



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
February 15, 2024
8:30am

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87093515327>

Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An Executive Session for purposes of Personnel was held on 1/23/24 at the office of Knox Law Firm at 120 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2024

6. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

7. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Cindy Wells – Borough of Union City
- b. Kelly Stolar – Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
- c. Ray Luniewski – Lake Erie Fanfare, German Heritage Festival
- d. Mark Tanenbaum – Performing Artists Collective Alliance

9. PRESENTATION

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Financial Statements
 - ii. 2024-2025 DRAFT Budget Review
- b. Strategic Planning Committee
- c. Update from County Council
- d. Update from County Executive's Office

11. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

13. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Executive Director Employment Agreement – Resolution Number 4, 2024

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510; Board Room
ZOOM meeting – details to follow



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

January 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on January 18, 2024 in the Board Room; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 8:33 am.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Amatangelo, Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Loll, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. Ms. Hess is present via zoom. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person. Guests in the audience include County Executive Davis, Councilman Bayle, Councilwoman Shauerman, and Chris Carroll.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion.

Mr. Winschel: Can we have some discussion on that?

Mr. Barney: Sure.

Mr. Winschel: I just want to ask Tim a question. On the agenda, I know that recent changes were made. On Friday, we received the original agenda, which is great because we never got the agenda until late, so that was great. When I was reviewing it over the weekend, and I saw that the agenda item was for the contract, I scrolled down and I didn't see the contract on the email from Friday. So, I did reach out to Tammi over the weekend and she forwarded it to me; I don't know if she forwarded it to the other Board members or not. But, on there was the contract. That was Tuesday which is plenty of time, 48 hours roughly – more than 24 less than 48, right – and the contract was the same contract, we'll talk more about that later I'm sure, the same contract that a year ago, Tim, you had sent out with the things. It had the wrong dates on there because it was from earlier, but . . . so then yesterday about noon or so, an email came out, "Hey, I inadvertently sent out the wrong contract; here's the current one." Okay. If it was just the dates that would be one thing. But the term of the

contract went from four years to five years. So, I know with the recent things about 24 hours, the agenda per se item never changed, but the attachment had changed on that, right. In the spirit of the law that this change, it's clearly, it's de minimis, but it's not; it's linked to a contract so it's not. So, I just wanted to ask you your opinion. The agenda technically didn't change, but the component of that agenda which I would consider changed pretty substantially.

Mr. Wachter: The Sunshine Law obligation is that the agenda be posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting for the purpose of giving the public notice of what it is that is going to be discussed.

Mr. Winschel: Correct.

Mr. Wachter: The actual details of the documentation could be delivered at the meeting. The backup documentation, the supporting documentation to the Board members, under the Sunshine Law, could be delivered at the meeting. There is no requirement for any time period relative to that.

Mr. Winschel: So, things to be discussed could be changed right up to the minute or during the meeting itself as long as the agenda item . . .

Mr. Wachter: As long as the agenda item is there. The recommendation is to not put what specific motion is or which direction things are anticipated to go in terms of agenda items because if you were to do that, then the argument could be that you'd be locked into going that direction and it would take the discretion away from the Board. So, you don't want to have a motion to approve "x, y, z" listed there. Instead, what you do there, is you list the actual subject that is to be discussed and then under the Sunshine Law, you're able to go in whichever direction you want with that item.

Ms. Loll: So, you're saying us Board members might have to wait until the last minute to . . .

Mr. Wachter: I'm saying that it's not a Sunshine Law issue. Legally, there is nothing preventing us from moving forward.

Ms. Loll: But that's not 24 hours. Did you see what time it went over? It wasn't 24 hours.

Mr. Wachter: The agenda?

Ms. Loll: No, the change.

Mr. Wachter: The agenda never changed.

Ms. Loll: The public has a right to know what we're voting on; they really do. And if they, and, and, but the contract did. That changed.

Mr. Wachter: So, the law says that the agenda needs to be set at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Merely the, just this document (holds up the paper agenda). Any of the supporting documentation behind it does not have to be posted beforehand. That could be delivered to you, legally, it could be delivered to you at the meeting. Do I suggest that's a good practice? No, but it could be delivered to you at this meeting and still be compliant with the Sunshine Law; the terms of the contract.

Ms. Loll: I don't agree . . . well, maybe that's the law but I don't agree that's the way it should be done because we have to do our homework on this stuff.

County Executive Davis: So, just a question, Tim. So, you're saying that Resolution 3 was advertised publicly where, cuz that's the question. The most recent precedence is Coleman v Parkland School District that we're all now looking at the way we operate, every county meeting, as long as that Resolution 3 was publicly advertised, then you're legally. . . he's saying that the meeting, especially, specifically a contract, I mean, the public is not necessarily privy to personnel matters. I mean that would be one exception to the Sunshine Law.

C. E. Davis and Mr. Wachter speak at the same time, so it's not clear what is said.

Mr. Wachter: So long as these items were on the agenda at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, then we have no problems.

C. E. Davis: And publicly advertised, because that's . . .

Mr. Wachter: No, you do not publicly advertise, we don't publish the agenda in the paper. The meetings are publish . . .

C. E. Davis: So, where else is it published?

Mr. Wachter: It's on the website and hanging – it was hanging on the front door as you come in. So, the Sunshine Law says that you publish it on your website, . . .

C. E. Davis: It wasn't on the website yesterday, so I guess that was the question. I don't even know if it is now.

Dr. Wood: It's on the website now.

C. E. Davis: So, when was it published to the website, because it wasn't yesterday?

Dr. Wood: Tammi, when did you . . .

C. E. Davis: It wasn't yesterday at the end of the work day.

Some murmuring amongst people.

C. E. Davis: I mean, that would be my question. We would be in violation of Coleman v Parkland if it isn't publicly advertised.

Ms. Michali: Well, then the only thing we're in violation of is Resolution 3.

C. E. Davis: Just to stay on the safe side . . .

Ms. Michali: It was posted on the website on Friday when everybody received it the initial time. I neglected to update it on the website after adding Resolution 3 to the agenda.

C. E. Davis: So, Resolution 3 would be in violation of the Sunshine Law if we were to vote on it today.

Mr. Wachter: If it wasn't published on the website within 24 hours of the meeting, we would not be able to move forward with Resolution 3.

C. E. Davis: So then Resolution 1 and 2 are good, but today 3 is not.

Mr. Wachter: Correct. Number 3, we would not be able to take action on today. So, if you're going to approve the agenda, you'll have to approve the agenda with the exception of item 13c.

Mr. Barney: Can I get a motion to amend the agenda to exclude Resolution 3 from the agenda?

Ms. Loll makes a motion to amend the agenda to exclude Resolution 3 from the agenda for today. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no further discussion. Motion carries 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2023

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 7-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by any of the directors at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I'd like to make a comment because there is one Board member that is no longer with us and if you see him, or if he's watching, I'd like to thank Dominic for his service over the last several years. We haven't seen him over the last several months due to health reasons, but I'd like to commend him; it's not an easy task. Sometimes unthoughtful but one that's definitely needed.

I'd also like to welcome Angie to the Board. I'm looking forward to working with you going forward for a long time. And like I said, it's not always a thankful job and it's not necessarily an easy one, but it is definitely one that is needed. So, welcome to the Board.

Ms. Amatangelo: Thank you. I'm happy to be here.

Mr. Barney: Later in the meeting, I will thank the County Executive and those in attendance. It's truly a pleasure to see this many interested individuals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the budget; everything seems to be up to snuff. I had a question I had asked and I have no comments other than I would recommend the Board's approval.

There is no discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Winschel makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

Dr. Wood: Strategic Planning met on Thursday, January 11th in Knowledge Park to review three agenda items. The first was a Pilot Program; a representative from Erie City Moms was present to answer questions about that pilot. It was considered by the Board and the consensus at the time from the committee was to move forward with funding on it.

Then, two grant programs were reviewed – Anchor Building and Community Assets: Parks, Fields, & Trails. You'll see those two reflected in Resolution Number 1, 2024 and Resolution Number 2, 2024 based on the consensus reached by the committee at the time. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions on behalf of the committee for those who were not present at the review.

Mr. Barney: Are there any questions pertaining to the Strategic Planning meeting and what occurred? Hearing none, we'll move along to County Council.

c. Update from County Council

Mr. Bayle: I am not the Chairman for County Council; that's Mr. Scutella. I'm Mr. Bayle and I figured since Mr. Scutella is not here, if it's alright, I'll take his time and take the opportunity to thank you. I know that ECGRA does a lot of great things within the community and that isn't overlooked by Council or the community members. I think there are some areas of concern, one of which we addressed this morning and that was one of the reasons I am here.

Talking about the agenda and talking about not going to address Resolution 3 because of that, but the website – Tammi, where is it published on there? It seems to be very difficult to find on there and if we're trying to be transparent and open to the community as well, I think it needs to be front and foremost, like, I just don't think it's user friendly. I know that we pay Parker Philips a good amount of money through all our agencies throughout the County, so I think we could make it a little more user-friendly. I just think it's difficult.

Even, where is the time published because I had to ask Mr. Oberlander, he's my appointee. I didn't see a time; I saw a location but I didn't even see a time so I had to ask about the time. I don't, I mean, we should know a time, date, location. I just think that that's important and I didn't see that listed. I mean, maybe it is and I just missed it, but if it isn't there, I don't think it's as friendly as it should be for the public if I can't seem to find it. And I know these are things that we get beat up on Council for, transparency, so maybe we should be even across the board.

And I think those changes to the contract should be open and out there for the public and it's something that they should get to see. This is an organization for them, and the gaming dollars are meant for the taxpayers and relief for them so they should have the

ultimate say; they should have the ultimate amount of knowledge provided to them for this. I think that that's not doing them a service.

As far as Resolution 3 goes, again I know that it's not going to be voted on today, but I have some areas of concern. Again, there are some changes, but again, I don't think that, I think there's plenty that ECGRA does but I think I have to question when we have directors making more than say, the County Executive . . . County Council and more than County Council members combined. I mean, we deal with a \$600 Million budget in the County; if I was sitting on a Fortune 500 company, or the County Executive was sitting on a Fortune 500 company, managing \$600 Million, it would be substantially more pay. I'm not in it for the pay; if I was in it for the pay, I wouldn't be here. I'm fortunate enough to retired early and be able to take this time to give back to my community, which is what it should be about. This organization should be about giving back to the community. I don't know if we've lost some sight of that; hopefully not. But I just think that there's still some talks that need to be had and the public is going to want to be involved in this. It shouldn't be just here with this organization; it shouldn't be kept away from them. I think you're going to have a few more people that will start attending, I think you'll have a few more people that feel that they need to be more involved and I think we'll see that moving forward.

Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

Mr. Bayle: You're welcome.

Mr. Barney: Does anyone have any questions of Mr. Bayle?

Ms. Loll: I just think he has a point.

d. Update from County Executive's Office

County Executive Davis: I'm going to hand out a few things here if you want to take these and pass them down. I'll just echo what Charlie said. I'm just pulling up the ECGRA website; so, right now when you look under meetings and events, I mean, I just pulled it up and it says January 2024 – There are no scheduled events this month – is what's currently coming up on the website. So, if that's the case, I mean, before anything can be voted on today, I think we need to make sure we're not in violation of the Sunshine Law. That's first and foremost. Then I have several other matters that should be of public record so I think until we figure out and get an opinion from the Solicitor, I would feel more comfortable if you could verify that we're 100% not in violation of the Sunshine Law based on the requirements with being on the website.

Mr. Wachter: I'm looking at the website right now and it's under Resources where the Board meeting is listed . . .

C.E. Davis: Then there must be two or there must be something different when it's a cell phone.

Mr. Winschel: Just go through the browser . . .

Mr. Wachter: Go down to the bottom to Resources and then where you see right there . . .

C.E. Davis: It might interact differently on a cell phone. So, if you look at it on a cell phone, it's not coming up at all.

