



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park
5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
April 18, 2024

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87150384719>
Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2024
6. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
7. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. PRESENTATION
10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - 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. Resolution Number 9, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreement with two (2) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets, Round 2

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, May 16, 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

March 21, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on March 21, 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 8:30 am.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Amatangelo, Mr. Barney, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, Mr. Oberlander, and Council Chairman Terry Scutella are present in person. Mr. Winschel and Mr. Copeland are present via zoom. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2024

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

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Loll: Perry, we appointed you to the airport to go to the meetings and stuff. What's been going on there? What are the meetings . . . ?

Dr. Wood: Well, you didn't appoint me to the airport, . . .

Ms. Loll: Well, I know, but to go.

Dr. Wood: You appointed me to the Fly Erie LLC, just to be clear, and the Fly Erie LLC is being created as we speak by the Chamber of Commerce. We were the first in, which I think was a good move for us. The actual convening of the LLC won't take place until the fundraising is complete. They are expecting that fundraising to be complete sometime in April. So those meetings will start then.

Ms. Loll: April of this year?

Dr. Wood: April 2024.

Ms. Loll: So, they'll move on then and try to accomplish what we put the money forth for.

Dr. Wood: Yes.

Ms. Loll: Thank you.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would like to acknowledge the Board for all their due diligence and time and commitment. I just want to encourage you to stay focused and let's do this thing in 2024. Also, I know we had grant reviews and I want to commend each and every one of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to participate because it's so important; the more feedback is how we get things done around here. So, I want to say thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no one from the public present that wishes to speak.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we're finishing the year out; the new year starts April 1. The expenses this year were excellent. There were a couple of items overspent; there is an explanation to all of them. Most of them were just minor expenses, but everything else fell into place. That's all I have. If you have any questions, I'll try to answer them. If I can't, then somebody will. I think you all have a copy of the new budget.

Dr. Wood: Would you like to talk about the budget at this point in time?

Ms. Loll: What?

Dr. Wood: Next year's budget – would you like to discuss that?

Mr. Barney: The draft budget that's in front of you.

Ms. Loll: If you want to put that in this line, because I would like to go over a few things.

Mr. Cleaver: We are going to approve the budget for the up-and-coming year if there's any questions. I reviewed a lot of this with Perry over the last six to eight weeks. If there is any questions by any Board members, then fine. One thing I do want to say, there was some thought about medical coverage, and I personally tried to contact brokers; I thought I knew all of them in town, but none of them wanted. Some of the board members wanted to get some background on the benefits for the employees. I couldn't find a broker that would present something to the Authority. So, I made a suggestion to Perry that what he probably should do is go out on his own, since we're so small – only three – to get two or three bids and bring them back to the Board and that would give us an opportunity to review. Unless someone else knows a broker, I could not find one. The ones I knew through the Parking Authority are no longer in health. So, I talked to Perry and made that suggestion. If the Board has any other ideas, that's fine.

Ms. Loll: The people that I use is Loesel-Shaaf and when I was speaking to them about my insurance, I happened to ask about that and she gave me the name of Frank Riley to contact.

Mr. Cleaver: I believe our package ends the end of April.

Dr. Wood: Isn't it May?

Ms. Michali: It's through April.

Mr. Cleaver: That gives us some time to review it. I'm open as you know, if you know a broker that is willing to look into it. If not, you can go to UPMC, Aetna, there's a couple of them out there but you yourself have to get in touch with them.

Dr. Wood: This current budget reflects our current insurance package - a continuation of it, so we'll make contact with Frank and as well as the person we're currently working with on our package.

Mr. Winschel: So, in the meantime, Perry, can we get - I know I've asked before on the current insurance coverage - can we just get the you know, Benefit Summary Statement which basically is like usually a one page sheet that just shows you know what your coverage is, deductibles; it doesn't necessarily say you know, copay doesn't necessarily say what your, you know, participation rate is, but just the overall coverage so we can kind of see that.

Dr. Wood: Gary, what was the name of that document?

Mr. Winschel: Benefit Summary Statement.

Dr. Wood: We can get that to you.

Mr. Winschel: Yeah, that would say, hey, it's a \$250 deductible or a high deductible, \$2,500 deductible type of issue. So at least we kind of have an understanding as you go shopping around just to make sure we compare apples to apples.

Dr. Wood: Sounds good.

Mr. Winschel: Thanks.

Mr. Cleaver: Anything else in reference to the budget? If you look, we've made some cuts and Perry can answer to that. Other than that, I reviewed everything and I'm satisfied. I imagine you people may have some questions so we can move on and then hopefully get it approved.

Mr. Winschel: I've got a couple of questions on the budget Perry and Ron. I noticed that on some of the items I mean, it's not a lot of money I understand, but a lot of items like Professional Development, Meeting Expenses, you know, really didn't spend that much and you did reflect that in the budget. So, I do give you credit for that. I guess travel you didn't do a lot of Travel and you reduced it by \$1,000; I think year-to-date, maybe \$1,500. But I think the big thing here, the biggest reduction is the Salary, Wages, and Benefits you cut from \$300,000 to \$250,000. Why was that? Because I know we haven't added any staff, or you don't plan on cutting any staff. From the fact in the past, maybe you over-budgeted that line item?

Dr. Wood: Yeah, we made a mistake and slightly over budgeted last time. And I think it was because there was a lot of confusion because we had a new contract coming in from the County with the ARPA dollars, so there was just some confusion and we made a mistake and over budgeted. The \$250,000 is more in line with where we currently are.

Mr. Winschel: Yeah, that's what I kind of thought.

Dr. Wood: Real quick on the budget, and then I can answer any more questions. The last month of the fiscal year is March. So, in April, you'll get the March finances and then once you approve those we'll be in a place where we can begin work with the auditors, Maher Duessel, our auditors. This draft budget was sent to you guys formally at the last Board meeting. The staff has not received any feedback on this draft budget from anyone. Now, I didn't really expect it; It's pretty bare bones. But this is your second opportunity to see it and in an ideal world you would accept this or a version of this and pass it today so that April 1 we can immediately begin with our new fiscal year. So, let's go back to the budget now. I just wanted you to know the process and procedure. Based on that, are there any more questions about these line items?

Ms. Loll: What is under the Professional Services?

Dr. Wood: Professional Services is primarily Parker Phillips. You would see based on our current contract of \$36,000 of the \$40,000 would be Parker Phillips. We have an extra \$4,000 in there for unforeseen stuff.

Mr. Winschel: So, I assume the website design is not the responsibility of Parker Phillips to help us do that. That's a separate company that helps us with the website design.

Dr. Wood: Correct. Epic Web Studios does our website design. We have done some recent website updates on there, but it's really not that expensive. So, there's two costs associated with it - hosting fees, and then whenever we make a substantive change to the code behind the website.

Office Equipment went down because it went up last year because we needed a new laptop for the office. But other than that, pretty much stable. Rent is where it is. Everything under Office Administration is pretty consistent with the exception of Professional Services dropping because we're just not spending cash in that category. Meeting Expenses basically stable. Outreach, stable. Advertising, stable. Phone/IT/Fax, those are pretty fixed numbers. Insurance went down \$600. It looks like that's going to go down again next year we think because we won't be administering those ARPA dollars. That insurance number, the DNO number, is reflected on the size of budget we operate. Grants Management is stable. Travel went down slightly, but it's basically stable and then the Payroll Expenses are stable.

You'll also notice there isn't a section in here on ARPA dollars, like there was last year because we're closing out the ARPA funds. So, we're at the end of our ARPA contract with the County and we'll be closing that out soon. And you'll be getting a final report on that. Any other questions about the budget?

Mr. Cleaver: One question I was asked was about the PMRS, which is basically our retirement, right?

Dr. Wood: That's the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Right.

Mr. Cleaver: Sure. You mentioned that as the last item on the sheet.

Ms. Loll: That's a pension plan?

Dr. Wood: No, it's not a pension plan. I'm always very careful with that language. It's a Defined Benefit Plan. There are no pension plans in the PMRS system; only Defined Benefit.

Ms. Loll: The other question I have is the rent. That covers where? It's only \$1,600 a month. It covers this building?

Mr. Cleaver: The rent covers our main office . . .

Ms. Loll: . . . over there?

Dr. Wood: So, the rent covers our office and so this room we don't pay extra for this - it comes as part of our rent; this room and that room, whenever we need to have a meeting time. They come as part of the package.

Ms. Loll: With the rent? Okay.

Dr. Wood: I believe we have unlimited access to it. We've never been refused, let's put it that way. If it's available. The entire park can book these two rooms.

Ms. Loll: If they decided to utilize this building in a different manner, than we would have to stay over there? Or this is in the contract with them?

Dr. Wood: It's in the contract that we have availability to these meeting spaces.

Ms. Loll: Thank you.

Dr. Wood: No, that's a good question because that's part of our issue as we've looked at other places to have our office. Having access to this is really key.

Mr. Winschel: Perry, if I recall, we had extended the lease to the end of our fiscal year which is the end of March. So, when are we looking to renew that, or is that an automatic renewal here, starting April 1?

Dr. Wood: So to clarify, we did a few month extension or something like that in order to make it so that our lease would be lined up with our fiscal year and we're on a one year lease, right?

Ms. Michali: Well, they couldn't make it less than a year which is what they would have had to do so now the contract is extended through March of 2025. We will not have to renew the lease until our next fiscal year.

Dr. Wood: 14 months instead of 12. Okay.

Ms. Hess: So basically, the budget went down approximately \$60,000.

Dr. Wood: Yeah, the budget did decrease. A lot of the decrease though, is going to be reflected by the fact that there are no additional line items to the ARPA. That was really the only thing changing our budget significantly.

Mr. Winschel: It went down primarily because of the overstatement of the salaries last year. So now it's more in line with the true picture of it. So, if you take that out, we're relatively flat with last year. It looks like actually a little decrease probably.

Ms. Hess: That doesn't happen very often in business.

Mr. Cleaver: I make a motion that we accept the 2024-25 budget.

Dr. Wood: I'm sorry. The discussion takes place now but the . . .

Mr. Cleaver: Oh, is it on the agenda?

Dr. Wood: It's under New Business as Resolution Number 8.

There is no further discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Loll makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Barney: Also real quick, it was brought up about the lease. We know we have a whole year so if there are some better options that you'd like to pursue, start gathering the information and bring it back so we can look at it.

Dr. Wood: As long as it is not the courthouse. We are not moving into the courthouse.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

This item was overlooked in discussion but will be addressed as items to approve and resolutions under Old and New Business.

c. Update from County Council

Chairman Scutella has nothing to report at this time.

d. Update from County Executive's Office

There is no report from the County Executive's office.

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Chairman? If I may, how did we make out? I mean, he had a million questions last time he was here. Have you had any response from him? Or in reference to his questions, are we on track? Give us a rundown of where we stand here.

Dr. Wood: Sure. We answered all the questions that came forth. In fact, with our new approach to this - Tim and I are calling this radical transparency. So every time someone asks a question, whether it be through RTK or what have you, we now have two pages on the website, one a Financial Disclosure page which makes us consistent with the Gaming Act, and the other is an Additional Documents page, which contains all the answers to every question that has been asked of us through an RTK. I think we're going to get to a point where we basically have all of the ECGRA information on our website. That's what makes it radical; I don't know of any other Authority who has done something like this. So, we'll get to a point now where every question that's asked, we'll be able to say, "Here's the link; these documents are available. Have at it." So, we've answered every single one of the County Executive's questions, and the other RTKs that were outstanding as well.

