients are identified as the following applicants: Girard Township, Harborcreek Township, Jefferson Educational Society, and Multi-Municipal Emergency Services Commission;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$253,500 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with four (4) recipients of the Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the

region and continue to improv Erie County.	ve upon local government on behalf of the people of
On the motion of	, seconded by
This resolution was passed on	the 17 <sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023 by a vote of
	ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY
	Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
	August 17, 2023
ATTEST:	
Secretary, ECGRA	

# **¥ECGRA**2023 Multi-Municipal Collaboration

Lead Organization	Collaborators		mount varded	Project Description		
Round 1						
Girard Township	Elk Creek, Franklin, McKean, Springfield Townships; Albion and Cranesville Boroughs	\$	21,000	West County Recycling Group 2023 Clean- Up Day		
Harborcreek Township	Brookside Fire Company, Fairfield Hse Company, Harborcreek Fire Department	\$	34,000	Harborcreek Township Emergency Response Team Program		
Jefferson Educational Society	Millcreek Township, Harborcreek Township, City of Corry	\$	98,500	Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress (JACP)		
Multi-Municipal Emergency Services Commission	Albion Borough, Cranesville Borough, Conneaut Township, Elk Creek Township	\$	100,000	Ambulance Replacement		
	Total Requested	\$	253,500			

### **RESOLUTION NUMBER 13, 2023**

# Resolution to enter into agreements with four (4) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2023 Renaissance Block Program

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

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of reinvigorating neighborhoods and main corridors, combatting blight, and maintaining a strong housing market; and

Whereas, ECGRA seeks to use gaming funds as a catalyst to address and reverse housing blight in Erie County;

Whereas, ECGRA believes that community efforts to remove housing blight and reverse deterioration will incentivize and spur private investment, make neighborhoods and communities more walkable, safe and attractive, increase market values of homes, and improve the municipal tax base; and

Whereas, the four (4) recipients are identified as the following primary applicants: Bayfront Eastside Taskforce, Borough of Edinboro, Borough of Union City, and Impact Corry;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$350,000 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with four (4) recipients of the Renaissance Block Program so the communities served may flourish, create an economic impact on the region and continue to improve upon local neighborhoods on behalf of the people of Erie County.

On the motion of	, seconded by
This resolution was passed or	the 17 <sup>th</sup> day of August 2023 by a vote of
	ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY
	Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
	August 17, 2023
ATTEST:	
Secretary, ECGRA	



Organization	Representative	Project	Amount Requested
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce	Jeremy Bloeser	Historic East Bayfront Renaissance 2.0	\$50,000.00
Borough of Edinboro	Jason Spangenberg	Edinboro Renaissance Block Program	\$100,000.00
Borough of Union City	Cindy Wells	Renaissance Grant 2023-2024	\$100,000.00
		Renaissance Block Round 4 - Restore the	
Impact Corry	Charles Gray	Core	\$100,000.00
		Total Requests	\$350,000.00