Mr. Cleaver: Whose fault is that?

C.E. Davis: It's our fault; we have to make sure that . . .

Ms. Michali: Right here – and Resolution Number 3, 2024 is on the website. Right there. It says Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

C.E. Davis: That would just be a matter then of when it was updated.

Ms. Michali: That would have been Tuesday, when everybody else got the updated information.

C.E. Davis: So, Resolution 3 was on the website?

Ms. Michali: It's on there.

Mr. Wachter: So, with that said, we took a motion to amend the agenda on the basis that it wasn't properly advertised. However, it was properly advertised. So, it would be appropriate to put it back on the agenda, if you so desire.

Mr. Cleaver: You're talking about the Resolution . . .

Mr. Wachter: Resolution for Erie City Moms.

Mr. Cleaver: I move that we, as long as it was on there, I move that we vote on it.

Mr. Barney: It's been moved that Resolution Number 3 get put back on the agenda due to the fact that it was properly posted. It's been moved; can I get a second.

Ms. Hess: I'll second that.

Dr. Wood: Let's be clear; this is a motion to put, under New Business, Resolution Number 3, 2024 - Resolution to Adopt Erie City Moms Pilot Program, back on the agenda.

Mr. Wachter: Yes. If I just may make a comment on one thing. Should this pass, I'm going to ask that you reopen Public Comment to see if anyone else wants to make a comment regarding this particular resolution because we are also obligated, under the Sunshine Law, to give people an opportunity to comment on it before we take action. Thank you very much.

Mr. Barney: It's been moved and seconded. Can I get a roll call vote?

That motion does not pass, as Ms. Hess, Ms. Amatangelo, and Mr. Barney vote in the affirmative and Ms. Loll, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Oberlander vote in the negative.

Mr. Barney: That resolution has been put back on the agenda.

Mr. Wachter: Now, public comment specifically for Resolution 3 regarding the Resolution to Adopt the Erie City Moms Pilot Program.

Mr. Cleaver: I'll make a comment. The fact that they were here and presented and they had a great presentation a week ago, I don't think they should be (inaudible). If it was a mistake on our part, fine, but I certainly support it. I mean, I moved to put it back on.

Mr. Wachter: So, this would be an opportunity for any members of the public that are here – and nobody is online - to make a comment on Resolution Number 3 regarding Erie City Moms Pilot Program.

Ms. Loll: I'd like to make a comment.

Mr. Wachter: If I may just clarify – each Board member will get an opportunity to comment when we get to the agenda item. This is just for public comment. Not to cut you off, but you'll have your opportunity.

Ms. Loll: Okay.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Barney, it appears there is no public comment regarding this particular resolution, so the agenda stands as originally submitted. We are at the Update from the County Executive's Office. Sir, you may go back to that.

C.E. Davis: I appreciate that. I think now that we've specifically clarified that we are on public record, everything was appropriately advertised, so now I feel much more comfortable with moving forward with the rest of the meeting.

So, there have been a lot of discussions, with myself and Doug Smith through the last year, have made several inquiries and several reports about the direction that the County is looking at going with ECGRA, specifically, as an Authority. What we know and what may not be public knowledge is that we are the only county of 67 that operates with a gaming revenue Authority. The others allocate their gaming revenue as a single line item under the county.

Now, I would echo what Councilman Bayle said about just the simple costs. You look at the cost of the executive directors and all of the things, so we just did a quick little scrub, only of operational costs; and these are the bar graphs that are in front of you. In 2021, ECGRA's costs were at \$387,018. Then it jumped to \$430,755, and last year we were up to \$515,721. I mean, look at that. That is a significant cost. We're getting nearly close to almost double within a three-year period. So you look at, again, the amount of cost that this costs us to operate a \$4.5 Million budget . . . We have single line items in county government that are operated by directors that make sixty, seventy, eighty thousand dollars a year and manage ten times the staff. So, I mean, you look at the discussions.

Then the other thing is this, ECGRA was meant, one – it was a promise to taxpayers to keep our taxes low. Well, it's no secret, we had to do a significant tax increase this year; there's no way around it. The laws of math and economics don't lie. We had to increase taxes. But what else is alarming is that ECGRA is sitting on \$17.4 million in savings. This money from casino gaming revenue was meant to make an investment annually in our community. And sitting on \$17.4 million, in discussion with Chairman Scutella, members of Council that are here, we agree on the fact that we need to look and see what is the plan in

the next quarter to get that \$17.4 million out to our community. It does nobody any good, number one, for it to sit in a bank account.

Number two, on that resolution that people voted for in 2008 when this was created, it was meant to keep their taxes low. How can we, in good conscience, significantly raise taxes and we're sitting on a savings account of \$17.4 million? That, to me, those are things that we need to look at. These are things that we're considering in the coming months what direction we're looking at going, whether we continue with this authority model to delve out the casino gaming revenue money or we put a vote up to the agenda to dissolve the Authority and bring those monies back underneath County Council. So, those are serious discussions that we're having. Just to be clear, that all we need to do that is four votes on County Council to legally dissolve this and return that back to the county-governed model.

Those are some several concerns. You look at that kind of money, number one the operating expenses that are ballooning far beyond any other thing that we have to compare in any of our other departments.

And lastly would be the discussion of Mr. Wood's salary. You know, obviously we know this has been on the agenda for a long time. So, if you look historically, in 2020, the salary was \$97,100; now in 2024, the proposal is over \$137,000. So, we're talking a \$40,000 pay raise in four years. Where on earth does that make sense? During a time when we're raising taxes on people, we can't afford the staff that we have at the county to pay an appropriate wage. Again, Councilman Bayle brings up a great point. My salary is only \$107,000; I mean, I do this for public service much like Councilman Bayle does. But to pay a director of an Authority that manages three personnel and \$4.5 million a year? We have single line items in our county budget that are managed by one or two people that make, maybe a third of this.

I mean, so to me, this is greatly alarming. You know, and there's not too many times, there's not too many times, and I'll read a comment from former Executive Dahlkemper; I mean her and I are about as politically different as oil and water. But I can tell you, we are 1,000% in agreement. So, in 2020, she made a statement to the Erie Times News, and she stated, "As far as I can discern, there are no additional duties added to the position in this agreement, nor is there any additional staff to manage. I'm unclear of the justification for such an increase, as these are public funds belonging to the citizens of Erie County. I must express that I am not in agreement with this proposed compensation increase." She goes on and says, "I find I need to express my deep concern when I disagree with the dispensing of Erie County funds with what appears to be the lack of facts to justify the expenditure." And she closes, and it states, "It's not the first time Wood and the ECGRA Board have faced questions about Wood's compensation. In 2017, elected officials questioned some of the ECGRA Board's operating expenses, including its practice of reimbursing Wood for tuition to pursue a doctorate. The practice ended later that year after members of Erie's State House delegation briefly considered legislation that would have defunded ECGRA."

I mean this issue, it seems to be a recurring theme. And this is across political lines. It's across two different Administrations. And then you see the interruption of the State delegation. Senator Laughlin and folks that also have a pathway to defund ECGRA. So, to me, I think we need to really think long and hard about the direction that we're going and the current state of our community when we're considering these things. And our concern, I mean, you look at – you look at the contract. I mean, not only a \$40,000 pay increase over four years, which is lunacy, you look at a twelve-month severance clause. Twelve months. If this is dissolved, we gotta pay Perry Wood \$140,000 for a year to walk away? Where does that exist anywhere? There's not a single employee, elected official, or anyone, anywhere in Erie County that would have such a package.

So, to me, we definitely, this Board needs to examine one – its operating cost because they were a concern in 2017 and again in 2020 and every year thereafter. I mean, we're nearly doubling – I mean I don't know what it was, and we can look at what the costs were in 2017, but I'll betcha they're double in that amount of time. The costs to operate this Authority are ballooning, skyrocketing. And it doesn't devalue the work. I will echo what Councilman Bayle says – there's a lot of great work that is done with these monies. But these monies can be doled out the same way. We operate pots of money and planning. Our municipal gap funding alone – a single line item – Community Development Block grants – far more money than this entire budget; it's managed by one person that manages multiple programs. So, we have one grant manager in county government that manages probably three to four times plus what ECGRA does as an Authority. And that's a single person. Far less money. That equates to more money, more investment on the street and in programs that need it.

So, ECGRA, I mean, I really implore the Board to take an honest look at the direction that it's going because I can tell you my Administration in lockstep with the representatives of county government, we're also looking at that. The direction that you all move as an Authority, if you continue to move in ways that cost the taxpayer, we'll have NO other option other than to dissolve this Authority and bring it all back in under county government to let Council manage it, like they do the other half of the gaming revenue. I mean, mind you, we manage a larger portion of the gaming revenue entitled to the taxpayers and it doesn't cost us any more money to do so. So, I mean, this savings, this half a million dollars, could go back to the tax base where it's entitled.

I mean, there's other concerns aside from when you go through this employment contract. I mean, this is something that seriously needs to look at; a five-year contract. How is that performance based? Five years. Nowhere. Like, I can't even enter into a five-year contract with an entity without the approval of County Council. To me, we need to look out for the best interest of the taxpayers. And again, I'll echo former County Executive Dahlkemper's words – I'm not in agreeance with this. I think the cost of ECGRA has skyrocketed to the point where it's no longer beneficial to the taxpayer. I think we can continue this work.

Now, if ECGRA wants to continue to operate, I think in good faith, we need to reorganize. I've talked to some members of the Board about a reorganization of how we continue to operate. Why do we need an office in Penn State Behrend? Why do we, how can we cut some of these costs? What is the justification for paying an executive director \$140,000 when our grant managers in the county do the exact same work for \$55,000 a year? When Carolyn Gold, I think former Councilwoman Loll was on Council when it was Carolyn Gold; it was a single office, under County Council's pervue, in county government, and all that money went through a single point, a single source.

So, I implore ECGRA to look. I don't think you should be considering a five-year contract with these kind of ballooning costs. I mean, I just want to give you complete and full notice of the direction that Council and my office is looking at this to give you every opportunity to maybe reduce our operating expenses. We have available space; Mr. Winschel came and did a tour not long ago. So, if you look at the offices that we have available in the county, we could reduce our overhead, we can bring the Authority in underneath the County umbrella and still operate independently. I think you need to reduce your overhead; you need to reduce your personnel and get more money on the street. This can be done with a single person, as it rightfully should be done so.

So, in closing, it's the operating expenses, it's all the things, it's the salary; it's the same things that Executive Dahlkemper said in 2017 and again in 2020 that I now echo in 2024. So, I implore this Board to take this under advisement that these are the considerations and the things that we're looking to do. I mean, a five-year contract that's not performance based and

with the full and complete knowledge that we could dissolve this Authority if we don't reign in our spending.

With that in mind, entering into a contract with Mr. Wood, potentially, that could pay him \$140,000 to walk away is lunacy. Nowhere in county government do we have such a clause. I don't even know if the private sector has such a clause. So, I think we need common sense in the best interest of the taxpayers need to prevail in terms of this contract. I recommend that the Board considers maybe a modest contract extension for Mr. Wood, for say maybe six months while we figure out the direction that we're going to go. That would give ECGRA six months to get its operating costs, it would give them six months to work with County Council and the Administration to work on a transition plan, to reduce your overhead by coming in under county government.

We also have a Public Information Officer, Chris Carrol, who is paid full-time. These are things we're looking at all of our Boards, Authorities, and Commissions. Having to raise taxes, we need to reign in our spending. You have \$36,000 that was spent with Parker Philips with a website that we all saw kind of what happened this morning. These are things where we have three individuals under county government that are already paid to get out this public information; there's no excuse for a single meeting for these to not be advertised in accordance with the law and in plain view for the public. We have a social media manager that could take care of all the post, he has two individuals that work for him; we could easily take this and save the taxpayers another \$36,000 a year.