Mr. Cleaver: Has there been anything back to you?

Dr. Wood: No, there have been no communications to myself or the staff on those answers. The County Executive did request a meeting of ECGRA to talk about our ARPA contract. In the request he accused us of being out of compliance with the contract. We did an internal review - that is not the case. We went over it with Tim; Tammi and I went over it, we are not out of contract or out of compliance with the County's contract. So we are going to have a meeting; that meeting has been scheduled. I have asked Mr. Barney, I've asked our lawyer and I've asked Ms. Amatangelo to attend with us as well as Mr. Scutella on behalf of the County, and our alternative delegate, Councilman Copeland. So, we'll go in there and we'll meet with the County Executive, and we'll see what the complaints are. I've asked for it in writing prior to the meeting. I would like to understand in writing why you believe we are out of compliance with our ARPA contract, and I'm yet to receive an answer. However, the meeting has been scheduled.

Mr. Cleaver: He's got 30 days!

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: You'll see there is a packet - Tammi, do you want to scroll through the packet that's available? It's your standard packet, but I'm not going to go over that with you this morning. Instead, I'd like to go over something else that we were working on in the last month. Tim and I have been having discussions about the pending audit from the Auditor General. So, what we decided to do was put together a letter for the Auditor General's office, basically introducing ourselves. I think it's important to note we've received no direct communication from the Auditor General's office. To this point, everything has been through the media that we have found out that we're being considered for an audit, and we're being audited. So, we decided to put together a direct letter introducing ourselves: this is our organization, this is what we're all about. I'm going to read that letter into record. Obviously, there's a ton of attachments. It's a very thick document and I'm not going to go over those, but here's the letter dated March 18, 2024, to the Auditor General's office.

"I am writing with respect to recent correspondence indicating your intention to conduct an audit of ECGRA. ECGRA recognizes the hurdles of creating standards against which to conduct an audit and hopes that the information included below is accepted as it was intended, as necessary background information to assist in the creation of your auditing standards."

Dr. Wood: So let me stop there for a second. That first paragraph is designed to recognize that the Auditor General's office has never audited us, or an entity like us. So, in discussing it they will have to come up with some type of standard to audit against which means they will have to create it. So the intention of this letter is to help them through that process.

"ECGRA is a unique entity in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. ECGRA is the only authority created pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Act, which was created for the sole purpose of administering local share gaming revenue. It was incorporated by ordinance of Erie County Council in 2008 and its board of directors are appointed by that same body from the seven districts of the county.

"ECGRA prides itself on its practices of accountability and transparency. For example, we have regular updates to the community and elected officials on how local share gaming revenue is being distributed through grants and loans. We utilize our website, media releases, special reports, economic impact studies, social media, financial audits, and annual reports to maintain a high standard of transparency. We have had annual audits conducted, as well as a federal compliance attestation audit, and at one point were undergoing quarterly audits by our outside auditor. As one of the most scrutinized entities in Erie County, we are happy to report that there have been no material findings in any of these audits."

Dr. Wood: Let me stop there for a second. Federal attestation audit. You may not have heard me talk about that yet. We just recently went through one with Maher Duessel. This is primarily what we're paying Maher Duessel to do when we have extra auditing fees. This is where when you have ARPA funds, you can opt to go through a federal attestation audit, which is a much shorter audit because we have a small amount of money that we receive as a subrecipient. So, we're a subrecipient of the County; the County would have to go through a full audit, but as a subrecipient we can go through an attestation audit. We did that successfully as well.

"As you begin putting together a scope and standards for an audit, we wish to be helpful in the process by providing you with context and documentation, especially as ECGRA's operations are governed by not only the PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act and the PA Economic Development Financing law, but also a settlement entered into with the Erie County Court of Common

Pleas in 2010. This letter and the attachments provide you with an explanation of the laws governing ECGRA, as well as financial documentation that shows we abide by GAAP principles.”

Dr. Wood: That’s Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

“The 2010 settlement, among other things, governs the distribution of “Restricted” local share gaming revenue for contiguous municipalities. Those municipalities that host or are contiguous to Presque Isle Downs Casino include Erie County, Millcreek Township, Summit Township, Greene Township, Waterford Township, and McKean Township. The settlement dictates that those entities receive 25% of local share gaming funds to mitigate the impact of having a casino in proximity. The other 75% is distributed by ECGRA pursuant to the obligations of the PA Economic Development Financing law, after the time period required by the PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act has expired. These funds are used for economic development projects carried out by nonprofits, municipal governments, and economic development agencies and lenders.

Further, the Gaming Law stipulates that ECGRA shall be subject to the following:”

Dr. Wood: Okay, now this is what the gaming law stipulates there are four clauses in addition to the act that are only applicable to ECGRA, right Tim?

Mr. Wachter: Correct.

“1. Expenditures of funds will be disclosed on our website. As a result, we have a financial disclosure page.”

Dr. Wood: Now, up until recently, we were only putting our Profit & Loss statement on the financial disclosure page. We were then contacted by Senator Laughlin's office who said, “We'd like you to put more information than just the P & L statement on there.” We said, “Sure, what all would you like?” He said, “I want your entire Treasurer's Report and your Check Register on there.” We did that within 24 hours. So that financial disclosure page was set up.

“2. Local share funds cannot be used to pay for tuition or other educational expenses.”

Dr. Wood: As you know since 2016, we have not used any of these funds to pay for tuition or expenses at an institution of higher education.

“3. A disclosure that funds originated from gaming activities.”

Dr. Wood: We constantly talk about how all of our funds come from gaming activities; after all we are the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. We talk about local share gaming revenue. Disclosures can be found in places like our website, our annual reports, our audits and of course, press releases.

“4. The authority shall be subject to audit by the Auditor General. Hence, we are ready to comply with an audit and believe that we are currently in full compliance with the above clauses, the entirety of the Gaming Law and the PA Economic Development Financing Law. To assist you we are attaching the following to this letter:”

Mr. Wachter: Can I just add one thing to that statement? So, when that was added in the Act 42 of 2017, which was the amendment to the Gaming Law, they added that provision requiring that the Auditor General have authority to audit ECGRA. I'm not sure why they did. It was kind of a puffery on their part. The Economic Development Financing Law already provides that any economic development financing entity or authority is subject to audit by the Auditor General. So, there's no real great benefit by having that addition in the law.

Dr. Wood: Puffery - is that a legal term?

Mr. Wachter: It actually is.

Dr. Wood: Any questions about that? I mean, that's an important point. We were already subject to audit by the Auditor General before that clause was put in there. So, the next thing we say in the letter is . . .

"To assist you we are attaching the following to this letter:

- A memo by our Solicitor Tim Wachter stating that we are in legal compliance with all laws mentioned above. Attorney Wachter has been our Solicitor since 2011.
- Correspondence from our Solicitor to Mr. Dale Barney, Chair of ECGRA explaining the various funding regimes that ECGRA is required to follow, as well as a copy of the December 13, 2010 Settlement Agreement. "

Dr. Wood: This is introducing them to the Settlement Agreement so that they understand why we're doing what we're doing with Restricted Committed funds and Restricted Uncommitted funds. That's the language of it.

Mr. Wachter: If you were sitting in Harrisburg trying to figure out how ECGRA was to operate, you would have no way to know that the Settlement Agreement exists in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas dockets, so we wanted to make sure that they had this so that they had correct information walking in the door.

Dr. Wood: Next . . .

- "Here's a link to all of our financial documents at ECGRA."

Dr. Wood: And it's the disclosure page link.

"These documents will show that we have not spent any local share gaming revenue on educational expenses.

- Here's a link to additional documents that may be of use:
- We've included five years' worth of audits and reports, which the County Council requires us to perform annually. These audits are distributed annually to County Council, County Executive, County Clerk, and County Controller.

Dr. Wood: That went forth in the mail and we emailed the Auditor General with all this stuff as well.

"Lastly, we do request that your review include a review of the revenues received by ECGRA from Erie County to ensure compliance with the law, as detailed in the correspondence between Solicitor Wachter and Mr. Barney."

Dr. Wood: Okay, let's stop there for a second because everyone has picked up on that paragraph, and you know, we've had discussions about doing a year end reconciliation with the Administration. We have reached out to Mr. Lichtenwalter multiple times now as the Director of Finance in order to put that reconciliation in place, and we have not heard back. So that's a problem. I don't know how we do that reconciliation without the participation of the Finance Department. We are going to be talking to the County Controller about that, as well as members of Council but in essence what we have found in our initial research is that since the implementation of interactive gaming, revenues have

gone up, and therefore we're not fully being compensated as an Authority based upon the percentage scheme that is in place. So, let's pause there.

Mr. Wachter: I reported this to the Board, I think the letter was December of last year, where we had said that we took a look at the 2022 revenues as an example to determine what it is that was going on, whether it be there was an article written by this esteemed gentleman right here, which stated that the revenues were up in the County and we were looking at our receipts wondering why the revenues were not up for the Gaming Authority. What we determined was that in 2017, when the amendment to the Gaming Law was enacted, and they put the million dollars in to the Land Bank Authority, the County wanted to make sure that that million dollars was only taken from Erie County Gaming Revenue's share and not the County's share of revenues. That's absolutely correct under the law. Now, the prior Finance Director, Jim Sparber, put together a formula in order to do that - a 55/45 split where of all the local share gaming revenue that would come in, they would do the 55/45 split; 55 would stay with the County and 45 would go to the Gaming Authority, after the million dollars was taken out in order to compensate for that. And when we did a review of that, it came out in the wash. I don't know how the math works, but it works. However, since that time, interactive gaming has come into play. The Internet gaming took a huge hit, a huge chunk out of the slots, and as a result, there actually wasn't sufficient funds within the slots revenues to fund the million dollars to the Land Bank Authority and it had to be supplemented with the interactive gaming revenue as the law had stated.

In addition, there's a slot machine license fee that is part of the revenue that the Gaming Authority receives. The County continued the 55/45 split on the entirety of the slot machine license fee and interactive gaming, and not just the slot machine revenue and that portion of the interactive gaming revenue which was required to supplement to make up the million dollars. So, the 55/45 split was applied to everything when it should have stopped after that million dollars was accounted for. And as a result in 2022, we had determined after review of that, there was about \$168,000 that was not funded over to the Gaming Authority and improperly kept by the County.

I'm not saying there was anything nefarious that was involved in it; it was just the application of the funding formula that was used historically in order to address the 2017 amendment to the law. However, it's being applied too broadly, which is why we have suggested that we reach out to the County in partnership and have a reconciliation. However, there's been no response to that. Accordingly, if we're going to be audited by the Auditor General, let's throw it on the table as a revenue issue that needs to be addressed in addition to the expenditure issues.

Dr. Wood: I would concur with Tim; I don't think there is anything nefarious going on, but it's unacceptable that the Administration has not communicated with us on this issue in a timely manner.

Mr. Wachter: We're also at that point now that it's March – have we received the fourth quarter distribution for 2023?

Ms. Michali: Yes.

Mr. Wachter: I would recommend, and maybe it's something you can talk about and let me know if you want me to do it or not, now that we've received the fourth quarter distribution from 2023, I suggest we apply the same analysis to the 2023 revenues as we did to the 2022 revenues and determine what that accounting should roll out to be for 2023. I'd be happy to do that for you if you'd like me to.

Ms. Hess: Now, with that explanation, would you read that sentence again?

Dr. Wood: Sure. "Lastly, we do request . . ." so, we are now requesting of them . . . "that your review include a review of the revenues . . ." "so everything to this point has been a discussion about expenses, so now we're saying to please include the revenues . . ." "received by ECGRA from Erie

County to ensure compliance with the law, as detailed in the correspondence between Solicitor Wachter and Mr. Barney.”

Mr. Barney: Myself, I would like for you to do that, but I need to see what the consensus of the Board is. If we’re going to be audited, it’s hard to say we’re spending wrong and we’re not even receiving right. What is the consensus? Would you like Tim to look at the 2023 revenues to see if we’re short?

Generalized agreement.

Mr. Wachter: I will start that process.

Mr. Barney: Thank you.

Dr. Wood: There is one more paragraph and then we’ll wrap this letter up.

“In conclusion, we have been fortunate to have competent legal counsel, a dedicated board of directors made up of civic and business leaders, and a staff that is both professional and passionate about revitalizing Erie County. These groups work to ensure ECGRA is a fair, open, and transparent authority serving the people of Erie County. For additional information, feel free to contact me . . .”

Dr. Wood: . . . and I give my email and phone number. And then of course, I signed the letter. Are there any questions about this letter to the Auditor General?

Mr. Winschel: Perry, could the Board members get a copy of that?

Dr. Wood: Absolutely. We’re not going to include the five years of audits in there though.

One other topic I wanted to cover is the ARPA dollars. There is a sheet in front of you – it’s a one-pager with the ARPA funds on it. If you recall last month, this one pager was given to us by the Director of Planning for the County. Now the Director of Planning is currently the person who oversees our ARPA contract and if you look at what Jessica gave us here, it clearly shows that we are under budget in all four categories of our ARPA dollars. Now, this report would have been turned in January 15th or so and it was for the last quarter of the year. So, on a quarterly basis, we submit a report to Erie County government saying, “This is what we’re doing with the \$4 million that we have been awarded of ARPA dollars.” The \$4 million contract that began June 2022 will end December 31, 2024. The four line items are in this top paragraph here in the document. \$93,406 for Salaries & Benefits, \$273,274 for Contracted Services, Subawards at \$3.6 million, which is basically the grant making that we’re doing at ECGRA, and \$11,295 for Indirect Costs which is basically the office expenses. Now, if you add this up, this is basically 10%. Why is that important? It’s important because when we first took this on, we told the County we didn’t need any administrative costs to be associated with the grant. The County came back and said, “Actually, we’re asking everyone to take 10% of the award and spend it on administration.” We complied with that. We told them we had no idea how long it will take to administer the funds, so they made the suggestion to put \$93,000 in the Salaries; we made the suggestion to put \$273,274 into Contracted Services, and somehow Indirect Costs came out to \$11,295 – the roughly 10% of our rent for this period of time.

If you go down to the remaining funds column, this is where we’re currently at. We have spent down the Salaries & Benefits line item. Now, because we spent it, no one on the staff received additional revenue above and beyond what we’re already paid; I just want to clarify that right away. We simply kept track of the amount of time we spent on the grant and then we drew down from this line item – so it was a draw down scenario. The assertion by the County Executive is that because we have spent this line item down, we are now going to overbill the County. There would be no reason we would do that; we weren’t even asking for administrative funds in the first place.

The second line shows that there is \$151,082 remaining in Contracted Services. We spent about \$100,000 of it. Where did that go? It went primarily to three different things – 1) the attestation

audit which Maher Duessel conducted, 2) the Roth Marz report which took a look at the community centers all throughout Erie County and that was a pivotal document in us deciding how to fund the Community Facilities grant, which we just made the announcement at the Mercy Center in the new year, and 3) Policy Map, which Tom uses in his role of compliance to make sure that we are in compliance with the ARPA funding guidelines. Policy Map takes GIS data and it will show you what the poverty statistics are, where the municipal boundaries are, so that when we apply an ARPA grant to something, we are in compliance with the federal law. I have yet to see the County Administration do this a single time from their standpoint. But I can tell you we are in 100% in compliance based on Policy Map.

That's important because the laws actually states that these monies are targeted for a couple of things – 1) addressing Coronavirus relief, which is the main point of ARPA, 2) addressing those areas that are federally designated to be in distress, and 3) to address historically disadvantaged populations.

Subawards – these are the grants – it says here there is \$452,000 left in subawards, but there isn't \$450,000 left because fast forward three months and here we are in March. So, the grants have been made, the Salaries have been drawn down, the Indirect Costs there's \$1,600 left, there's basically \$151,000 left in Contracted Services. So, we went to Jessica and said, "We don't think we're going to spend that \$151,000. We would like to amend our contract with the County to spend that in subawards." She said she would get back to us and went to the County Executive's office and asked him to sign off on the amendment, and all of a sudden we're being accused of being out of compliance with our contract. That is the series of events as they took place. We've yet to receive an answer from the County Executive as to why he believes we are out of compliance with our ARPA dollars. We are not out of compliance from what I can tell. Tim has done an initial legal review; the staff has reviewed it. This is our contract with the County – this is what it looks like. It's a 20-page document; we've gone over it. This back shows the dates of when the quarterly reports are due – we are in compliance with that reporting. There are a series of clauses in here recognizing the County, which we have done time and time again because the County Executive is now accusing us of saying these are ECGRA dollars, not ARPA dollars. We have consistently recognized that this is a Building a Better Future Grant Program, which you can see here on our Grant Guidelines, there is the County logo on there and it says Erie County Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund.

We're going to keep going over this with him and get to the bottom of why he's accusing us of being out of contract. So, that is the ARPA grant funding in a nutshell. I didn't bother to address the other contract we have, which is the Beehives, because we were permitted not to take any administrative dollars on that contract; 100% of that went to the Beehives. Let me pause there and see if there are any questions on this document or on the ARPA funds? Hearing none, feel free to follow up with me if you think of something.

I'll end my Executive Director's Report at that. Thank you for your time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I do believe the Executive Director stole most of my thunder, so I have nothing else to say. If you have questions, let me know.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Wood: At the Strategic Planning meeting, we went over some Old Business items. In fact, number four on the agenda was Harvest 912 – an updated scope of work. Basically, the budget was revised; it was discussed. All seven of you were at that meeting and agreed on the Harvest 912 amendment. Are there any questions?

a. Harvest 912 grant amendment

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the grant amendment as presented at the Strategic Planning meeting held last week. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. There is no discussion on this amendment. Motion carries 7-0.

b. Youth Leadership Institute of Erie loan amendment

Dr. Wood: Once again, this was discussed at Strategic Planning. Are there any questions?

Mr. Barney: I have one. We raised the issue of some other stuff pertaining to this facility. What has been decided pertaining to a possible lien, other stuff, if they sell the building? I've seen other things, but I don't know if that's something we should discuss at this time.

Mr. Wachter: The negotiated loan workout with them does not include any of those restrictions. If you wanted to put a lien on YLI, then you would have to approve the resolution contingent upon placement of a UCC filing against their property identifying that lien. This wouldn't be a municipal lien like a water or sewer authority would do that would be against the property; it would be a UCC lien – Uniform Commercial Code - lien that would be filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State that identifies that you have a priority lien on all of their operations so that if it was to fall through, you could then act on that. It's a little different process than a municipal lien, but it is a fairly standard financing tool that is used to secure loans. The Gaming Authority has never required that in that past. We have also never had a default in the past, so it was a different situation. But we have never done that in the past and have always held over the applicants the ability to apply for future money as the leverage in order to ensure compliance. That was done under the theory that this Authority does not want to own any buildings; we don't really feel the need to take copy machines and businesses and things like that in order for compliance. That wasn't the mission. If you want to do that to secure this lien, that's absolutely fine. It's a standard move. But it's a change of policy for this Authority.

Mr. Barney: Is that something we could put off and do later, or is it now or never?

Mr. Wachter: I think that you should make it a condition of the approval of the workout. Once you have the workout done, then there's nothing else that would trigger that opportunity.

Dr. Wood: This is the workout.

Mr. Wachter: This is the workout.

Mr. Oberlander: What's your recommendation on that and what's a rough cost for you to do that lien?

Mr. Wachter: I think there's a minimal filing fee that my paralegal would do.

Mr. Oberlander: So, we're talking hundreds, not thousands?

Mr. Wachter: Hundred. Tens of dollars. I tell my clients all the time, only file a lien if you're prepared to collect. Otherwise, it's a waste of money.

Ms. Loll: Tim, do you have any other way for us to put some teeth in this?

Mr. Wachter: That's a very good question. Let me explain what options are available to us. Our option that is available to us to call the loan, in the event that the loan was further defaulted upon, what could we do? Well, we could add additional penalties, we can add additional costs, we could require more money to be paid back into the Authority as a result. The review of the situation was such that they don't have the revenues to hardly pay the monies that we're already getting, so it's kind of like a blood from a stone situation – would that really be effective? The second option was do we want to put a lien on their facility or a lien on their operations through the UCC lien and it went back to the policy decisions that we've made that we're not going to take a community center's building. So it's kind of a paper tiger – it's not a real threat. Then the last one is that we would not consider the entity to be eligible for future funding until such time that this is paid back, which is really in this world, an actual impediment. So that would give the encouragement for them to pay it back.

Ms. Loll: Now was that stated or understood by them that they're not going to get another dime until this is paid back?

Dr. Wood: It wasn't stated in writing, but I told them. And I told two of their Board members.

Ms. Loll: Does it need to be in writing?

Dr. Wood: We've already made them ineligible to apply for the Community Facilities funding, and if you remember during the Special Events grant review, I showed that they applied and we recommended no.

Mr. Wachter: The method in which we have done that is as part of the due diligence for any time there is an application, we would take a look at compliance history with other fundings, and this is the only entity that has been in default. So that in and of itself would give you a policy reason to not move forward. It doesn't require us to put anything in the documents specifically identifying that because as you do the due diligence and as part of the due diligence review, you'll see that there has been a material noncompliance with prior awards, which can then give you that discretion to say no moving forward.

Ms. Loll: Do we get a copy of their expense reports, budgets, anything like that?

Mr. Wachter: No.

Ms. Loll: So, we don't even know how this money is being distributed that they do get?

Mr. Wachter: I believe they told us how they had used the money that was not in compliance with the prior loan award in that it was redirected toward some other operational expenses, is that accurate?

Dr. Wood: We have had multiple meetings with them. Part of the problem we're dealing with is, how many finance directors have we been dealing with over the last year?

Ms. Michali: I think three.

Dr. Wood: They've had three finance directors in the last year, but we think with the newest one there is some stability there. So, moving forward, we're having conversations with them. What this all stems from is they misused the funds. They got a PCCD grant for about \$180,000 and we floated them the \$180,000 upfront.

Mr. Wachter: Because it was a reimbursement grant and PCCD had a history of 30-60 days reimbursement, they didn't have the operational funds in order to perform the services and wait for the reimbursement and pay their people while that was happening.