So, what I'm asking is that the ECGRA Board work with County Council and the Administration to reduce these costs anywhere that we can to put more of this valuable money on the street. So, I appreciate your guys' time. I hopefully, I strongly encourage you to look at that contract extension and work with us over the next six months to figure out a way to really make this work for the taxpayers or prepare for us moving in another direction if we can't find that pathway. I appreciate your time.

Mr. Barney: Thank you. Are there any questions for the County Executive?

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Let's take a look at the report. Instead of having it separate, I did have the letter from the Knox Law Firm in there about the standard cost increase to \$210 an hour. We have a report from Parker Philips in there for you to review. The Strategic Planning meeting took place and the staff spent most of its time reviewing those grants. There is an article on the Grow Erie fund and then several letters from groups thanking us.

That being said, I will close my report at this time, unless you have any questions for the director.

Mr. Cleaver: I have a question, Perry. We got this from the County Executive. How about an explanation on the reason it went from \$430,000 to \$515,000; that isn't just personnel alone, is it?

Dr. Wood: No, it's not. That includes Professional Services, it's not like rent has ballooned. But those are also projected numbers from the budget and not actual costs. The actual budget would have come in under those amounts. Are there any other questions for me?

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I have no action items.

Mr. Oberlander: Dale, can I interrupt you for a second if it's possible? I need to ask Tim – can we go into Executive Session before we look at the contract? I mean, there have been some things that changed since and I haven't had a chance to talk to anybody about on the Board.

Mr. Wachter: We can absolutely go into Executive Session.

Mr. Winschel: Chairman Barney, I have one piece of Old Business for Tim. So, back in November, the meeting with Resolution 14 – Reconciliation of Gaming Revenue with the County; I know we put together based on fourth quarter revenue. I don't know when that's coming in but, we're on track to do that because that was like \$100,000, I thought that we had talked about.

Dr. Wood: We are on track with a reconciliation process.

Mr. Winschel: I just wanted to follow up on that.

Dr. Wood: I do have to rely upon the Finance Department at the County to accept if they want to do that, and communication has not been great. I'll reach out and I'll offer (inaudible) the Finance Department.

Mr. Winschel: Okay. I just wanted to bring that up while all the components are here.

Mr. Wachter: Executive Session will require us to stop recording and let the record show that this Executive Session is for the purposes of personnel.

Let the record show that Ms. Hess leaves the meeting prior to the start of the Executive Session.

Executive Session begins at 9:14am.

Executive Session ends and the Board meeting resumes at 10:15am.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wachter: Mr. chairman, if I may report that the Board has come out of Executive Session and back into regular session at 10:15am. We are at the Executive Director Employment Agreement item on the agenda. I believe that per our discussion, it would be appropriate to request a motion to table until the February meeting of the Gaming Authority.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to table the Employment Agreement until the February meeting. Ms. Loll seconds the motion.

Mr. Wachter: Before you take the vote, just to complete the thought, the request by the Board is that an effort be made to schedule another Executive Session next week, and whichever calendar function you use to get everybody's schedule together, if we could do that, it shouldn't take long. And that can just be Zoom. And that Executive Session will be held next week for the purposes of Personnel.

Mr. Barney: A few people mentioned a days that aren't good.

Ms. Amatangelo: Thursday is the only day that's not good.

Ms. Loll: I can only do zoom on Thursday.

Mr. Barney: So, the other days aren't good for you.

Ms. Loll: Oh, I can do the rest of them.

Mr. Barney: Okay.

Mr. Oberlander: We can still show up in person as well.

Mr. Wachter: You can show up in person; it doesn't just have to be zoom.

Mr. Oberlander: Okay.

Mr. Wachter: We'll have a physical place for it. We can have it at my office or here; we'll work on that. So, you have a motion and a second to table the item.

Motion carries 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 1, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreement with five (5) entities that comprise the 2023-24 Anchor Building recipients

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if I may also note for the record that it appears that Mr. Copeland has joined us by zoom.

- b. Resolution Number 2, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreements with ten (10) Erie County Community organizations and municipalities engaged in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets.

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

c. Resolution Number 3, 2024 – Resolution to Adopt the Erie City Moms Pilot Project

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the resolution. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion.

Ms. Loll: First of all, I don't know whether it was mentioned at that meeting but I wasn't understanding that this was going to be on the agenda. Also, too, we need to keep in mind that the money that we have that comes over belongs to the people of Erie County. This group is doing a good job, but they're only helping two families at a time. So, I'd like to reduce the amount from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Dr. Wood: Does that consider a motion?

Mr. Wachter: From a procedural standpoint, does anyone want to respond to that?

Mr. Oberlander: I would agree with Carol.

Ms. Amatangelo: What's the reasoning? Why the \$75 to \$50 number? You're worried they're not helping enough people but you're reducing the number.

Ms. Loll: I'm wondering if we should give them any money.

Ms. Amatangelo: Why?

Ms. Loll: Because of the fact that they're not helping enough people. The money belongs to the people of Erie County; not just the taxpayers; all of them. And this is not helping enough people to warrant giving them \$75,000.

Ms. Amatangelo: It's a Pilot Project. I'm happy with it.

Mr. Wachter: So the conversation has been had and Ms. Loll has suggested that we go to a \$50,000 grant award as opposed to a \$75,000 grant award. There is a motion and a second to approve the grant as read, with \$75,000. At this point, it would be appropriate, if you wanted to move forward with that, to offer a motion to amend the motion to have the award only be at \$50,000.

Ms. Loll makes the motion to amend the resolution amount. Mr. Oberlander seconds that motion.

Mr. Wachter: So, we have a motion and a second on whether you should amend the award to \$50,000. If you vote in favor of that, then the original consideration is going to be at \$50,000. And then we'll have to come back and take another vote to pass it. So, this is amending it to go to \$50,000. If you vote no, we leave it at \$75,000. If you vote yes, it will go to \$50,000. I will note we have six members – you will need four votes to pass. Now it would be appropriate to call a vote.

Dr. Wood: This is to amend Resolution Number 3 from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Ms. Loll: Tell me again, we're changing it to \$50,000 if I say yes?

Mr. Wachter: What you're voting on is to lessen the award from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Motion is a tie, with Ms. Loll, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Oberlander voting in the affirmative. Therefore, the motion to amend the lower amount requested fails.

Mr. Wachter: That does not pass. So, now you have the motion to make the award at \$75,000.

Mr. Barney: I've got a question. At the time while they were here, why wasn't that brought up to see if they could even operate with \$25,000 less? It didn't seem to me during their presentation that they were glamorizing it or had a lot of fluff in there. Because we asked; we asked about the porch, we asked questions. But yet no one raised the issue about decreasing the amount and could they function with less. And now, when they're not here, we're going around like, "Here, here's \$10,000." It helps me, but it doesn't, because I still have to get something.

Mr. Winschel: Well, for me, that's when I had to step out so I didn't see the presentation, so I will defend my vote on that.

Mr. Barney: Okay.

Dr. Wood: Keep in mind that the staff vetted the project and agreed upon the number \$75,000 for the applicant.

Ms. Loll: At what point was that done?

Dr. Wood: Prior to the meeting; before we brought it to you.

Ms. Loll: But not at that particular event. Not the day that we were here.

Dr. Wood: Of course not. By the time they got here, they had been vetted by the staff.

Ms. Loll: So, there wasn't \$75,000 on the table at the point that they were even here. Because I didn't understand that it was even going to be on the agenda. So, \$75,000 was not on the table at that point in time.

Dr. Wood: That's a different question. If you didn't think we were going to bring it to the Board, that's completely different.

Ms. Loll: I'm okay with it being on the agenda, but I still think that . . . Now, I brought this up before. I've remodeled houses. It doesn't take this kind of money.

Ms. Amatangelo: I don't know that we're experts that we can say that. I mean, you already said that there was a huge presentation and like Dale said, why weren't these things brought up? As a new person, I would've asked that a long time ago.

Ms. Loll: But the thing is, that number was not presented that day.

Ms. Amatangelo: So, when was the first time you heard about a number?

Ms. Loll: It was later on.

Ms. Amatangelo: When later on?

Ms. Loll: The, the, the, . . . well, Perry, and probably Tom had something to do with it.

Dr. Wood: The budget was presented that day; you may have missed it, but the budget definitely was presented.

Mr. Barney: It was.

Dr. Wood: We wouldn't be bringing this to the Board if we hadn't presented that to you. It was there for you.

Ms. Loll: Well, it doesn't take that kind of money to remodel.

Dr. Wood: That's the document right there.

Mr. Winschel: Did Tom provide the recommendation?

Dr. Wood: No, because of the presentation, we wanted to have that discussion fully with Strategic Planning and those in attendance.

Mr. Winschel: Again, I wasn't here but was there discussion with the Board afterward about the \$75,000?

Dr. Wood: No, it was a discussion as to whether or not the program should be funded and this budget was part of that presentation.

Mr. Winschel: Gotcha.

Mr. Wachter: So, the amendment did not pass, so right now you still have on the table the motion to approve the resolution as written with the \$75,000 award. Once again, it's going to require four votes to pass.

Mr. Barney: Is there any further discussion?

Motion is a tie, with Ms. Loll, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Oberlander voting in the negative. Therefore, the motion to amend the amount requested fails.

Mr. Barney: A question with that not passing, can we bring it back up when we have a full Board?

Mr. Wachter: We do not have any rules preventing that.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

Ms. Loll: I do have a question on that. On Council, and that's the only experience I've got with other than some of the other Boards I've been on, but in order to bring it back, it would have to change, right?

Mr. Barney: No.

Mr. Wachter: That is a Council rule.

Mr. Barney: Not here.

Ms. Loll: Okay. I'm asking.

Mr. Wachter: We do not have a rule to prevent it to come back again. A motion to reconsider must be made by an individual who voted in a way that . . . well, this was a tie. So, anyone could make a motion to reconsider.

Ms. Loll: And it wouldn't have to change?

Mr. Wachter: We do not have that rule. That is a Council specific rule. I also believe that Council has a rule that you can not reconsider something for a period of six months; that is a Council specific rule only.

Mr. Cleaver: Someone who voted against it would have to bring it up.

Mr. Wachter: Typically, but this didn't pass. Typically, that is the way it would go.

Mr. Barney: That concludes all the resolutions. Does anyone have any comments or anything they would like to say?

Dr. Wood: As part of adjournment, I'd like to say that working continually over the past twelve years with communities from Corry to Union City, Harborcreek to Millcreek, we continually hear that ECGRA is working, that our process is accountable and transparent, and is quite frankly a point of pride for Erie County. We work with agencies, authorities, municipalities, and nonprofits, across the county and we will continue to do this as long as County Council and the ECGRA Board wants this to happen. We will continue into the future. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Dr. Wood. Prior to adjourning, everyone should note that our next meeting is Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 8:30am.

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 10:31am.