Dr. Wood: Which is the whole idea of that program.

Mr. Wachter: Which is the whole idea of that program.

Ms. Loll: I'm trying to understand all of this.

Dr. Wood: At some point, they stopped paying us back and we contacted them and asked why they stopped paying us back. They basically took the reimbursements and, instead of paying us back like they were contractually obligated to do, they spent it in other areas. That became a major communication issue because the finance director, like I said, changed three times in the last year so we were constantly dealing with someone new and they were playing catch up. To the point where they were in default, we had several meetings with the staff and the Board and came to the conclusion that the only way was for them to propose a different payback schedule. That is what you are seeing in front of you here today.

Ms. Loll: Do we have an agreement with them? I see through the payback schedule that we haven't received what we're asking for. But if we said, "Something is better than nothing", even a partial payment?

Dr. Wood: We have a contract with them and the contract says, "Here's your payback schedule" – it was less than a year originally. Because they are having financial troubles, they are proposing a longer payback schedule. That's what we're asking you to approve here today is an amendment to the original . . .

Mr. Barney: . . . which is, "something is better than nothing."

Ms. Loll: Right.

Mr. Wachter: My understanding is that they don't have the cash to fund a one-month settlement payment, which is why we had to extend it out.

Ms. Loll: That I understand.

Mr. Wachter: We had to extend that out over a period of years in order to make sure we at least get our principle back so we can reinvest it in other programs.

Ms. Loll: Right.

Ms. Hess: So, out of the three options it seems like option three, which we discussed last week, is the best option.

Dr. Wood: I think so. And Tim, it sounds like your recommendation is that the UCC filing is not necessary.

Mr. Wachter: I'd be happy to make it; it's not a hard thing to do. It's just what effect does it have? What is the purpose of doing it? If we put the UCC filing on there and take a first lien priority, or whatever lien priority is left because I'm sure there's already other UCC's filed against them . . . if you take a look at the situation with the Erie Sports Park back in the day, when they went up, all the government entities that took second and third position liens through those UCC filings took 60-70% haircuts on the loans they had put into that particular facility because there just wasn't enough money to do it and nobody was going to take the facility and sell it themselves. It's the same situation here. There's private lenders involved, I'm sure the banks have first lien priority already lined up, we'll be coming in behind them. It's uncollectable.

Ms. Hess: It sounds like there is some stability, potentially, with their financial . . .

Mr. Barney: Hopefully.

Dr. Wood: It's a fingers crossed moment for sure.

Mr. Winschel: Tim and Perry, I understand we don't want to become landlords; I get it. But at the same time, shouldn't we be doing some due diligence on this because in the future other people might say, "Hey, we can do this loan" and if we're doing the due diligence and maybe we miss something in the future, maybe there's a message to be sent also that, "Hey, you can't because there will be repercussions if you can't repay." I mean, it's \$900 now, but in three or four years it's going to be three or four times as much. Even twenty-five cents on the dollar is worth more than nothing. I'm just wondering what message are we sending if we don't do something like that?

Dr. Wood: My personal take on it is the bigger message is you're ineligible to receive other ECGRA funds. Think about it this way, Gary. They've already lost out on a \$100,000 grant and whatever the Special Events grant was for, which was . . .

Ms. Michali: A couple thousand.

Dr. Wood: So, they've already lost out on over \$100,000 of funding. That's a pretty good message, I think.

Ms. Loll: Do other loaning areas contact us to see how they're paying back? Like a bank would – "They asked us for money, now how do they pay back?" and they know that we have done that, so have they ever contacted us to see our experience with these people?

Mr. Wachter: Has a bank ever contacted you for a credit reference?

Ms. Loll: It doesn't have to be a bank.

Mr. Wachter: Or whatever it is.

Dr. Wood: No. A bank has never done that.

Ms. Loll: I'm just thinking because if we're not giving them the money, I'm thinking if I was on the other end and they were asking me for money, I would want to know how they pay back.

Mr. Barney: You have to think, we don't check with other people that they may have got grants from to see if they're paying them back. Just like nobody calls us and says, "I see they applied for an ECGRA grant; were they compliant?"

Dr. Wood: The diligence from the staff's standpoint is pretty straight forward, which is they got a \$180,000 grant from PCCD, they show us the documentation of it, we know they legitimately got this \$180,000 in this grant. That's what they provided us with. That was the due diligence. Tom, do you want to add anything to that about the due diligence?

Mr. Maggio: You're right. We did do the due diligence. We did have their contract from the State and their anticipated schedule of when they would incur costs and how much they would require every month. Then as you mentioned, they were on their third finance director. I don't know – it's hard to monitor what their finance director is doing. They probably made some mistakes in using all of the grants that they used, but on our end, we did all the due diligence I think we could do.

Mr. Wachter: I'll also add, in situations like this in standard commercial situations where that would occur, the lender would ask for an official assignment of funds from the other entity to come in. Say they went out and got a lease and they were going to lease out to XYZ Corporation, and we were going to give a grant in order to fund something in order to make that lease happen, we would ask for an assignment of the rents from that lease to us in the event that they failed to pay us. Because this was a PCCD, the State wasn't willing to assign the grant to anyone other than. There were some regulatory hurdles in place for us to do that, which is why we simply contracted with them on their good faith to provide those monies to us, knowing that it was going to be coming in.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to accept the loan amendment as presented at the Strategic Planning meeting held last week and discussed here. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on this amendment. Motion carries 6-1, with Mr. Winschel voting in the negative.

c. Impact Investment Revisions

Dr. Wood: Tim and I are still working on the Impact Investment Statement so let's skip over that one unless someone has some questions. We didn't have a draft document ready for Strategic Planning.

Mr. Cleaver moves to table this item. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no discussion. Motion to table carries 7-0.

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

Ms. Loll: We had that up for a vote before and it didn't pass. How are we bringing it back?

Mr. Wachter: We don't have a rule like County Council does that you can't bring things back.

Ms. Loll: Okay.

Mr. Barney: And I don't think it didn't pass, it just didn't – it was 3-3.

Dr. Wood: It did fail at 3-3. In fact, at one point there was an amendment to the amount and that also failed at 3-3. A Board member has asked to put it back on the agenda.

Mr. Cleaver: Give me a little background on that. I forget what it was.

Ms. Loll: That's where they have the duplex and they put two families in and they . . .

Ms. Amatangelo: It's a housing pilot.

Mr. Cleaver: Oh, the one on 10th Street? I remember now.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the resolution. Ms. Amatangelo seconds the motion. There is no further discussion on the resolution. Motion carries 4-3, with Ms. Loll, Mr. Winschel, and Mr. Oberlander voting in the negative.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 5, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreements with forty-five (45) Erie County Special Events grant applicants whose events take place between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

Ms. Hess: Mr. Chairman, I have a conflict of interest.

Mr. Barney: Let it be noted that Kelly Hess has submitted her notice of conflict of interest.

Mr. Wachter: Because you serve as an officer for one of the entities that is being considered for award; it's the Harborcreek Community Engagement Team. You have not participated in the deliberations regarding the grant application nor in this vote, so you will abstain.

Ms. Hess: Correct.

Mr. Wachter: And that is the compliant procedure with the Pennsylvania Ethics Act.

There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Ms. Hess abstaining.

- b. Resolution Number 6, 2024 – Resolution to enter into agreements with seven (7) Erie County applicants for Mission Main Street grants

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion.

Ms. Loll: I have a request. I would like to vote on the Erie Downtown Growth Experience separately.

Dr. Wood: Does that require a motion to separate it?

Mr. Wachter: We don't have real formal rules with how we operate here with that. I would think that a request by a member for separation for a separate vote would be appropriate.

Dr. Wood: We will call this Resolution 6A, which is everyone but Erie Downtown Partnership. Is that how we would do it?

Mr. Wachter: Yes. So, Mr. Barney would ask for a motion to approve Resolution 6A and list the entities which are included.

Dr. Wood: Would that be the Cleaver – Oberlander motion?

Mr. Wachter: Yes.

Dr. Wood asks Mr. Oberlander and Mr. Cleaver if they still are willing to go along with their motion and second. Both agree.

Dr. Wood: Resolution 6A would be a motion to accept the Borough of North East, Borough of Union City, Downtown Girard, Fairview Township, Impact Corry, and the Sisters of St. Joseph. The only one to be separated out would be Erie Downtown Partnership.

There is no further discussion of Resolution 6A. Motion carries 7-0.

Dr. Wood: We will need a separate motion for 6B, correct?

Mr. Wachter: You would need a motion for 6B for the award of the Erie Downtown Partnership's recommended amount of \$125,000.

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the resolution. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the resolution. Motion carries 6-1, with Ms. Loll voting in the negative.

- c. Resolution Number 7, 2024 – Resolution to Approve the Union Township Community Facilities grant

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Oberlander makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Winschel seconds the motion.

Mr. Cleaver: Is that for a new building?

Mr. Barney: They are changing their facility.

There is no further discussion on the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Wachter: Dr. Wood, that's the Building a Better Future ARPA grant?

Dr. Wood: Correct.

Mr. Wachter: So, in the grant contract, I will provide you with a federal contracting supplement that will have the required federal terms associated with that.

Dr. Wood: Wonderful.

d. Resolution Number 8, 2024 – Resolution to Adopt the 2024-2025 Budget

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

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

Mr. Cleaver: We may have a change if we review the personnel as far as health insurance. Do we have to discuss that now?

Mr. Wachter: You don't have any numbers associated with that so I'm not sure what change you would make with respect to the health . . .

Mr. Cleaver: So, when the time comes?

Mr. Wachter: When the time comes you can amend the budget if there are material impacts.

Mr. Cleaver: Good enough.

There is no further discussion on the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Barney reminds all in attendance that the next meeting of the ECGRA Board of Directors will be held on April 18th at 8:30am at this location.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Loll moves to adjourn. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 9:40am.

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

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2023-24 YTD</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44000 · ARPA Fund				
44800 · Gaming Revenue	0.00	4,134,407.69		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,914,504.55		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	44,606.95	540,372.56		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Grow	7,583.33	30,500.00		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund	5,000.00	20,000.00		
46424.5 · Interest Income - 1855 Capital		9,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		13,000.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive	6,319.44	25,416.66		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		2,430.41		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		10,224.00		
46510 · Interest Income - YLI		13,272.00		
Total Income	<u>63,509.72</u>	<u>6,713,127.87</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	7,312.17	78,917.27	72,700.00	72,700.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	0.00	20,430.71	24,000.00	24,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	817.05	13,430.70	23,700.00	23,700.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	2,128.65	51,189.61	56,100.00	56,100.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	26,085.76	300,586.07	342,900.00	342,900.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	128.43	1,507,691.81	4,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	(200.00)	(3,035.00)		
Total Expense	<u>36,272.06</u>	<u>1,969,211.17</u>	<u>4,519,400.00</u>	<u>4,519,400.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	27,237.66	4,743,916.70		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets		949,832.00		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		1,512,228.06		
70070 · Special Events		213,424.73		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		253,500.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street	84,600.00	134,600.00		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program	51,906.89	124,997.49		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie_Beehive		39,625.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block	50,000.00	283,333.00		
70180 · Anchor Building	30,000.00	333,166.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>216,506.89</u>	<u>3,844,706.28</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>(216,506.89)</u>	<u>(3,844,706.28)</u>		
Net Income	<u>(189,269.23)</u>	<u>899,210.42</u>		

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

	March
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	21,979.88
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	1,229,752.51
10102 · Restricted Funds	4,536,684.18
10104 · ARPA Fund	869,407.99
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	12,104,984.27
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	18,740,828.95
Total Checking/Savings	18,762,808.83
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	106,647.40
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,526,565.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,250,082.40
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	14,642.63
Total Other Current Assets	6,264,725.03
Total Current Assets	25,027,533.86
TOTAL ASSETS	25,027,533.86
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	899,210.42
Total Equity	22,650,434.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	25,027,533.86

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
March 2024

	March	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
Expense					
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	42,431.92	40,000.00	2,431.92	106.08%
62140 - Legal Services	4,217.50	23,157.10	20,000.00	3,157.10	115.79%
62145 - Website Design	0.00	1,140.00	3,000.00	(1,860.00)	38.00%
62150 - Payroll Services	94.67	1,188.25	1,500.00	(311.75)	79.22%
Total 62100 - Contracted Services	7,312.17	78,917.27	72,700.00	6,217.27	108.55%
62800 - Facilities & Equipment					
62840 - Office Equipment	0.00	2,745.31	6,000.00	(3,254.69)	45.76%
62890 - Rent	0.00	17,685.40	18,000.00	(314.60)	98.25%
Total 62800 - Facilities & Equipment	0.00	20,430.71	24,000.00	(3,569.29)	85.13%
65000 - Office Administration					
65010 - Books, Subscriptions, Dues	277.00	2,634.84	3,000.00	(365.16)	87.83%
65020 - Postage	0.00	254.58	250.00	4.58	101.83%
65040 - Office Supplies	119.14	1,210.18	2,000.00	(789.82)	60.51%
65050 - Cell Phone	0.00	2,315.67	3,000.00	(684.33)	77.19%
65060 - Copier Lease	311.35	3,736.24	4,200.00	(463.76)	88.96%
65070 - Copier Printing Costs	0.00	68.59	500.00	(431.41)	13.72%
65080 - Bank Fees	47.00	444.00	500.00	(56.00)	88.80%
65085 - Professional Development	0.00	850.00	6,000.00	(5,150.00)	14.17%
65090 - Meeting Expenses	62.56	1,916.60	4,000.00	(2,083.40)	47.92%
65095 - Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 - Office Administration	817.05	13,430.70	23,700.00	(10,269.30)	56.67%
65100 - Other Types of Expenses					
65105 - Outreach	0.00	4,788.00	5,000.00	(212.00)	95.76%
65110 - Advertising	0.00	4,004.14	4,000.00	4.14	100.10%
65115 - Phone/IT/Fax	844.49	18,459.36	18,000.00	459.36	102.55%
65120 - Insurance	1,284.16	17,002.65	18,600.00	(1,597.35)	91.41%
65130 - Grant Management Software	0.00	5,562.00	5,500.00	62.00	101.13%
65150 - Travel	0.00	1,373.46	5,000.00	(3,626.54)	27.47%
Total 65100 - Other Types of Expenses	2,128.65	51,189.61	56,100.00	(4,910.39)	91.25%
66000 - Payroll Expenses					
66005 - Salaries & Wages	23,165.90	261,486.14	300,000.00	(38,513.86)	87.16%
66010 - FITW Tax	1,410.44	18,335.72	21,000.00	(2,664.28)	87.31%
66015 - FUTA Tax	0.00	126.00	150.00	(24.00)	84.00%
66020 - PASUI Tax	34.46	687.78	2,000.00	(1,312.22)	34.39%
66700 - PMRS	1,474.96	19,950.43	19,750.00	200.43	101.01%
Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses	26,085.76	300,586.07	342,900.00	(42,313.93)	87.66%
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	0.00	1,419,241.04	1,925,293.10	(506,052.06)	73.72%
67025 - Indirect Costs - ARPA	128.43	4,374.07	7,772.47	(3,398.40)	56.28%
67030 - Salaries & Wages - ARPA	0.00	31,618.94	31,618.94	0.00	100.00%
Total 67000 - Building a Better Future (ARPA)	128.43	1,507,691.81	2,179,224.71	(671,532.90)	254.44%
7000 - Provision for Uncollect Notes	(200.00)	(3,035.00)			
Total Expense	36,272.06	1,969,211.17	2,698,624.71	(729,413.54)	72.97%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of

March 31, 2024

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	4,536,684.18		
Committed Funds	1,229,752.51		
ARPA Funds	869,407.99		
 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		1,311,749.29	
		<u>1,311,749.29</u>	<u>4,134,407.69</u>
 2023 Interactive Gaming Revenue			
FY 2022-2023		1,914,504.55	
		<u>1,914,504.55</u>	<u>1,914,504.55</u>
 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	216,506.89	1,108,820.06	
		<u>1,108,820.06</u>	<u>5,263,947.32</u>

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements/MRIs

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township		680,502.56	
Greene Township		166,345.10	
McKean Township		166,345.10	
Millcreek Township		166,345.10	
Waterford Township		166,345.10	
Erie County		166,345.10	
		<u>166,345.10</u>	<u>1,512,228.06</u>
 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	
		<u>100,000.00</u>	<u>253,500.00</u>
 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Small Business Ecosystem			
Penn State Behrend		200,000.00	
		<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of

March 31, 2024

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (cont)			
Anchor Building			
Christian Ministries of the Apostolic Faith		45,000.00	
			<u>45,000.00</u>
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	
			<u>1,649,705.00</u>
Mission Main Street			
Downtown Girard		75,000.00	
			<u>75,000.00</u>
Renaissance Block			
Downtown Girard		50,000.00	
			<u>50,000.00</u>
Erie County Investment Playbook			
Nonprofit Partnership		64,771.00	
			<u>64,771.00</u>

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

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Anchor Building			
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		75,000.00	
Maggie Knox Western		35,000.00	
R. L. Gaines Community Center	30,000.00	60,000.00	
Urban Erie Community Development Corp		100,000.00	
YMCA of Greater Erie		31,500.00	
			301,500.00
Mission Main Street			
2019 Waterford Borough	84,600.00	84,600.00	
			84,600.00
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	100,000.00	
			250,000.00

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

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

QUALITY OF PLACE (con't)

Arts, Culture, Heritage (con't)

	March	YTD	Subtotal
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		15,000.00	
			234,207.00

Community Centers

Borough of Edinboro		(10,000.00)	
Martin Luther King Center		15,000.00	
			5,000.00

Parks, Fields, Trails

Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		6,650.00	
Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		12,500.00	
Bayfront Maritime Center		25,000.00	
Borough of Edinboro		13,000.00	
Fairview Township		25,000.00	
Greenfield Township		25,000.00	
Humane Society of NWPA		18,500.00	
Impact Corry		25,000.00	
McKean Recreation Authority		25,000.00	
Platea Borough		2,082.00	
			177,732.00

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

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

QUALITY OF PLACE (con't)

Special Events (con't)

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Harborcreek Township		1,400.00	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church		6,925.00	
Humane Society of NWPA		7,500.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		19,300.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		5,000.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society		3,000.00	
Lawrence Park Township		37.50	
McKean Community Development Group		500.00	
Mercy Center for Women		1,200.00	
Mercy Hilltop Center		400.00	
Nonprofit Partnership, The		3,882.00	
Pinkracks		750.00	
Presque Isle Light Station		297.00	
Presque Isle Partnership		4,692.50	
Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity		2,287.50	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		5,412.74	
SafeNet		3,942.50	
Saint Joseph Church		4,450.00	
Saint Patrick Church		7,746.92	
St. Stanislaus Catholic Church		250.00	
Union City Pride		1,273.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		9,250.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		12,345.06	
YMCA of Corry		3,072.10	
YMCA of Greater Erie		400.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		4,500.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		1,200.00	
		<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>213,424.73</u>

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING

Beehive Network

Community Enterprise Financing Loan

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Summer Jobs & More

	<u>51,906.89</u>	<u>147,279.53</u>	<u>147,279.53</u>
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Total Funds Disbursements	216,506.89	5,263,947.32	5,263,947.32
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Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
March 31, 2024

		<u>March</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	0.00	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
	23 RL Gaines Community Center	30,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
	Mission Main Street			
	1 City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	3 Waterford Borough	84,600.00	0.00	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	51,906.89	25,002.51	150,000.00
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
Total Committed Funds		216,506.89	1,229,752.51	2,649,675.00
ARPA Transformative Funds				
	Subawards		703,927.06	3,622,025.00
	Contracted Services		162,082.44	273,274.00
	Salaries & Wages		0.00	93,406.00
	Indirect Costs	128.43	3,398.49	11,295.00
		128.43	869,407.99	4,000,000.00
Total ARPA Funds				

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Transaction List Detail
March 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03/01/2024	EFT	VISA	2024 Febraury Visa Statement	-458.70
03/06/2024	EFT	Waterford Borough	2019 MMS Final Payment	-84,600.00
03/06/2024	EFT	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2023 Summer Jobs	-51,906.89
03/06/2024	EFT	Impact Corry	2023 RB Final Payment	-50,000.00
03/06/2024	EFT	Parker Philips	2024 February Professional Services	-3,000.00
03/06/2024	EFT	R. L. Gaines Community Center	2023 AB Final Payment	-30,000.00
03/06/2024	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2024 March Phone/IT	-938.32
03/07/2024	EFT	Highmark Health Insurance	2024 March Health	-4,728.76
03/15/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	02/24/2024 to 03/08/2024 Payroll	-9,758.00
03/15/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	02/24/2024 to 03/08/2024 Simple IRA	-250.00
03/15/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 03/08/2024	-737.48
03/18/2024	EFT	Erie Bank	Overdraft Fee	-12.00
03/27/2024	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 3/22/2024	-737.48
03/27/2024	EFT	Fidelity Investments	03/09/2024 to 03/22/2024 Simple IRA	-250.00
03/27/2024	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2024 March Legal	-4,217.50
03/27/2024	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2024 March Copier Lease	-345.95
03/27/2024	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	03/09/2024 to 03/22/2024 Payroll	-9,718.71
03/29/2024	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00



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

Account Summary

Billing Cycle		02/08/2024
Days In Billing Cycle		29
Previous Balance		\$162.60
Purchases	+	\$458.70
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$0.00
Payments	-	\$162.60
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00

NEW BALANCE \$458.70

Credit Summary

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,541.30
Available Cash	\$39,541.30
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

Account Inquiries

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

Payment Summary

NEW BALANCE	\$458.70
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$458.70
PAYMENT DUE DATE	03/04/2024

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

TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY				\$162.60-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
02/02	02/02	1627368641	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$162.60-

Cardholder Account Summary

TAMMI MICHALI ####-####-####-9468	Payments & Other Credits \$0.00	Purchases & Other Charges \$458.70	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$458.70
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Cardholder Account Detail

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
01/10	01/11	PBUS01	24692164011100695278087	TOPS MARKETS #601 ERIE PA	\$62.56 mtg exp.
01/10	01/11	PBUS01	24692164010100368990142	AMZN Mktp US*TK4LW3II1 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$73.17 O.S.
01/19	01/21	PBUS01	24431064019083341441566	AMAZON.COM*R85ZL6172 SEATTLE WA	\$31.98 O.S.
01/30	01/31	PBUS01	24692164030105748934856	AMZN Mktp US*R23J80OW2 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$13.99 O.S.