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

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2023-24 YTD</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · ARPA Fund				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		2,822,658.40		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,914,504.55		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	49,825.04	450,722.15		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow		22,916.67		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund	5,000.00	15,000.00		
46424.5 · Interest Income - 1855 Capital	9,000.00	9,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct	3,250.00	13,000.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive		19,097.22		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway	1,525.52	2,430.41		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT	2,556.00	10,224.00		
46510 · Interest Income - YLI		13,272.00		
Total Income	<u>71,156.56</u>	<u>5,292,825.40</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	3,725.44	63,281.54	60,580.00	72,700.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,776.74	17,411.31	20,000.00	24,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	1,043.61	11,940.70	19,750.00	23,700.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	4,048.32	46,441.67	46,750.00	56,100.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	26,915.94	242,236.05	285,750.00	342,900.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	43,940.03	1,507,099.35	333,333.00	4,000,000.00
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	\$0.00	(2,654.00)		
Total Expense	<u>81,450.08</u>	<u>1,885,756.62</u>	<u>766,163.00</u>	<u>4,519,400.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(10,293.52)	3,407,068.78		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets		800,600.00		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		1,184,290.74		
70070 · Special Events		213,424.73		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration	100,000.00	253,500.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street		50,000.00		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program		73,090.60		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive		39,625.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block		233,333.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		31,666.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>2,879,530.07</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(100,000.00)</u>	<u>(2,879,530.07)</u>		
Net Income	<u>(110,293.52)</u>	<u>527,538.71</u>		

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

	January
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	96,701.90
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,416,259.40
10102 · Restricted Funds	4,547,115.76
10104 · ARPA Fund	870,000.36
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	11,470,144.88
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	18,303,520.40
Total Checking/Savings	18,400,222.30
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	108,552.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,526,946.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,251,606.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	4,033.85
Total Other Current Assets	6,255,639.85
Total Current Assets	24,655,862.15
TOTAL ASSETS	24,655,862.15
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
20100* · Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 · Unearned Revenue	6,377,099.69
Total Current Liabilities	2,377,099.69
Total Liabilities	2,377,099.69
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	18,824,159.57
Net Income	527,538.71
Total Equity	22,278,762.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	24,655,862.15

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
January 2024

Expense	January	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 - Contracted Services					
62110 - Accounting Fees	0.00	11,000.00	8,200.00	2,800.00	134.15%
62130 - Professional Services	3,000.00	36,431.92	40,000.00	(3,568.08)	91.08%
62140 - Legal Services	591.60	13,750.80	20,000.00	(6,249.20)	68.75%
62145 - Website Design	0.00	1,140.00	3,000.00	(1,860.00)	38.00%
62150 - Payroll Services	133.84	958.82	1,500.00	(541.18)	63.92%
Total 62100 - Contracted Services	3,725.44	63,281.54	72,700.00	(9,418.46)	87.04%
62800 - Facilities & Equipment					
62840 - Office Equipment	266.99	2,745.31	6,000.00	(3,254.69)	45.76%
62890 - Rent	1,509.75	14,666.00	18,000.00	(3,334.00)	81.48%
Total 62800 - Facilities & Equipment	1,776.74	17,411.31	24,000.00	(6,588.69)	72.55%
65000 - Office Administration					
65010 - Books, Subscriptions, Dues	65.00	2,292.84	3,000.00	(707.16)	76.43%
65020 - Postage	45.23	254.58	250.00	4.58	101.83%
65040 - Office Supplies	26.48	993.44	2,000.00	(1,006.56)	49.67%
65050 - Cell Phone	513.55	2,315.67	3,000.00	(684.33)	77.19%
65060 - Copier Lease	311.35	3,113.54	4,200.00	(1,086.46)	74.13%
65070 - Copier Printing Costs	0.00	68.59	500.00	(431.41)	13.72%
65080 - Bank Fees	82.00	397.00	500.00	(103.00)	79.40%
65085 - Professional Development	0.00	850.00	6,000.00	(5,150.00)	14.17%
65090 - Meeting Expenses	0.00	1,655.04	4,000.00	(2,344.96)	41.38%
65095 - Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 - Office Administration	1,043.61	11,940.70	23,700.00	(11,759.30)	50.38%
65100 - Other Types of Expenses					
65105 - Outreach	0.00	4,788.00	5,000.00	(212.00)	95.76%
65110 - Advertising	445.09	3,684.40	4,000.00	(315.60)	92.11%
65115 - Phone/IT/Fax	2,716.50	16,770.38	18,000.00	(1,229.62)	93.17%
65120 - Insurance	366.71	14,263.43	18,600.00	(4,336.57)	76.69%
65130 - Grant Management Software	0.00	5,562.00	5,500.00	62.00	101.13%
65150 - Travel	520.02	1,373.46	5,000.00	(3,626.54)	27.47%
Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses	4,048.32	46,441.67	56,100.00	(9,658.33)	82.78%
66000 - Payroll Expenses					
66005 - Salaries & Wages	23,471.67	210,664.53	300,000.00	(89,335.47)	70.22%
66010 - FITW Tax	1,410.44	14,809.62	21,000.00	(6,190.38)	70.52%
66015 - FUTA Tax	89.21	89.21	150.00	(60.79)	59.47%
66020 - PASUI Tax	409.66	409.66	2,000.00	(1,590.34)	20.48%
66700 - PMRS	1,534.96	16,263.03	19,750.00	(3,486.97)	82.34%
Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses	26,915.94	242,236.05	342,900.00	(100,663.95)	70.64%
67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)					
67005 - Contracted Services - ARPA	0.00	52,457.76	214,540.20	(162,082.44)	24.45%
67010 - Subawards - ARPA	43,643.85	1,419,241.04	1,925,293.10	(506,052.06)	73.72%
67025 - Indirect Costs - ARPA	296.18	3,781.61	7,772.47	(3,990.86)	48.65%
67030 - Salaries & Wages - ARPA	0.00	31,618.94	31,618.94	0.00	100.00%
Total 67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)	43,940.03	1,507,099.35	2,179,224.71	(672,125.36)	246.82%
7000 - Provision for Uncollect Notes	0.00	(2,654.00)			
Total Expense	81,450.08	1,885,756.62	2,698,624.71	(812,868.09)	69.88%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of

January 31, 2024

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	4,547,115.76		
Committed Funds	1,416,259.40		
ARPA Funds	870,000.35		
2023 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue		300,245.10	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,183,535.82	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,338,877.48	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			2,822,658.40
2023 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2022-2023		1,914,504.55	1,914,504.55
FY Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		557,111.92	
Second Quarter Disbursements		1,242,000.37	
Third Quarter Disbursements		2,356,014.97	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements	143,643.85	143,643.85	4,298,771.11

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements/MRIs

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township		532,930.79	
Greene Township		130,271.99	
McKean Township		130,271.99	
Millcreek Township		130,271.99	
Waterford Township		130,271.99	
Erie County		130,271.99	
			1,184,290.74
Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
Girard Township		21,000.00	
Harborcreek Township		34,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		98,500.00	
Multi-Mun Emergency Services Commission	100,000.00	100,000.00	
			253,500.00
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Small Business Ecosystem			
Penn State Behrend		200,000.00	
			200,000.00

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

	January	YTD	Subtotal
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (cont)			
Anchor Building			
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith		45,000.00	
		45,000.00	45,000.00
 Community Facilities			
Booker T Washington Center		125,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		25,000.00	
Boys & Girls Club of Erie		70,000.00	
Community Shelter Services		105,694.00	
Corry Hiher Education Council		59,500.00	
Eagle's Nest Leadership Cororation		125,000.00	
Edinboro Market		125,000.00	
Greater Erie Community Action Committee		13,680.00	
Impact Corry		0.00	
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House		125,000.00	
International Institute of Erie - USCRI		125,000.00	
JFK Center		125,000.00	
Journey Healing Together		25,000.00	
Martin Luther King Center		125,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women		100,000.00	
Mercy Hilltop Center		99,000.00	
Northwestern Community Youth Center		18,500.00	
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center		86,000.00	
St. Martin Center		75,000.00	
YMCA of Corry		97,331.00	
		1,649,705.00	1,649,705.00
 Mission Main Street			
Downtown Girard		75,000.00	
		75,000.00	75,000.00
 Renaissance Block			
Downtown Girard		50,000.00	
		50,000.00	50,000.00
 Erie County Investment Playbook			
Nonprofit Partnership	43,643.85	64,771.00	
	43,643.85	64,771.00	64,771.00

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

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

	January	YTD	Subtotal
Anchor Building			
Mission Main Street			
Renaissance Block			
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		50,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	
Borough of Union City		50,000.00	
Impact Corry		50,000.00	
		200,000.00	200,000.00

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	
Our West Bayfront		6,225.00	
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	
		234,207.00	234,207.00

Community Centers

Martin Luther King Center		15,000.00	
		15,000.00	15,000.00

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

	January	YTD	Subtotal
Parks, Fields, Trails			
Humane Society of NWPA		18,500.00	
			18,500.00
 Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		12,707.00	
AmeriMasala		3,543.55	
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	

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

Special Events (cont)

	January	YTD	Subtotal
Saint Joseph Church		4,450.00	
Saint Patrick Church		7,746.92	
St. Stanislaus Catholic Church		250.00	
Union City Pride		1,273.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		9,250.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		12,345.06	
YMCA of Corry		3,072.10	
YMCA of Greater Erie		400.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		4,500.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		1,200.00	
		213,424.73	213,424.73

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING

Beehive Network

Community Enterprise Financing Loan

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Summer Jobs & More

	95,372.64	95,372.64
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Total Funds Disbursements	143,643.85	4,298,771.11	4,298,771.11
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Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
January 31, 2024

		<u>January</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
Committed Funds:				
N&C	Renaissance Block 2018			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2022			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Renaissance Block 2023			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Borough of Union City		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Impact Corry		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
	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 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			
	Summer Jobs		76,909.40	150,000.00
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
Total Committed Funds		0.00	1,416,259.40	2,589,675.00
 ARPA Transformative Funds				
	Subawards	43,643.85	703,927.06	3,622,025.00
	Contracted Services	0.00	162,082.44	273,274.00
	Salaries & Wages	0.00	0.00	93,406.00
	Indirect Costs	296.18	3,990.85	11,295.00
		43,940.03	870,000.35	4,000,000.00
Total ARPA Funds				

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Transaction List Detail
January 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/03/2024	EFT	VISA	2023 December Statement	-136.71
01/04/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	12/16/23 to 12/29/23 Payroll	-9,983.86
01/04/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	12/16/23 to 12/29/23 Simple IRA	-250.00
01/04/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 12/29/2023	-737.48
01/04/2024	2944	Bayfront NATO, Inc.	2024 MLK Dinner	-350.00
01/04/2024	EFT	Altair Real Estate	2024 January Rent	-1,677.50
01/04/2024	EFT	Local iQ	2023 December Board Meeting	-95.09
01/04/2024	EFT	Dale Barney	2023 Travel	-126.15
01/04/2024	EFT	Gary Winschel	2023 Q4 Travel	-83.97
01/04/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2024 January Phone/IT	-938.33
01/04/2024	EFT	Parker Philips	2024 January Professional Services	-3,000.00
01/08/2024	EFT	PMRS	2024 PMRS Annual Invoice	-60.00
01/08/2024	EFT	Tammi Michali	2023 Q4 Phone, Q2-4 Travel	-218.54
01/08/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	Docking Station	-266.99
01/08/2024	EFT	Highmark Health Insurance	2024 January Health	-5,034.53
01/16/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	12/30/2023 to 1/12/2024 Payroll	-9,996.43
01/16/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	12/30/2023 to 01/12/2024 Simple IRA	-250.00
01/16/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 1/12/2024	-737.48
01/17/2024	EFT	Multi-Mun Emergency Services Commission	2023 MMC	-100,000.00
01/17/2024	EFT	Perry Wood	2023 Q4 Phone, Travel	-268.18
01/18/2024	EFT	Erie Bank	Service Charge	-12.00
01/25/2024	EFT	Tom M. Maggio	2023 Q4 Travel, Phone	-336.73
01/25/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	Sonic Wall Upgrade	-1,872.00
01/25/2024	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2024 January Copier Lease	-345.95
01/25/2024	EFT	Erie Insurance	2024-25 Insurance	-2,800.00
01/26/2024	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2023 January Legal	-591.60
01/26/2024	EFT	The Nonprofit Partnership	2024 ARPA Subaward	-43,643.85
01/31/2024	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00

ERIEBANK

BL ACCT 00100029-10000000
ERIE COUNTY GAMING
Account Number: #####-####-8643
Page 1 of 3



SCORECARD CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00 CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE 05/15/2024

Account Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Sign, Amount. Rows include Billing Cycle, Days In Billing Cycle, Previous Balance, Purchases, Cash, Balance Transfers, Special, Credits, Payments, Other Charges, Finance Charges.

NEW BALANCE \$136.71

Credit Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Sign, Amount. Rows include Total Credit Line, Available Credit Line, Available Cash, Amount Over Credit Line, Amount Past Due, Disputed Amount.

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

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include NEW BALANCE \$136.71, MINIMUM PAYMENT \$136.71, PAYMENT DUE DATE 01/04/2024

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

Corporate Activity

Table with 5 columns: Trans Date, Post Date, Reference Number, Transaction Description, Amount. Row: 12/01 12/01 1624542419 INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU \$238.81-

Cardholder Account Summary

Table with 5 columns: Cardholder Name, Payments & Other Credits, Purchases & Other Charges, Cash Advances, Total Activity. Row: TAMMI MICHALI, \$0.00, \$136.71, \$0.00, \$136.71

Cardholder Account Detail

Table with 6 columns: Trans Date, Post Date, Plan Name, Reference Number, Description, Amount. Rows include STAMPS.COM, AMZN Mktp, STAMPS.COM, GANNETT NEWSRPRR.

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

ERIEBANK
PO BOX 42
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

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

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

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Table with 4 columns: Closing Date, New Balance, Total Minimum Payment Due, Payment Due Date. Values: 12/10/23, \$136.71, \$136.71, 01/04/24

\$ []

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

e-Statement



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
VISA
PO BOX 4517
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517

Cardholder Account Detail Continued

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
12/06	12/07	PBUS01	24137463341001417471960	USPS KIOSK 4125449553 ERIE PA	\$19.80 <i>postage</i>

Additional Information About Your Account

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

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 12/08/2023

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2024

Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information

Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM ¹	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance
Purchases									
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	1.02083%(M)	12.2500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$136.71
Cash									
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	1.02083%(M)	12.2500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00

* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily

** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees

¹ FCM = Finance Charge Method

Days In Billing Cycle: 31

APR = Annual Percentage Rate

(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Draft Budget

2024-25

Expense	<u>2023-24 Budget</u>	<u>2024-25 Budget</u>
62100 · Contracted Services		
62110 · Auditing Fees	8,200	8,150
62130 · Professional Services	40,000	40,000
62140 · Legal Services	20,000	20,000
62145 · Website Design	3,000	2,000
62150 · Payroll Services	1,500	1,500
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	<u>72,700</u>	<u>71,650</u>
62800 · Facilities & Equipment		
62840 · Office Equipment	6,000	3,000
62890 · Rent	18,000	20,200
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	<u>24,000</u>	<u>23,200</u>
65000 · Office Administration		
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	3,000	3,000
65020 · Postage	250	100
65040 · Office Supplies	2,000	2,000
65050 · Cell Phone	3,000	3,000
65060 · Copier Lease	4,200	4,200
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	500	200
65080 · Bank Fees	500	500
65085 · Professional Development	6,000	3,000
65090 · Meeting Expenses	4,000	3,500
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	250	250
Total 65000 · Office Administration	<u>23,700</u>	<u>19,750</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65105 · Outreach	5,000	5,000
65110 · Advertising	4,000	4,000
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	18,000	18,000
65120 · Insurance	18,600	18,000
65130 · Grant Management Software	5,500	6,000
65150 · Travel	5,000	4,000
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>56,100</u>	<u>55,000</u>
66000 · Payroll Expenses		
66005 · Salaries, Wages, Benefits	300,000	250,000
66010 · FITW Tax	21,000	20,000
66015 · FUTA Tax	150	150
66020 · PASUI Tax	2,000	2,000
66700 · PMRS	19,750	19,800
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	<u>342,900</u>	<u>291,950</u>
7000 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	0	0
Total Expense	<u>519,400</u>	<u>461,550</u>



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
FEBRUARY
2024**



COUNTY OF ERIE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Brenton Davis,
County Executive

Douglas R. Smith,
Director of Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of County Council

From: Brenton Davis, County Executive

Date: January 4, 2024

Re: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority – District 5

Council,

I hereby convey my support for the appointment of Kelly Hess to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Ms. Hess' term will expire on December 31, 2028. This will be her second term representing District 5.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Davis".

Brenton Davis

CC: Karen Chillcott, County Clerk
Perry Wood, Executive Director
File

Approved by Erie County Council, 7-0, January 16, 2024.



COUNTY OF ERIE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Brenton Davis,
County Executive

Douglas R. Smith,
Director of Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of County Council

From: Brenton Davis, County Executive

Date: January 4, 2024

Re: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority – District 3

Council,

I hereby convey my support for the appointment of Angela Amatangelo to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Ms. Amatangelo's term will expire on December 31, 2028. This will be her first 5-year term representing District 3.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Davis".

Brenton Davis

CC: Karen Chillcott, County Clerk
Perry Wood, Executive Director
File

Approved by Erie County Council, 7-0, January 16, 2024.

January 2024

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

IMPLEMENTED

- 7 Total January posts
- 2 Total graphics created
- Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

IN PROGRESS | 2024 Grant Releases and Graphics

- 2023–2024 Annual Report
 - Community Facilitates
 - Media advisory and pitching
 - Press Event
 - Press release and distribution
 - Grant recipient graphics
 - Lead Assets
 - Grant recipient graphics
 - Press release and distribution
 - Holiday Graphics
 - Economic Impact Report rollout
 - Press release
 - PowerPoint presentation
 - Social media graphics

IN PLANNING

- Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
- ECGRA Playbook
- Roadshow Tours



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Brenton Davis,
County Executive

Subject: Request for Comprehensive Loan Portfolio Report

To: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board Members

Dear Board of Directors,

I am once again writing to request a comprehensive and detailed report on the status of the loan portfolio managed by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. As a concerned stakeholder, I am particularly interested in understanding the performance of each loan, identifying any delinquent accounts, and assessing the overall collectability of the entire portfolio. To be more specific, we have a responsibility to ensure gaming revenue fund investments are legal, ethical and in the best interest of Erie County Taxpayers and our community as a whole.

To facilitate this request, I have summarized the key details of each loan agreement based on the information available to me. Please provide a more detailed report on the following aspects for each loan:

- 1. Status:** Provide an update on the status of each loan, including any significant developments or changes since the last available information.
- 2. Delinquency and Collectability:** Clearly outline the number of loans that are currently delinquent and the status of efforts to collect on these accounts. Additionally, specify any loans deemed uncollectable and the Authority's approach to managing such cases.
- 3. Detailed Loan Portfolio Summary:** Include a comprehensive report on each loan, covering the initial agreements, restructuring (if any), payment terms, and outstanding balances as of the most recent data available.

Loan Summaries and Amounts:

1. Enterprise Development Fund of Erie County, Inc. (Fund)

- Initial Agreements: \$500,000 (September 13, 2012) and \$800,000 (August 13, 2013)
- Restructured into one agreement in March 2018
- Quarterly interest-only payments at 1% per annum until March 31, 2028
- Outstanding principal: \$1,300,000 (March 31, 2023)
- Monitored due to bankruptcy filing by related entity (GEIDC)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

2. Corry Industrial Benefit Association (CIBA)

- Loan Agreement: \$50,000 (September 2014)

3. Bridgeway Capital

- Erie Growth Fund: \$1,000,000 (January 2016)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 3% per annum

- Principal due January 2026
- Outstanding principal: \$1,000,000 (March 31, 2023)
- Erie Inclusive Fund: \$2,500,000 (September 2018)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 1% per annum
- Principal due December 2028
- Outstanding principal: \$2,500,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

4. The Progress Fund

- Loan Agreement: \$1,000,000 (April 2017)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 2% per annum
- Principal due January 2026
- Outstanding principal: \$1,000,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

5. 1855 Capital Fund

- Loan Agreement: \$500,000 (December 2017)
- Semiannual minimum interest payments
- Principal due December 2027
- Outstanding principal: \$500,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

6. Blue Highway Capital - Loan Agreement: \$250,000 (January 2019)

- Semiannual minimum interest payments
- Principal due January 2029 (unless extensions are exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$250,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

Coronavirus COVID-19 Emergency Loan Funds

7. - Bridgeway Capital: \$520,000 (March 2020)

- Two funds for small businesses and nonprofits
- Zero interest
- Entire outstanding balance due in October 2026 (unless forgiveness clause is exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$620,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

8. Erie Center for Arts & Technology

- Loan Agreement: \$500,000 (August 2020)
- Quarterly minimum interest payments
- Principal due in August 2027 (unless extensions are exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$500,000 (March 31, 2023)

9. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie

- Loan Agreement: \$188,000 (January 2022)
- Zero-percent interest rate
- **Original maturity date of February 2023 (extended to approximately June 2025)**
- Outstanding principal: \$121,824 (March 31, 2023)

Provide reason for extension, board process and vote documentation for extension.

10. Ben Franklin Technology Partners:

- Loan Agreement: \$3,000,000.00

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

10. Any other loans or endowments currently in service to organizations not listed to include funds allocated to Erie Community Foundation.

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

11. Total Loan Amounts from Audit:

- Sum of all loan agreements mentioned: **\$9,458,000**

12. Total Outstanding Principal (as of March 31, 2023):

- Combined outstanding principal balances: **\$7,969,824**

13. Difference Analysis:

- The difference between the total loan amounts and the total outstanding principal is \$1,488,176. This represents the amount repaid or does not contribute to the current outstanding balances of the loans as of March 31, 2023. I believe that a detailed overview of the loan portfolio will enhance transparency and understanding among stakeholders. This information will contribute to informed decision-making and foster confidence in the Authority's financial management.

14. Provide the total amount of loans given from 2012 to present. Itemize by loan to municipality, nonprofit, private entity or other. List all loans, total amounts, interest rates, and status of loan.

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

15. Provide check detail reports from January 2016 to present.

16. Provide a copy of ECGRA's policy for records management and retention and all corresponding documentation for the creation, board approval with meeting minutes related to the implementation of any records management and retention policy.

17. Provide signed annual Financial Interest Reports and Conflict of Interest Statements signed by each staff and board member from the beginning of employment to end/present or board term from January 2009 to January of 2024.

18. Provide a detailed account of all payments by fiscal year, itemized by total salary, travel, reimbursements, and any other payments made to Director Perry Wood from 2012 to present. Please provide corresponding reimbursement documentation signed by Director Perry Wood and rationale for board approvals for, vote records and corresponding meeting minutes for all reimbursements from January 2012 to Present. Any related to payments made to or for Director Perry Wood.

18. Provide all contracts from 1099 Contractors or any other contract from 2016 to present.

19. Provide all ECGRA credit card statements from January of 2016 to present.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Davis", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Brenton Davis
Erie County Executive

February 2, 2024

County Executive Davis
140 West 6th St.
Suite 504
Erie, PA 16501

Via: bdavis@eriecountypa.gov

RE: Notice of Extension of Time to Respond to Open-Records Requests
Received February 1, 2024

Dear County Executive Davis:

As you are aware, you submitted a Right-to-Know Request to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Your request stated the following:

Please provide a more detailed report on the following aspects for each loan:

1. **Status:** Provide an update on the status of each loan, including any significant developments or changes since the last available information.
2. **Delinquency and Collectability:** Clearly outline the number of loans that are currently delinquent and the status of efforts to collect on these accounts. Additionally, specify any loans deemed uncollectable and the Authority's approach to managing such cases.
3. **Detailed Loan Portfolio Summary:** Include a comprehensive report on each loan, covering the initial agreements, restructuring (if any), payment terms, and outstanding balances as of the most recent data available.