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

ERIEBANK
PO BOX 42
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

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

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

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

Closing Date	New Balance	Total Minimum Payment Due	Payment Due Date
02/08/24	\$458.70	\$458.70	03/04/24

\$

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



8012

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
02/01	02/04	PBUS01	24789304033039201151158	GANNETT NEWSRPRR NE 888-8710686 IN	\$65.00
02/02	02/04	PBUS01	24055234033400647000019	SAMPLE NEWS GROUP 8146658291 PA	\$212.00

subscriptions

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!

THE TOTAL FINANCE CHARGE PAID ON YOUR ACCOUNT DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS \$0.00.

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 02/07/2024

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%	\$458.70
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
 (V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.
 Days In Billing Cycle: 29
 APR = Annual Percentage Rate

Final Details for Order #111-8773749-4365026

[Print this page for your records.](#)

Order Placed: January 9, 2024
Amazon.com order number: 111-8773749-4365026
Order Total: \$73.17

Shipped on January 10, 2024

Items Ordered

Price

- 1 of: *Avery 8-Tab Dividers for 3 Ring Binders, Customizable Table of Contents, Multicolor Tabs, 6 Sets (11186)* \$12.98
 Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc
 Supplied by: Other
 Condition: New
- 1 of: *Blue Summit Supplies 10 Tab Binder Dividers for 3 Ring Binder or Notebook, Subject Dividers with Multicolor Numbered Tabs, Includes Customizable Table of Contents Index, 6 Sets* \$14.99
 Sold by: Franklin Creative Solutions LLC (seller profile)
 Supplied by: Franklin Creative Solutions LLC (seller profile)
 Condition: New
- 2 of: *Avery Double Column 24 Tab Dividers for 3 Ring Binders, Customizable Table of Contents, Multicolor Tabs, 1 Set (11321)* \$7.99
 Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc
 Supplied by: Other
 Condition: New
- 2 of: *Avery 31-Tab Dividers for a 3 Ring Binders, Customizable Table of Contents, Multicolor Tabs, 1 Set (11129)* \$7.84
 Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc
 Supplied by: Other
 Condition: New
- 1 of: *Samsill Economy 0.5 Inch 3 Ring Binder, Made in the USA, Round Ring Binder, Customizable Clear View Cover, White, 4 Pack (MP48517)* \$13.54
 Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc
 Supplied by: Other
 Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Shipping Speed:

Delivery in fewer trips to your address

Payment information

Payment Method:

Visa ending in 9468

Billing address

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Credit Card transactions

Item(s) Subtotal:	\$73.17
Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00

Total before tax:	\$73.17
Estimated tax to be collected:	\$0.00

Grand Total:	\$73.17

Visa ending in 9468: January 10, 2024: \$73.17

Final Details for Order #111-9280613-8063449

[Print this page for your records.](#)

Order Placed: January 18, 2024

Amazon.com order number: 111-9280613-8063449

Order Total: \$31.98

Shipped on January 19, 2024

Items Ordered

Price

1 of: *Nestle Coffee mate Coffee Creamer, Original, Liquid Creamer Singles, Non Dairy, No Refrigeration, Box of 180*

\$12.99

Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc

Supplied by: Other

Condition: New

1 of: *HP 230 Wireless Keyboard - Wireless Connection - Low-Profile, Quiet Design - Windows & Mac OS - Laptop, PC Compatible - Shortcut Keys & Number Pad - Long Battery Life (3L1E7AA#ABA),Black*

\$18.99

Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc

Supplied by: Other

Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Shipping Speed:

FREE Prime Delivery

Payment information

Payment Method:

Visa ending in 9468

Item(s) Subtotal: \$31.98

Shipping & Handling: \$0.00

Billing address

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Total before tax: \$31.98

Estimated tax to be collected: \$0.00

Grand Total: \$31.98

Credit Card transactions

Visa ending in 9468: January 19, 2024: \$31.98

To view the status of your order, return to [Order Summary](#).

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English

United States

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Final Details for Order #111-7213874-1753861

[Print this page for your records.](#)

Order Placed: January 30, 2024
Amazon.com order number: 111-7213874-1753861
Seller's order number: 777
Order Total: \$13.99

Shipped on January 30, 2024

Items Ordered

Price

1 of: *AT-A-GLANCE 2024 Desk Calendar, Monthly Desk Pad, 21-3/4" x 17", Standard (SK220024)*

\$13.99

Sold by: *flipcost* (seller profile)

Supplied by: Other

Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Shipping Speed:

Standard Shipping

Payment information

Payment Method:

Visa ending in 9468

Item(s) Subtotal: \$13.99

Shipping & Handling: \$0.00

Total before tax: \$13.99

Estimated tax to be collected: \$0.00

Grand Total: \$13.99

Billing address

Perry N. Wood
5340 FRYLING RD STE 201
ERIE, PA 16510-4672
United States

Credit Card transactions

Visa ending in 9468: January 30, 2024: \$13.99

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

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

March 2024

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

March Comms

IMPLEMENTED

20 Total March posts

19 Total graphics created

Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

IN PROGRESS | 2024 Grant Releases and Graphics

ARPA report

2023–2024 Annual Report

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Barney
Chairman of the Board
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

FROM: Kelly Hess
ECGRA Board Director

DATE: March 21, 2024

RE: Conflict of Interest Disclosure

On this date, the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was presented with Resolution Number 5, 2024, which is a Resolution to fund Special Event Grants.. One such entity is Harborcreek Community Engagement Team.

I serve as an officer of the Harborcreek Community Engagement Team. As such, I have abstained from any deliberation or involvement in the process to determine whether to recommend an award to the Harborcreek Community Engagement Team, and I abstain from the deliberation, and vote, regarding the approval of the Resolution. Further, I announced my conflict during the meeting and request that this memo be made part of the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting of the ECGRA Board of Directors.



Bridgeway Launches Accelerator in Erie Under Its Building Inclusive Development (BID) Program

The free business-building program will help emerging contracting businesses who have experienced barriers in accessing opportunities to bid on and secure real estate development projects.

As a social impact lender, Bridgeway has a long track record of helping clients acquire and renovate properties. Out of that experience, Bridgeway launched the Building Inclusive Development (BID) program to maximize impact in real estate development and set more

clients up for success. Following a launch in Pittsburgh, BID is offering emerging contractors a business-building program, the [Emerging Contractor Accelerator Erie](#).



"We used Bridgeway's experience in real estate development and worked with industry experts to design accelerator programs and supportive services specific to the needs of emerging contractors to take their business to new levels of profitability and success."

Roderick Ramsey III, BID Program Leader

Program Basics

Bridgeway is currently accepting applications and will enroll up to seven participants for this six-month accelerator. The selected participants will join a cohort of peers to participate in free education sessions led by industry experts and one-on-one coaching with business consultants to maximize opportunities and impact.

The [Emerging Contractor Accelerator Erie](#) focuses on teaching contractors who have experienced barriers to access opportunities how to identify, bid win, and manage large-scale construction projects.

What are the benefits?

- Six months of intensive sessions
- Three months of post-graduation support
- Access to mentoring to activate learning and pursue projects
- Cohort-driven with five participants in a peer group
- Participants get 40 hours of training and coaching
- \$2,000 service stipend for coaching and consulting services during sessions

- \$2,000 service stipend for coaching and consulting services after graduation

Who may be a good fit?

Applicants for the Emerging Contractor Accelerator should have annual gross revenue of under \$250,000 and average construction contracts below \$100,000, and their businesses should have been established before 2022.

Applicants would be a good fit for this program if they have experienced. barriers to economic growth, identify as socially or economically disadvantaged, or have experienced systematic injustices.

Participants should also be willing to complete program assessments, coursework, and attend both virtual and in-person sessions.

Learn more and apply.



Emerging Contractor Accelerator

ERIE

Learn how to identify, secure, and manage large-scale construction projects that take participants to higher levels of profitability and success.

Now accepting applications

March 15th - April 26th!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Information Session



**2024 Emerging Contractor Accelerator Erie
Information Session**

The Booker T. Washington Center located at 1720 Holland Street, Erie PA on
Wednesday, April 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

SIGN UP

For more information and for those interested in registering for the info sessions and
applying to the programs, visit bridgewaycapital.org/BID.



BRIDGEWAY CAPITAL

310 Grant Street, Suite 2800

Pittsburgh, PA 15219



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LOCAL

'A humanitarian need:' Erie City Council study session starts public bathrooms discussion

A task force of various community representatives could be created soon to lead efforts to create more public restrooms in the city, which would help the homeless and other vulnerable populations.



Kevin Flowers

Erie Times-News

Published 10:13 a.m. ET March 8, 2024 | Updated 10:14 a.m. ET March 8, 2024

The community conversation about the city of Erie's lack of public restrooms is underway.

Erie City Councilwoman Kathy Schaaf's push to create several public restrooms in the city, to aid the homeless and other vulnerable populations, was the subject of a public study session on Thursday night at Erie City Hall.

Schaaf and other members of Erie City Council hosted a study session on the issue in the Bagnoni Council Chambers.

Erie Mayor Joe Schember and representatives of various local nonprofit organizations, such as the Erie Downtown Partnership and the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, were among those who attended.

The hour-long meeting, which Schaaf referred to as an informal "work session," took place in the wake of City Council's unanimous Jan. 17 passage

of a Schaaf-sponsored resolution that pledged to create “a collaborative group of interested parties” to study the issue and determine the best way to create public restrooms in the city.

A task force of various community representatives could be created soon to lead the effort.

Schaaf’s resolution stated that “the city has no 24/7 public restroom facilities at this time.” She intends to lead public meetings that explore the cost/feasibility of creating accessible public restrooms within city limits.

Schaaf has said she wants a collaborative, compassionate and productive conversation that includes local elected officials, business leaders, social service agencies and others.

Without solutions, Schaaf said, the city will continue to see public urination and defecation from the homeless community and others who have no alternative.

The New York Times reported in March that public restrooms have disappeared from many cities as municipal budgets have tightened. As a result, cities across the U.S. are exploring or have explored ways to create more public bathrooms.

Public bathroom access

At the start of Thursday’s study session, Barbara Lewis, a local registered nurse who works with the region’s homeless population, read a written statement on behalf of a formerly homeless woman, “Kelly,” who was unable to attend.

Kelly wrote that when she was homeless, “it was so difficult to access public restrooms as the options were and still are extremely limited.”

After reading Kelly's statement, Lewis suggested that Schaaf and others reach out to officials at the Upper Room daytime homeless shelter, located on the second floor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 1024 Peach St., regarding the issue.

Later in the meeting, Schaaf shared photographs of several public restrooms created in other locations, including various cities in Ontario, Canada and Portland, Oregon.

Local officials still have to determine how public restrooms would be maintained and monitored, as well as how such facilities would be paid for.

Researching solutions

Dave Tamulonis, events and marketing manager at the Erie Downtown Partnership, said the organization has been researching the best way to create public restrooms in downtown Erie "for a while now," and that the organization plans to use a \$50,000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to help create public bathroom facilities.