Loan Summaries and Amounts:

1. **Enterprise Development Fund of Erie County, Inc. (Fund)**
 - Initial Agreements: \$500,000 (September 13, 2012) and \$800,000 (August 13, 2013)
 - Restructured into one agreement in March 2018
 - Quarterly interest-only payments at 1% per annum until March 31, 2028
 - Outstanding principal: \$1,300,000 (March 31, 2023)
 - Monitored due to bankruptcy filing by related entity (GEIDC)

Board of Directors

Dale E. Barney
Chair

Vice-chair

Whitey Cleaver
Treasurer

Perry N. Wood
Secretary

Kelly S. Hess

Carol Loll

Robert S. Oberlander

Gary J. Winschel

Angela Amatangelo

Terry Scutella
Ex-officio

Douglas Smith
Ex-officio

Perry N. Wood
Executive Director

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

2. Corry Industrial Benefit Association (CIBA)

- Loan Agreement: \$50,000 (September 2014)

3. Bridgeway Capital

- Erie Growth Fund: \$1,000,000 (January 2016)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 3% per annum
- Principal due January 2026
- Outstanding principal: \$1,000,000 (March 31, 2023)
- Erie Inclusive Fund: \$2,500,000 (September 2018)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 1% per annum
- Principal due December 2028
- Outstanding principal: \$2,500,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

4. The Progress Fund

- Loan Agreement: \$1,000,000 (April 2017)
- Interest-only quarterly payments at 2% per annum
- Principal due January 2026
- Outstanding principal: \$1,000,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

5. 1855 Capital Fund

- Loan Agreement: \$500,000 (December 2017)
- Semiannual minimum interest payments
- Principal due December 2027
- Outstanding principal: \$500,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

6. Blue Highway Capital - Loan Agreement: \$250,000 (January 2019)

- Semiannual minimum interest payments
- Principal due January 2029 (unless extensions are exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$250,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

Coronavirus COVID-19 Emergency Loan Funds

7. - Bridgeway Capital: \$520,000 (March 2020)

- Two funds for small businesses and nonprofits
- Zero interest

- Entire outstanding balance due in October 2026 (unless forgiveness clause is exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$620,000 (March 31, 2023)

Provide itemized list of each loan issued by lender to include total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan amount, interest rate and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

8. Erie Center for Arts & Technology

- Loan Agreement: \$500,000 (August 2020)
- Quarterly minimum interest payments
- Principal due in August 2027 (unless extensions are exercised)
- Outstanding principal: \$500,000 (March 31, 2023)

9. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie

- Loan Agreement: \$188,000 (January 2022)
- Zero-percent interest rate
- Original maturity date of February 2023 (extended to approximately June 2025)
- Outstanding principal: \$121,824 (March 31, 2023)

Provide reason for extension, board process and vote documentation for extension.

10. Ben Franklin Technology Partners:

- Loan Agreement: \$3,000,000.00

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

10. Any other loans or endowments currently in service to organizations not listed to include funds allocated to Erie Community Foundation.

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

11. Total Loan Amounts from Audit:

- Sum of all loan agreements mentioned: \$9,458,000

12. Total Outstanding Principal (as of March 31, 2023):

- Combined outstanding principal balances: \$7,969,824

13. Difference Analysis:

- The difference between the total loan amounts and the total outstanding principal is \$1,488,176. This represents the amount repaid or does not contribute to the current outstanding balances of the loans as of March 31, 2023. I believe that a detailed overview of the loan portfolio will enhance transparency and understanding among stakeholders. This information will contribute to informed decision-making and foster confidence in the Authority's financial management.

14. Provide the total amount of loans given from 2012 to present. Itemize by loan to municipality, nonprofit, private entity or other. List all loans, total amounts, interest rates, and status of loan.

Provide rationale for loan/endowment, total amount of funds currently in service, recipient, address, loan or grant amount, interest rate (if applicable) and status (Current, delinquent, uncollectable, closed).

15. Provide check detail reports from January 2016 to present.
16. Provide a copy of ECGRA's policy for records management and retention and all corresponding documentation for the creation, board approval with meeting minutes related to the implementation of any records management and retention policy.
17. Provide signed annual Financial Interest Reports and Conflict of Interest Statements signed by each staff and board member from the beginning of employment to end/present or board term from January 2009 to January of 2024.
18. Provide a detailed account of all payments by fiscal year, itemized by total salary, travel, reimbursements, and any other payments made to Director Perry Wood from 2012 to present. Please provide corresponding reimbursement documentation signed by Director Perry Wood and rationale for board approvals for, vote records and corresponding meeting minutes for all reimbursements from January 2012 to Present. Any related to payments made to or for Director Perry Wood.
18. Provide all contracts from 1099 Contractors or any other contract from 2016 to present.
19. Provide all ECGRA credit card statements from January of 2016 to present.

Your requests are being reviewed, and an extension of time in which to respond is being claimed, as the extent or nature of your requests precludes a response in the initial time period and a legal review is necessary to determine whether the entirety of each record is subject to access.

You should anticipate a response no later than thirty days from the date of this correspondence. An estimate of fees owed to respond to this request is, at this time, unable to be ascertained. All fees must be paid in order to receive access to the records.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information supplied.

Sincerely,



Dr. Perry Wood
Open-Records Officer

cc: Timothy S. Wachter, Esq.

**SENATOR
DAN LAUGHLIN
49TH DISTRICT**

**SENATE BOX 203049
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3049
(717) 787-8927**

**1314 GRISWOLD PLAZA
SUITE 101
ERIE, PA 16501
(814) 453-2515**

dlaughlin@psen.gov
senatorlaughlin.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

**POLICY, CHAIR
GAME & FISHERIES,
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COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC &
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
LABOR & INDUSTRY
RULES & EXECUTIVE
NOMINATIONS**

February 1, 2024

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

Dear members of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA):

We are writing to express our collective concern regarding information we have received about the ways in which local share gaming revenues have been distributed in Erie County over the past several years and how these transactions have been reported. As an example; just recently, we became aware of the fact that reports of the uses of these funds were not being reported on the ECGRA website, or any other public forum, as required by Commonwealth gaming laws. This is just one example of issue that has caused us concern, and we now feel compelled to request an audit by the appropriate state oversight body, of all practices and uses of gaming revenue by the Authority, over the past several years.

As such, we are formally requesting that you refrain from any measures that bind the Authority to long-term obligations, pending the outcome of this audit. This includes acting on a new contract for the executive director, beyond extending his current contract no more than 120 days, until we have a firm understanding of the authorities record of compliance with gaming laws and any corrective measures that may be required if there is found to be a problem.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and believe it is in everyone's best interest to insure that all laws are being strictly complied with or that appropriate corrective measures are taken to resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dan Laughlin in blue ink.

**Dan Laughlin
State Senator
49th Senatorial District**

Handwritten signature of Patrick J. Harkins in black ink.

**Patrick Harkins
State Representative
1st Legislative District**

Handwritten signature of Jake Banta in black ink.

**Jake Banta
State Representative
4th Legislative District**

Handwritten signature of Scott P. Hutchinson in black ink.

**Scott Hutchinson
State Senator
21st Senatorial District**

Handwritten signature of Robert E. Merski in black ink.

**Robert E. Merski
State Representative
2nd Legislative District**

Handwritten signature of Brad Roae in black ink.

**Brad Roae
State Representative
6th Legislative District**

Handwritten signature of Brenton Davis in black ink.

**Brenton Davis
County Executive
Erie County**

To: Sen Laughlin

The ECGRA Board received your letter, and we would welcome any opportunity to meet with you to discuss any concerns whatsoever. We are troubled by the continual overreach and untrue accusations of mismanagement being leveled by County Executive Davis. There is no evidence to support any of his accusations and there is no reason for any additional audit, particularly considering the annual audit being performed by accounting firm Maher Duessel is currently underway. Per our charter we perform an independent audit every year.

As public Authority Board members, we take our responsibility very seriously and are confident communicating back to you in no uncertain terms. This Board is confident in the work of our auditor, ourselves, and our professional staff.

Recently, our solicitor let Dr. Wood know Senator Laughlin's office alerted him that he believed all ECGRA's cumulative expenses, not just the monthly reports, should be posted to the website per the law that was passed in 2016. The ECGRA staff quickly remedied this new interpretation and posted all expenses within 24 hours, which can be found [here](#). We appreciate Senator Laughlin's communication. When the law was updated in 2016, ECGRA began posting finances monthly, and will continue to do so.

Please keep in mind that the financials are available in our annual reports, [which you can find here](#) and are in our monthly treasurer's report, which goes to the County via the County Executive's liaison to the ECGRA board. **ECGRA's finances and programmatic activities are all publicly available – on this there is no question and as a Board we wouldn't stand for anything less than 100% transparency.**

ECGRA has been under political attack many times in the past, and we believe that a fresh political agenda to dissolve ECGRA is underway. It is continuous and stressful. The County Executive has come to our public meetings several times with the express purpose of preventing the Executive Director's contract from being renewed. We have no evidence whatsoever that Dr. Wood is doing anything but a remarkable job on behalf of ECGRA, Erie County residents, and ECGRA grant recipients.

There is, however, much evidence that ECGRA is working. This is precisely why independent Authorities are formed – to avoid undue political influence in public funding decisions, and we will continue to work on behalf of Erie residents, and our appointing authority of Erie County Council to implement its mission.

You may notice that not every member of the ECGRA board is signatory to this letter, much like not every member of the state delegation is signatory to the County Executive's letter. As we are not politicians, it is very difficult to maintain a professional atmosphere through these attacks, but we remain committed to the ECGRA mission and the communities across Erie County that depend upon our programs. Please be in touch with us directly if you have any questions.

Dale E. Barney, Chairman
Whitey Cleaver
Kelly S. Hess
Angela Amatangelo

Board of Directors

Dale E. Barney
Chair

Vice-chair

Whitey Cleaver
Treasurer

Perry N. Wood
Secretary

Kelly S. Hess

Carol Loll

Robert S. Oberlander

Gary J. Winschel

Angela Amatangelo

Terry Scutella
Ex-officio

Douglas Smith
Ex-officio

Perry N. Wood
Executive Director



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Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.
120 West Tenth Street | Erie, PA 16501-1461
814-459-2800 | www.kmgslaw.com

Timothy S. Wachter
twachter@kmgslaw.com

February 6, 2024

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board
c/o Mr. Dale Barney, Chair
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, Pennsylvania 16510

RE: ECGRA Operations

Dear ECGRA Board:

I am writing with respect to the February 1, 2024 correspondence issued by Senators Laughlin and Hutchinson, Representatives Harkins, Banta, Merski and Roae, and County Executive Davis. In the correspondence, concerns are raised relating to “the ways in which local share gaming revenue have been distributed in Erie County over the past several years and how these transactions have been reported.”

I am aware of no rationale concerns that have been expressed with the legality of any funding granted by ECGRA since I have begun representing ECGRA. In my opinion, such approvals have met both the spirit and letter of the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, 4 Pa.C.S.A. § 1101, et. seq., the Economic Development Financing Law, 73 PS §371, and the December 13, 2010 Settlement Agreement in the matter of *Summit Township Industrial & Economic Development Authority, et. al. v. ECGRA and Erie County*, Erie Cnty. Ct. Cm. Pl. 14961-2009. As such, any disagreements relating to “the ways in which local share gaming revenue have been distributed in Erie County” are likely related to policy disagreements, rather than legal disagreements.

Regarding the concerns relating to “how these transactions have been reported,” I believe that it is instructive to explain the law in this regard. The Race Horse Development and Gaming Act was amended through Act 42 of 2017. This amendment was the change in the law which diverted \$1,000,000 each year of gross terminal revenue from ECGRA to the Erie County Land Bank, and included certain other provisions which only impact ECGRA, including the following:

(D.2) An economic or redevelopment authority which administers local share assessment funds for a county of the third class, which is also a home rule county in which a Category 1 licensed facility is located at a thoroughbred racetrack, shall be subject to the following:

(I) Each expenditure of the local share assessment funds by the authority shall be disclosed on the authority's publicly accessible Internet website.

(II) Local share assessment funds received by the authority may not be used to pay for tuition or other educational expenses of an officer or employee of the authority.

(III) Each expenditure of local share assessment funds by the authority shall include a disclosure that the funds originated from licensed gaming activities.

(IV) The authority shall be subject to audit by the Auditor General.

4 Pa.C.S.A. § 1403(c)(ii)(D.2).

Specifically at issue appears to be the provision stating that “each expenditure of the local share assessment funds by the authority shall be disclosed on the authority’s publicly accessible Internet website.” ECGRA has, since the adoption of this provision, maintained a provision on its website under the “About ECGRA” tab which is titled “Financial Disclosure.” Under that tab, ECGRA has disclosed the monthly Profit and Loss Statement, which is a summary of all monthly financials, as approved each month by the Board.