"We very much agree that this is a humanitarian need," Tamulonis said. "Other cities clearly have figured out solutions for this."

Former City Councilwoman Susannah Faulkner, the director of development at the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, urged officials to consider public restrooms in other areas of the city, such as Erie's Little Italy neighborhood along West 18th Street.

That area lacks public bathroom access as well, Faulkner said.

Faulkner also suggested that local government and various nonprofits/agencies work together to submit joint applications for public grant funding that could be used to create public bathrooms.

Schaaf said there was “good, positive feedback” at Thursday’s meeting, and additional sessions will be scheduled.

“We’re going to reach out to businesses and other stakeholders in our community... And schedule follow-ups,” Schaaf said.

Contact Kevin Flowers at kflowers@timesnews.com. Follow him on X at [@ETNflowers](https://twitter.com/ETNflowers).

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

UC Borough addresses street safety, grant funding

BY MARYANN MOOK
Correspondent

Student safety at a street crossing and Renaissance Grant funding were two of several topics on the table at the March 4 meeting of Union City Borough Council.

Borough Manager Cindy Wells reported that Union City Area School District Superintendent Matthew Bennett has safety concerns about students crossing South Main Street near Odell and Johnson streets.

Wells said several other officials are aware of the

concerns, including Erie County Executive Brenton Davis, state Rep. Jake Banta, (R-4th), Brian Smith of PennDOT and Pennsylvania State Police.

Following discussion, Council gave Wells permission to apply for a grant on behalf of the school district. The grant would help fund a comprehensive study exploring options for enhanced student safety.

Borough Solicitor Tim Wachter advised Council they could agree to apply for the grant on behalf of the district, but Council should enter into an Inter-

governmental Agreement in which the district would agree to pay costs not covered by the grant, since the borough has not budgeted money for costs related to the issue.

In other news, Council approved applications for Renaissance Grant Funds.

"We had seven applications and all were approved," Wells said.

The applications total \$28,800, leaving a balance of about \$43,600 in funding from Round 2 of the funding.

◀ See Street, P.2

Street

(Continued from front page)

"The application process will reopen by the end of the month," Wells said.

Renaissance Grant funds are provided through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). The purpose of the Renaissance Grant Program is to remove housing blight, reverse deterioration, incentivize and spur private investment, make neighborhoods and

communities more attractive, increase the market value of homes and improve the municipal tax base.

In another matter, at the recommendation of Mayor Bob Wolf, Council approved the installation of a prescription drop-off box inside the City Building. It will be located near the Union City Police Department. The drop-off box would be for expired, unwanted and unused medications, but not needles.

Wells does not have a date when the box would be installed.

How do residents describe ECGRA? Accountable, apolitical, accessible, effective

Erie Times-News

Published 4:00 a.m. ET March 22, 2024 | Updated 6:12 a.m. ET March 22, 2024

Erie County residents lined up to express their support of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority at two recent meetings — the Feb. 13 Erie County Council meeting and the ECGRA board meeting on Feb. 15. They represented grassroots neighborhood organizations; leaders of small Erie municipalities who are laboring to restore their Main Streets and support small business development; Erie police; local universities; arts and cultural organizations; events organizers; and social service providers.

Their testimonies came as Erie County Executive Brenton Davis in January raised the prospect of ECGRA's dissolution, with the authority's gaming revenues placed under the control of county political leaders. Davis questioned ECGRA's leadership and its operating costs and, as A.J. Rao has reported, made public accusations, without evidence, that ECGRA has been a "slush fund of walking-around money" and an enabler of predatory lending. He requested an exhaustive list of financial information from the board. In response to questions he raised, he and several local lawmakers sent a letter on Republican state Sen. Dan Laughlin's letterhead, requesting that ECGRA, which is audited annually, be audited by state Auditor General Tim DeFoor. DeFoor has indicated he will conduct an audit, as Rao reported. ECGRA Board Chairman Dale Barney told Rao that ECGRA will fully cooperate with the audit and that the authority has "nothing to hide."

At the ECGRA board meeting, where people from across the county shared their experiences with ECGRA, Davis did not renew his remarks about dissolving ECGRA. As Rao reported, he blamed the media for creating a "frenzy" around his scrutiny. He said he wanted to look "under the hood" in pursuit of accountability.

Many who shared their experiences with ECGRA spoke from prepared statements or submitted comments via email. Here is a sampling of the perspectives shared:

Patrick Gehrlein: ECGRA represents what is possible for Erie Co.

Good evening. I am Patrick Gehrlein, of Fairview, Pennsylvania, but I'm also here representing North East Borough. I'm currently the borough manager for North East and what I'd like to discuss this evening is the impact of ECGRA on our community. We can go line by line and discuss the dollar for dollar matches that we've seen, the true gains in our community that those funding dollars from ECGRA have provided.

Let's talk about government efficiency. Something that I'm very passionate about in my own government is the efficiency with which we operate. ECGRA is nonpolitical, apolitical. The leadership that was shown by County Council in years past to promote ECGRA, to continue to support ECGRA has allowed ECGRA to go into our communities, and to borrow a line from the Disney movie "Frozen Two," "Do the next right thing." Every time, every time they come in to discuss something with us, it's not about "Hey, you're going to do a favor for me, so I'm going to do a favor for you." It's not back-scratching. It's do the next right thing in our community. You've heard from arts groups. You've heard from cultural agencies, places doing farms, economic development, (and) community development. You've heard from folks discussing how those dollars impact them, how those dollars increase in value.

Tonight, we heard from the Honorable Mayor Savocchio. And we also have as member of our staff for Erie County government, former Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott. They have both sat here and as well as the members of this board, they have seen study after study asking how do we get Erie back? How can we see that recovery? ECGRA is on the ground doing it. You don't need to reinvent the wheel. They're doing it right now. Those sparks that they put in the community are the things that light up Erie County. They collaborate.

So when we're talking about Our West Bayfront and what they're doing, we in North East are looking at Our West Bayfront, and we're collaborating on what can be done to change. We have more similarities than we have dissimilarities. Blight is blight. Issues with housing are issues with housing. People being out of work are people being out of work, no matter where you live geographically. You all sit up here and represent us in this room. ECGRA represents what is possible for Erie County. They are the spark in our area that we need to support and continue to support.

And I'll end with this. They're always the first ones in with funding. And working in government for over 20 years, first-in funding is almost impossible to find. You know, that's the group that believes in you, that's working with you. Please support ECGRA. Please

continue to show the leadership that you have in the past for ECGRA and moving forward, because the Erie County relies on it. Thank you.

Patrick Gehrlein, North East Borough manager

Impact Corry: ECGRA is apolitical and guided by expertise

Good evening and thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Seth Trott. I'm an Erie resident and attorney, and I'd like to say a few words in support of ECGRA on behalf of a rural community development organization (Impact Corry) for which I'm the treasurer of the board of directors. Our organization would not be nearly as successful as we've been without ECGRA's support and the county government's support of ECGRA.

Clearly, ECGRA is a great thing. It (recently) distributed \$1.6 million dollars to 19 different organizations that are helping all types of people across Erie County in all types of ways.

If we were to disband ECGRA and place its share of the gaming funds under Erie County government control, we would lose the apolitical investment expertise that ECGRA was specifically designed to foster. This would result in these funds going to projects that may not be the most impactful, or even worse, to projects that are chosen solely for political gain. But most importantly, disbanding ECGRA would prevent long-term development projects from being continually funded until those projects are completed.

Many transformative community projects might take five, 10, or even 20 years of work before they're successful. That's why redevelopment is all about persistence and playing the long game. But the county government and governments, in general are often short-term: Elected officials are replaced or term-out; county government staff turns over; and priorities change. When this happens, a 10-year initiative might see its funding cut after being in place for only two years because incoming county officials decided to direct the money somewhere else. So, the initiative fails, the money it already received is wasted, and Erie residents never reap the rewards they were promised had that initiative been consistently funded for those 10 years.

For example, consider a program aimed at improving the facades of homes in a specific portion of Corry or Lake City. If 100 homes improve their facades, property values in that area will rise. But you can't fund 100 homes all at once, so you fund 10 homes a year for 10 years. By the third year of the program, 30 homes have been improved and 70 are waiting in the

wings. Everything's looking great. But new officials take office and decide to stop funding the program. Now, property values never go up because not enough homes were impacted to improve home values, and homeowners in that area continue to tread water or struggle.

ECGRA specifically prevents that from happening. Because ECGRA's leadership and decision-making is controlled by data and expertise — not politics and terms of office — it can fund those 10 homes per year until all 100 homes are improved and property values rise.

So, ECGRA ensures our gaming funds are invested with community impact at heart and that regional initiatives can be seen through to their completion. Erie gets all this for simply the cost of ECGRA's overhead — which is lower than that of other organizations doing similar work in other parts of the country.

This means ECGRA is lean; it's efficient; and it's effective. Why would we ever want to ruin that?

Thank you.

Seth Trott, treasurer, Impact Corry

Erie Downtown Partnership: ECGRA supports Main Streets

My name is Emily Fetcko, and I am the CEO of the Erie Downtown Partnership, a nonprofit organization serving downtown's commercial core to make downtown Erie safe, fun, and welcoming. In recent years we have made a much larger commitment to both programming and maintaining public space to impact both the economic vibrancy of downtown for businesses and the quality of life for residents and employees. We manage 140 events and activities in downtown year-round; provide cleaning and safety support in the form of sidewalk snow removal, neighborhood patrols, and homeless wellness checks; provide grants to small businesses and property owners, as well as provide marketing support for the downtown.

Our relationship with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has been key in implementing this programming. ECGRA supports our work philosophically as well as financially as a proponent of the national Main Street model. The level of grant support we receive from ECGRA is a tool in leveraging other funds from local, state, and federal resources.

ECGRA staff have attended both the national and statewide Main Street conferences where we have together brought back ideas and resources to the Erie County community. ECGRA has also convened local nonprofits and community leaders for webinars on placemaking, small business support, and navigating COVID-19.

Working with ECGRA was especially beneficial to us as we navigated the pandemic and built out a Main Street support plan for small businesses. Through this collaboration we were able to support 21 businesses with relief and recovery grants, continue our cleaning and safety work, and reinvent our community building programming with digital concerts, connections, and education for small businesses.

We value the network of resources, ideas, and support that ECGRA provides to us and to all those organizations working to make their community better. Their work goes beyond grantmaking and really is more about community-making. We need that same level of support from the county that ECGRA has provided thus far. We value their support and would expect to rely on this same level of support from the county to advance important revitalization work being done by our organization to make downtown safe, fun, and welcoming.

Emily Fetcko, Erie Downtown Partnership

Downtown North East: A uncomplicated, thorough, and accountable grantmaking process

I am Charlene Kerr, the chair of Downtown North East, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission it is to strengthen the viability and economic feasibility of the downtown and its surrounding community. I am also the secretary for North East in Bloom, Inc., another 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose goal it is to embrace the America in Bloom mission and beautify/enhance the entire community of North East. An aesthetically pleasing community invites economic development and sustains businesses and jobs for our residents. Critical needs for any community!

Both organizations have been the beneficiaries of a significant number of ECGRA grants — many on behalf of other organizations such as the chamber and others. ECGRA has provided over \$1 million of funds to DNE and other organizations for our projects, all of which benefitted other nonprofits, private businesses, and recreational activities within North East. This \$1 million has been matched with at least \$2 million of other funds, including funds from our local foundations, private businesses, local governments, individuals, and other nonprofits.