Recently, however, Senator Laughlin reached out to my office to inquire as to where the listing of expenditures was for ECGRA on the website. The Senator disagreed with the monthly disclosure regime that ECGRA had undertaken since 2017, and was of the opinion that the reports should be listed cumulatively, and with more detail. Upon notifying the ECGRA staff of the Senator’s desire, the staff uploaded all such financial materials within 24 hours of being notified of the request.

I have reviewed the financial reports that are on the website and have found them to be comprehensive and in line with the Senator’s desire. I see no legal concerns with the disclosures nor with compliance with the provisions of Act 42 of 2017.


Additionally, the correspondence calls for ECGRA to “refrain from any measures that bind the Authority to long term obligations” pending the outcome of an audit which they have requested. Please know that none of the signatories of the correspondence have any authority to make such a demand. It appears that they are aware of that, as they have styled this matter as a request, rather than a direction. To be clear, only the board of ECGRA has the discretion to direct how and whether of ECGRA is to be conducted.

ECGRA Board
February 6, 2024
Page 3

I hope that this correspondence answers any questions or concerns you may have regarding the referenced correspondence, and the legal position of ECGRA. Please feel free to reach out to me should you wish to discuss this further. I remain,

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &
SENNETT, P.C.

By: 
Timothy S. Wachter

2487410.v1

cc: Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director



Erie | North East | Pittsburgh | Jamestown, NY

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120 West Tenth Street | Erie, PA 16501-1461
814-459-2800 | www.kmgslaw.com

Timothy S. Wachter
twachter@kmgslaw.com

February 6, 2024

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Board
c/o Mr. Dale Barney, Chair
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, Pennsylvania 16510

RE: Conflict of Interest

Dear ECGRA Board:

It has recently come to my attention that a concern has been raised as to whether the Erie County Gaming Revenue Board (ECGRA) has operated in compliance with the express terms of the conflict of interest provisions of the Pennsylvania Ethics Act. In my opinion, the members of the ECGRA Board of Directors has not, to my knowledge, ever engaged in a conflict of interest.

The Pennsylvania Ethics Act (the "Act") provides that "no public official ... shall engage in conduct that constitutes a conflict of interest." 65 PA.C.S. §1103. A "conflict of interest" is defined as "use by a public official...of the authority of [her] office...or any confidential information received through [her] holding public office...for the private pecuniary benefit of [herself], a member of [her] immediate family or a business with which [she] or a member of [her] immediate family is associated." 65 PA.C.S. §1102. A "member of your immediate family" includes "a parent, spouse, child, brother or sister." *Id.* A "business with which he is associated" is defined as "any business in which the person or a member of the person's immediate family is a director, officer, owner, employee or has a financial interest." *Id.*

Additionally, the Act provides that where a voting conflict exists, a public official is to "abstain from voting and prior to the vote being taken, publicly announce and disclose the nature of [her] interest as a public record..." and file a memorandum of such conflict with the Board Secretary to be part of the minutes. 65 PA.C.S. §1103. Further, a public official who would be in a conflict situation should avoid deliberation on the matter as a whole, as their participation in the deliberation could be determined to be an improper "use...of the authority" of their office. See 65 PA.C.S. §1102.

In each instance that a member of the Board of Directors has identified a conflict of interest, in which they, or a member of their immediate family, or a business in which they or a member of their immediate family was associated, was an applicant for funding from ECGRA, that member has abstained from engaging in deliberations regarding the application or the award, and they have abstained from any associated vote. Additionally, each member has issued a conflict of interest memorandum to the Board Secretary for inclusion in the minutes for the meeting at which the abstention occurred.

Additionally, it is important to note that a conflict of interest does not exist when the action in question has “a de minimis economic impact or which affects to the same degree a class consisting of the general public or a subclass consisting of an industry, occupation or other group which includes the public official or public employee, a member of his immediate family or a business with which he or a member of his immediate family is associated.” 65 PA.C.S. §1102. I raise this as there have been concerns in the past as to whether a conflict would exist if ECGRA received an application from a church that a Board member was associated with. I have regularly, and correctly, issued the opinion that a technical legal conflict, as defined by the Ethics Act, does not exist as the Board members would be considered to be a member of a subclass consisting of the church membership, and they did not serve as an officer or employee of the church. Such mere membership within the subclass would not constitute a conflict of interest.

In anticipation of such misplaced criticism being lodged against the past and current members of the ECGRA Board, I have asked Dr. Wood to ensure that each conflict memorandum be publicly disclosed on the ECGRA website.

Also, I write to inform you that, as members of the ECGRA Board of Directors, if you have any question as to whether a conflict of interest exists, and you wish to receive an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission, I can write and request that the Commission issue an advisory on your behalf. If you follow the advice provide by the Commission, it shall be a complete defense in any enforcement proceeding under the Ethics Act, and as evidence of good faith conduct in any other civil or criminal proceeding. 65 PA.C.S. § 1107. Please know that I can also provide you with a legal opinion regarding a conflict of interest, and that you are entitled to rely upon that opinion. However, you may wish to request an official advisory opinion if a matter is particularly sensitive. I am happy to assist any of you in these matters.

Please do let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this further. I remain,

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &
SENNETT, P.C.

By: 
Timothy S. Wachter

2487464.v1

cc: Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director

Davis calls for ECGRA to cease operations pending legal, financial audit

- By Rebekah Wallace rebekah@thecorryjournal.com
- Jan 31, 2024

Erie County Executive Brenton Davis is calling for the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) to stop all operations until a legal and financial audit of its activities can be conducted.

"I'm highly concerned," Davis commented in an interview. "There are a lot of legal questions surrounding ECGRA's decision making. Where there's smoke, there's fire."

On Jan. 19, Davis submitted a letter to the ECGRA board of directors requesting detailed updates on each of ECGRA's outstanding loans, including the delinquency, collectability and a detailed loan portfolio summary for each account.

The loans listed in Davis' request for information were to the following entities:

- Enterprise Development Fund of Erie County
- Corry Industrial Benefit Association (CIBA)
- Bridgeway Capital (Erie Growth Fund)
- The Progress Fund
- 1855 Capital Fund
- Blue Highway Capital

Covid-19 Emergency Loan Funds:

- Bridgeway Capital
- Erie Center for Arts & Technology
- Youth Leadership Institute of Erie

According to the letter, the initial agreements for these accounts totaled \$9,458,000, with \$7,969,824 in combined outstanding principal balances as of March 31, 2023.

A response dated Jan. 22 and signed by ECGRA Board Chairman Dale Barney outlined that all loans are current and have not ever been delinquent, with the following exceptions:

- The CIBA loan has been repaid, but had an outstanding balance of \$4,635 as of March 31, 2023.
- The second Bridgeway Capital account, a special round of loans made to the organization during the Covid-19 pandemic, has no interest rate, and two of the original 10 small business loans have been declared uncollectible. According to Barney's letter, the account has an outstanding principal balance of

\$620,000 as of March 31, 2023. The entire balance is due in October of 2026, unless a forgiveness clause is exercised. The letter states more information will be forthcoming in a final report.

- The Youth Leadership Institute loan is delinquent, and ECGRA is currently in talks with the organization on an extended payback schedule. The outstanding balance as of March 31, 2023, was \$121,824.

Davis stated that he was unsatisfied with the response from ECGRA. He felt it was simply regurgitating information his administration already has.

“We’re asking for more information,” Davis said.

In turn, ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood pointed out that multiple representatives of Davis’ administration, including his director of administration, are present at ECGRA board meetings and get all of the same information given to the organization’s directors.

“There’s a liaison system in place,” Wood said. “I don’t know what else to do.”

Davis noted his primary concerns are with the Bridgeway loan and anything else that is or could become uncollectible.

“How are taxpayers benefiting from public money being loaned to private companies?” Davis asked.

Barney responded to this question in an email statement.

“In 2014, ECGRA established a loan program to complement grant programs in line with our economic development mission. Since that time, we have engaged primarily with revolving loan funds, some nonprofits during the pandemic and a real estate project that created a workforce center like the Corry Higher Ed building. It’s called the Erie Center for Arts and Technology. The revolving loan funds lend ECGRA dollars to small businesses. We do maintain a reserve fund, as a best practice in accounting, in case any of the loans go uncollectible. To date, that fund has not needed to be accessed.

“The nearly \$8 million ECGRA invested in loan funds has helped many small businesses with gap financing, working capital and equipment purchases,” Barney continued. “These small businesses have a multiplier effect on our county’s economy, providing jobs and growing wealth at the local level. Examples include tech startups like Sphere Brakes, manufacturers like Reliant Molding, and logistics companies like Capela Transport.”

Wood added that the economic development and financing law establishing ECGRA and regulating its activities gives ECGRA the ability to issue both grants and loans.

“Those are two vehicles by which we can accomplish the mission,” Wood said. “Grants are not our mission. Our mission is to revitalize Erie County communities through grants and loans. We do not exist to provide tax relief. We exist to provide grants and loans for economic and community development. And that is set up through the state of Pennsylvania.”

Davis pointed out another main concern, stating that Wood has seen his salary raised by \$40,000 over the course of four years.

“His raise is more than some people make in a year,” Davis said.

Barney responded to this as well.

“The ECGRA Board approves the terms of Dr. Wood’s contract, based on his job description, experience and expertise,” he said. “Under his leadership, for the past 12 years, ECGRA has established a nationally recognized economic and community development model that allows for the transparent and accountable stewardship of ECGRA funds. Like other authority directors and economic development professionals in Erie County, he is paid in line with industry standards for the job he is charged with doing.

“The ECGRA board is proud of its work and the job Dr. Wood and his team of professionals do every day – they have built a very strong reputation in communities like Corry and countywide, and we have confidence he will continue to do this important work in spite of relentless political attacks.”

From: Steve Bishop <stevenericbishop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:01:36 PM
To: Scutella, Terry <tscutella@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: ECGRA

Mr. Scutella,

As Erie County Council considers the future of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, I wanted to provide some context regarding the vital role ECGRA has played for the county's rural communities over the last decade or more.

I spent 30 years working in Corry, including 22 years running the Corry Higher Education Council. In 1999 I established the nonprofit now known as "Impact Corry," at a time Corry's downtown was suffering from decades of disinvestment.

The establishment of ECGRA was a game-changer for what has become a remarkably successful revitalization of downtown Corry, due not just from the money that was made available, but also because of the targeted programs the ECGRA staff created and administered, and the relationships ECGRA developed with our community stakeholders.

Since retiring from the Corry Hi-Ed, I've worked with the Union City Community Foundation to replicate that Corry success, and ECGRA has been an indispensable part of what has become another dramatic turnaround story. Same formula ... funding, targeted programs, relationships, and responsiveness.

ECGRA's methodology includes grant recipients having to leverage ECGRA's funding with some level of matching funds, to ensure recipients have a stake in the game.

Importantly, in my approximately dozen years working with ECGRA, I have never had the sense that ECGRA's decisions about who to fund were political in nature. It has felt like any community that puts in the work, has a plan, and is willing to invest in itself, can receive ECGRA's support.

I can't speak to the issues raised in the current look at ECGRA's operation. I do have concerns, however, about any proposal to roll these gaming funds under Erie County government's purview.

Those concerns include distribution of those gaming funds becoming a political tool rather than merit-based; turnover in county government ruining the continuity this funding distribution has enjoyed for more than a decade; and the likelihood that instead of the targeted and well-considered programs and relationships we've come to expect with ECGRA, it becomes just "another county program." That would be a tragic development for Erie County's communities that have seen their fortunes turn around with ECGRA's support.

While oversight is important, my take is that ECGRA has a responsible board of directors, and the organization is doing the job it has been tasked with.

Thank you.

Steve Bishop

Tammi Michali

From: Gary Bukowski <GBukowski@sarahreed.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Tammi Michali
Cc: Adrienne Dixon; Stephenie Bojc; Amanda Longstreth; Gary Bukowski; Perry Wood
Subject: RE: ECGRA Press Conference

External Sender - From: (Gary Bukowski <GBukowski@sarahreed.org>)

[Learn More](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Tami,
Good speaking with you a few minutes ago and Dr. Adrienne Dixon, President & CEO will be representing Sarah A Reed Children's Center at your press conference next Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Mercy Center for Women campus 1039 East 27th Street @ 11:00AM.

We are greatly appreciative of ECGRA's support that truly has made a difference at our St. Ann's Campus for the children, faculty and counselors working with our children on Erie's East Side in the Pulaski-Lighthouse district.

The last two months have been a lot warmer in our building thanks to ECGRA's support. Your funding has helped us provide leverage to obtain NAP funding through DCED to repair our roofs and support through the City of Erie to begin repointing on our building...

Please convey our thanks to the ECGRA Board for the economic impact they have enabled at our St Ann's Campus and the difference they are making in the Erie Community thru their support!!

Thank You

Gary

Gary L. Bukowski, MA, CFRE
Associate Vice President of Development
Sarah A. Reed Children's Center
2445 West 34th Street
Erie, Pa. 16506
814.835.7602 Fax 814.835.2196
gbukowski@sarahreed.org
<https://sarahareed.plannedgiving.org/>

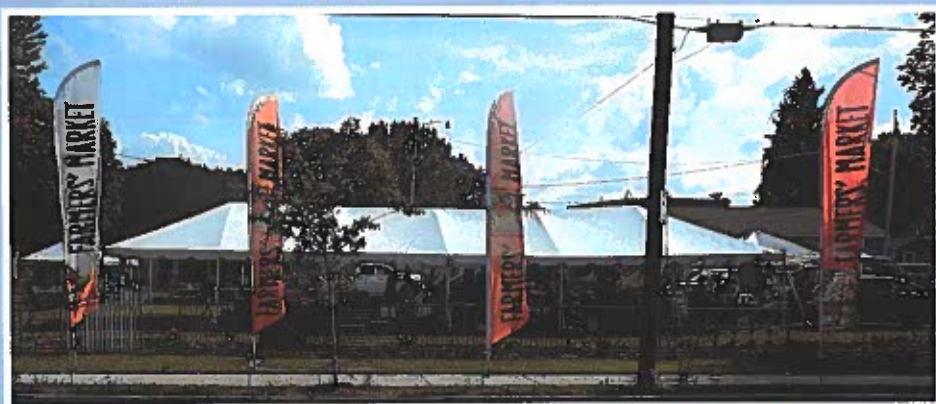
From: Tammi Michali <tmichali@ecgra.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:04 PM
To: Gary Bukowski <GBukowski@sarahreed.org>
Subject: ECGRA Press Conference

Good afternoon, Gary –
The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) will be holding a press conference to announce the Community Facilities grant awards that were made as a part of the Building a Better Future grant program. Dr. Wood has requested that you, or a representative from your organization, give a brief overview of how the funds have

ROOTED in our Community

Small Business Program Launch

With the support of Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), we launched a new program to provide capacity building and technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs in our footprint. Small business development specialists, Paramount Pursuits, Inc., have served as a great partner to provide direct coaching to the eight businesses within our service area, including Enrique's Southeast Mexican Taqueria and Tortilleria, who hosted the public announcement (below). A first in the community, this small business partnership program is offered in both English and Spanish.



EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT")

BETWEEN

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY ("AUTHORITY")

AND

PERRY WOOD ("WOOD")

WHEREAS, the Authority and Wood desire to continue the Authority's employment of Wood as its Executive Director;

WHEREAS, the parties wish to confirm the terms of Wood's continued employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and agreements herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties mutually agree as follows:

1. Employment. The Authority hereby agrees to continue employing Wood as its Executive Director, and Wood hereby accepts employment in the position, pursuant to the provisions set forth herein.

2. Term of Employment. Wood's employment hereunder shall continue for a period of three (3) years from April 1, 2024, ending on March 31, 2027, unless terminated sooner pursuant to paragraph 5 hereof.

3. Duties and Responsibilities.

(a) Wood shall continue to have the duties and responsibilities normally assigned to him in the past, subject to modification from time to time by the Authority, including, but not limited to:

- (i) supervising and managing the business affairs of the Authority;
- (ii) supervising and managing the employees of the Authority;
- (iii) implementing policies and procedures established by the Authority;
- (iv) developing and recommending the implementation of policies and procedures to the Authority;
- (v) monitoring and accounting for the monthly income and operating expenses of the Authority and providing monthly

reports to the Authority reflecting such income and operating expenses;

- (vi) preparing annual budgets, statements of financial condition and other financial reports in coordination with the Treasurer and the Authority's accountant;
- (vii) developing and recommending the implementation of a grant application process, including project applications, policies, procedures and guidelines relating to the disposition of gaming revenue, to the Authority, in coordination with Authority committees;
- (viii) evaluating grant applications for gaming revenue and recommending project applications and applicants to the Board, in coordination with Authority committees;
- (ix) developing and evaluating contracts and agreements in conjunction with the Authority's solicitor and, with the consent of the Authority, entering into contracts and agreements on behalf of the Authority;
- (x) serving on Authority committees and, with the consent of the Authority, serving on community task forces and other community groups;
- (xi) securing documents generated by the business operations of the Authority, including, but not limited to, the Authority's Charter, Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, Minutes and Resolutions, Authority policies and procedures, financial documents, agreements, grant applications, policies and procedures, application materials, exhibits and correspondence, and all other business records;
- (xii) managing, monitoring and reporting to the Authority with respect to the status of contracts approved by the Authority, distributed gaming revenue and projects awarded by the Authority;
- (xiii) developing and presenting to the Board, within three (3) months of complete execution of this Agreement, a metrics system by which Wood's performance shall be measured, subject to Board approval; and
- (xiv) performing faithfully, and to the best of his abilities, such other duties and obligations as may be assigned to him by the Authority from time to time.

(xv) ensuring that Board meeting and Committee meeting agendas and all supporting documents are submitted to the Board or Committee no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

(b) Wood's employment will be generally in accordance with the Authority's policies and procedures;

(c) Wood will report to the Board of Directors;

(d) Wood shall devote his exclusive, full-time efforts to the faithful, efficient and competent performance of his duties; provided, however, that he may undertake consultative work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, adjunct teaching or other professional services, provided that such work is approved by the Authority Board of Directors and does not interfere in any way with his full time responsibilities to the Authority;

(e) Wood will promote the success and reputation of the Authority at all times and avoid all activities which are detrimental to the success and/or reputation of the Authority; and

4. Compensation, Insurance and Other Fringe Benefits. The Authority will provide Wood with the following:

(a) Compensation. Wood will receive an annual salary of One Hundred and Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Eight Dollars and Fifteen cents (\$141,508.15), payable in accordance with the Authority's usual payroll practices.

(b) Increase in Compensation. Wood may receive an annual salary increase during the term of this Agreement in the sole discretion of the Board. Any such increase, if offered by the Board, shall be based upon Wood's performance during the previous year as measured by the metrics system created and approved pursuant to Section 3(a)(xiii) of this Agreement. In no case shall any increase in excess of the minimum annual increase exceed three percent (3%) of the previous year's base salary.

(c) Insurance and Other Fringe Benefits. Wood shall be eligible to receive all insurance and other fringe benefits offered to other similarly situated employees of the Authority pursuant to its Personnel Policy. Such fringe benefits include, at a minimum, medical, dental, and vision coverage and long and short term disability insurance.

(d) Expenses. The Authority shall reimburse Wood for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties pursuant to this Agreement, and for any other expenses in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) that have been authorized in advance by the Authority. Expense reimbursement shall be in accordance with the Authority's Personnel Policy. For the purposes of this provision, "out-of-pocket expenses" shall be determined to be those unbudgeted and individual purchases of goods or services that are necessary for the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

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5. Termination.

(a) Termination for Cause. Wood's employment is subject to immediate termination in the event he engages in any of the following:

- (i) Conduct that results in an investigation or legal proceedings against the Authority by a federal, state, county or municipal regulatory agency that results in a final negative finding or conviction;
- (ii) Negligent or intentional conduct that threatens to bring Wood or the Authority into public disrepute, contempt, scandal or otherwise jeopardizes the reputation and/or success of the Authority;
- (iii) Commission of, conviction of and/or guilty plea of a felony;
- (iv) Material acts of theft, breach of fiduciary duty, or gross negligence;
- (v) Gross negligence and/or failure to satisfy his obligations under this Agreement, which is not corrected by Wood within fifteen (15) days of his receipt of written notice by the Authority.

In the event Wood's employment hereunder is terminated for cause, he shall be entitled to payment of his salary and any applicable benefits through the date of separation but nothing further.

(b) Termination for Lack of Funding. The Authority shall have the right to terminate Wood's employment immediately in the event the Authority is dissolved, terminated or defunded. Should Wood's employment be terminated pursuant to this subparagraph, he shall be entitled to payment of his salary and any applicable benefits for a period of 180 days from the date upon which the Authority notifies him, in writing, of its intent to terminate his employment, or for that period of time remaining within the term of this agreement, whichever is less.

6. Death or Disability of Wood. In the event Wood becomes disabled from the performance of his obligations under this Agreement, or dies during the term of this Agreement, his employment hereunder will be subject to termination and his right to any further compensation and benefits will cease. "Disability" will mean failure of Wood to fully perform his duties on a full-time basis for ninety (90) consecutive days as a result of Wood's incapacity due to physical or mental illness or injury.

7. No Conflict. Wood represents and warrants to the Authority that neither Wood's performing any obligation pursuant to this Agreement, nor the Executive's employment by the Authority, whether before or after the date of this Agreement, will violate or conflict with any obligation Wood has to any other person. If such

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representation or warranty is untrue or misleading in any respect, Wood shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority from and against all claims, costs, damages, expenses, indebtedness, liabilities, and losses incurred by the Authority or arising in connection therewith.

8. Notice. Any notice required by this Agreement must be in writing and shall be considered given when mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the following:

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

Wood: Perry Wood
3138 West 53rd Street
Erie, PA 16506

9. Waiver. Waiver by the Authority of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by Wood shall not be considered as a waiver by the Authority of any subsequent breach by Wood.

10. Assignment. All rights and obligations under this Agreement shall be personal to Wood and shall not be assignable by him. The rights and obligations of the Authority under this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the Authority and its assigns.

11. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including all attachments, contains the entire understanding between the parties hereto. There have been no oral or other agreements of any kind whatsoever as a condition, precedent or inducement to the signing of this Agreement or otherwise concerning this Agreement or the subject matter hereof. Any prior communications between the parties, including the Authority's representatives, which are not included in this Agreement, are not binding.

12. Modification. No changes, modifications or alterations of any of the terms and provisions contained in this Agreement shall be effective unless changed, modified or altered in writing and signed by both parties hereto.

13. No Third Party Rights. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as created or giving rise to any rights to any third parties or any persons other than the parties hereto, with the exception of the Authority.

14. Severability. In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provisions are not contained herein. If, moreover, any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be

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excessively broad as to time, geographical scope, activity or subject, it shall be construed, by limiting and reducing it, so as to be enforceable to the extent compatible with the applicable law as it shall then appear in the jurisdiction.

15. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All disputes arising under this Agreement shall be brought in either the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania or the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Erie Division.

16. Headings. Any headings preceding the text of the paragraphs hereof are inserted solely for convenience of reference and shall not constitute a part of this Agreement nor shall they affect its meaning, construction or effect.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

Executed by the parties this ____ day of _____, 20__, intending to be legally bound.

WITNESS/ATTEST:

PERRY WOOD

WITNESS/ATTEST:

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE
AUTHORITY

BY _____

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