Over 50 local business and building owners and nonprofits, such as McCord Memorial Library and the Arts Council, have benefited from grants for façade improvements through ECGRA's Mission Main Street program. Thousands of residents and visitors have enjoyed events, entertainment, the Erie Philharmonic, Winefest, and other activities with funding in part from ECGRA's Special Events and Arts & Culture grants. Many of our lower-income residents would never have the opportunity to participate in these types of events if they were not held in North East and were not subsidized so as to be free to the general public. Many new residents and small businesses have located in North East after first visiting here for one of our many events.

North East in Bloom purchases, plants, and maintains 90 hanging baskets throughout the downtown, as well as over 90 planters in the downtown, parks, gateways, and key locations throughout the community. In addition, working with the North East Historical Society, NEIB has installed historical wraps on five electrical boxes in Gibson Park and key intersections, in addition to placing historic postcard murals (13 so far and 10 more to be placed this year) on key buildings illustrating the past businesses and buildings located in that general area. NEIB also maintains several gardens at gateways and in Heard Park, welcome signs, and murals. Our local foundations have been key contributors to these efforts, matching ECGRA funds. The number of volunteers and volunteer hours for both organizations are too many to enumerate.

ECGRA funds have brought our many different organizations and governments together to coordinate activities and projects, and to capitalize on and enhance available revenue streams. Our efforts, and those of others in the community, have made North East one of the most attractive places in Pennsylvania to visit (per a Facebook article last year).

None of this could be possible without ECGRA and the grants that it provides to small communities.

The ECGRA grant process is uncomplicated, thorough, and accountable. If dollars are not spent as approved by the ECGRA Board, they would have to be returned and/or the grantee would be ineligible for future funds. Closeout reports are required at the end of each grant period and details are required to prove that the funds were spent according to the approved application and agreement. I do not believe that, if these casino funds were transferred to a government authority, that the process would be as unencumbered and apolitical as it is now. I believe that was one of the goals of creating ECGRA in the first place.

It has been our experience that ECGRA staff are easily accessible, responsive, honest, extremely helpful, creative, and apolitical in their service to Erie County municipalities. If a need is presented to the staff, they somehow manage to come up with a funding or technical assistance program to meet that need. In my 40 years of community and economic development experience, I have never worked with an agency that is so positive and responsive to current and changing situations. In addition, the timing of submitting, reviewing, and approving applications and dispersing funds is amazingly quick and efficient. No government agency that I have worked with in 40 years can match this!

North East and our sister Erie County municipalities need ECGRA. There is no other agency or program that offers these kinds of grants in such an accessible and accountable manner.

Please preserve this extremely effective economic development organization and its grant programs.

Charlene M. Kerr, North East Downtown, Inc. and North East in Bloom

Our West Bayfront: ECGRA instrumental to our work

As a nonprofit neighborhood organization, Our West Bayfront has been working in the West Bayfront neighborhoods of Erie since 2017, with a focus on projects that enhance quality of life including housing repairs, blight remediation, public space improvements, and building community identity. The purpose of this letter is to highlight some of the ways in which ECGRA funding has been instrumental in our work.

Prior to the establishment of OWB as a 501(c)(3) neighborhood revitalization organization, ECGRA funding supported initial efforts that led to the development of the neighborhood plan that guides OWB's work in the West Bayfront neighborhoods. Since then, OWB deployed funding through a variety of ECGRA programs to advance our mission of enhancing the quality of life in Erie's West Bayfront neighborhoods. For example:

Renaissance Block and Mission Main Streets funding has enabled OWB to assist 64 OWB property owners with repairs through a matching program that has resulted in \$365,000 in additional private investment in addition to the \$300,000 in grant funding.

The Anchor Building Program helped us set in motion the renovation of a key historic property in OWB's primary commercial corridor, West 8th Street, helping us to secure additional matching dollars to complete the rehabilitation. This project has catalyzed tens of thousands of dollars in additional investments in nearby properties.

The Community Assets Program was a key piece of the funding needed for the overhaul of Bayview Park, which many people know now because of the new splash pad and swinging benches that overlook Presque Isle Bay. As a result, Bayview Park has become not just a neighborhood attraction, but a regional one.

Since 2018, about \$440,000 in ECGRA funding has been invested in the OWB neighborhoods, leveraging over \$2.3 million in investments including owner contributions, grants, and city financing. We appreciate this support from ECGRA, and look forward to continued partnership as we work together to create a better Erie for all.

Anna Frantz, executive director, Our West Bayfront

Fairview resident Andrew Roth: ECGRA benefits all Erie Countians

Dear Dr. Wood, Mr. Davis and Mr. Drexel:

Re: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Originally, I had intended to attend the Erie County Council meeting...but an illness prevents that. So, excuse me for taking the liberty to send you this email in support of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

There are two kinds of leaders. First, there are those leaders who break things for who knows what motive (perhaps well-intentioned), but who leave disorder in their wake. Then there are those leaders who envision a better future, have the courage to pursue that better future, and have the wit to plan a path to its achievement.

I would like to both thank and congratulate the current members of Erie County Council and your predecessors for having the imagination to envision a better future, the intelligence to plan a path to its achievement, and the courage to stay the course ensuring that their vision came to fruition.

Of course, I refer to the creation of ECGRA. Designed by smart thinking politicians to depoliticize the process for deploying the funds from Presque Isle Downs and Casino, ECGRA has for these last many years fairly and equitably overseen the dispersal of funds to the benefit of all Erie Countians. If old-time Erie politics had prevailed, it is not hard to imagine that the great majority of county revenue derived from the casino would have primarily benefitted the city of Erie and Millcreek Township. Why? While among other reasons, every county executive

save one has been from the city of Erie and Millcreek Township. The exception was Fairview's Barry Grossman, but Grossman always saw himself as an Erieite.

No, as a result of the foresight and positive leadership of past and current Erie County Council members, ECGRA has dispensed funds to the benefit of all Erie countians. With its community improvement grants and "main streets and neighborhood" programs, ECGRA has benefitted Union City, Corry, North East, Girard, and Greene Township among others.

It has also had the wisdom to support nontraditional programs like the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy which has produced a cadre of dedicated young people focused on public service. Many of its alumni have entered local politics, while others have done valuable research on program models benefitting all Erie Countians.

Again, in closing, I want to thank Erie County Council, both its current members and predecessors, for being leaders with a positive vision for Erie County and the courage to create such an "out-of-the-box" thinking program as ECGRA benefitting all Erie Countians.

Andrew Roth, Fairview

PACA: ECGRA helped turn blighted eyesore into economic engine

Thank you for allowing me to address this body. I appreciate your time.

My name is Mark Tanenbaum. I am the executive director of PACA — The Performing Arts Collective Alliance. I am here today to talk about ECGRA.

PACA is a past recipient of ECGRA funding.

PACA is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit, arts and entrepreneurial entity, located at 1501-09 State St., Erie. We have been located at that address for nearly 12 years.

When we moved into the PACA Building as it is called today, there were five tenants. Over 75% of the available 70,000 square-foot was empty and devoid of activity. The gas, electric and water had intermittently been turned off and on. The windows were boarded up. Our building was the proverbial eyesore on State Street.

But a group of us decided to take it upon ourselves to make a difference. We decided to be the change we wanted to see.

We cleaned out decades of rubbish, put in heaters and electric, light grids, carpeting, walls and risers. And we put on our first show. We saved our money and reinvested it into additional improvements to our property and put on more shows.

We became the little theater that could. We kept improving our space and doing more work. We renovated studio spaces and found more artists who needed a place to create.

In time we bought the property. We have invested in downtown Erie in a substantial way. And we did it before many higher profile organizations decided to join us.

We pay prevailing wage. We hire union companies. We buy materials from local distributors. We use registered, licensed contractors.

We got on the National Register of Historic Places. We were the first property on the local historic register. We pay 100% of our city, county and school taxes, even though we could pay zero. We have become a community asset in good standing.

We now have 50 full-time arts and entrepreneurial tenants. Each one is an independent contractor and businessperson. People have started in PACA and moved on, like Primo Tailors, to new locations. We provide space and support for immigrants, and the most diverse collection of Erieites imaginable. In any year's time there are no less than 250 events in our building. Sometimes there are three or four public events on the same night. This past week alone we have five public events.

PACA is proof that the arts are economic development. The arts are sustained, concerted actions that promote the standard of living and economic health of Erie County. The arts are drivers of quantitative and qualitative changes in our economy. ECGRA thoroughly supports all of this progress. Without ECGRA, none of this would have been possible.

ECGRA has helped PACA with an Anchor Building Grant. But they didn't do so on our first try. We were initially turned down. We had to prove ourselves. ECGRA set high standards. ECGRA had a rigorous application process. They provided the funds in stages. They oversaw the expenditure of funds in stages. They called us for clarification. They personally inspected the work that was done.

Without ECGRA's faith in PACA we could never have grown to be where we are now. They provide much-needed funds at a much-needed time. They provided "first-in" financial support. Their faith in us boosted our acceptance level with other funding providers.

ECGRA is the vanguard, tip of the spear, and the single most important grassroots supporter of innumerable important examples of countywide growth. They are strict; they are transparent; and they are necessary. Without ECGRA, there would be no place else of institutions like PACA, and hundreds of others, to go.

I urge this body to continue to support ECGRA and their works.

Mark Tanenbaum, executive director of PACA – The Performing Arts Collective Alliance

Former Erie Mayor Savocchio: ECGRA recognized as a national model

Tonight I'd come before Erie County Council wearing many hats. I come as a former mayor of Erie. I come as a founding member and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson Educational Society. And I come as a longtime resident of the city and the county of Erie.

I'm here to support ECGRA. In all these capacities I have learned, worked for and believed in, to get things done, we need to find common ground not just between government but with all sectors of our community. Public-public and public-private partnerships enable us to do so.

During my administration as mayor, this became my foundation to revitalize and rebuild not only city services, but our economic base and the quality of life for all of our citizens. We see today happily, once again, the revitalization and progress being made with such partnerships. From Main Street to boardrooms to our neighborhoods, government is a necessary partner be it local, state or national. It is in partnerships both public and private, that we can find common ground and eventually find progress. The government has played an important role in establishing ECGRA. The state legislature long ago provided for the establishment of authorities. Special legislation was passed by the state in establishing ECGRA.

This legislation concerned distributions of money received from the casino to the state and then turn to ECGRA. Authorities are by law autonomous having their own boards and executive directors. Local government then can appoint members to the authority boards as I know you all know, but authorities have their own missions and purposes. In doing so, authorities can receive funding that city and county government might not have access to always but they can aid in city and counties to leverage. They can also aid in building partnerships that can aid in the progress sought by both city and county governments. ECGRA is a unique authority in that it was created by special state legislation providing funding to

come to Erie County. And as I understand as of now, county receiving \$4 million to \$5 million a year for which I'm sure taxpayers and citizens are most grateful.

Over the last 15 years ECGRA has granted funds to some 226 recipients, all of which have aided in the revitalization of Erie County and its economy. ECGRA is fulfilling its mission and purpose and has won national recognition and has been referred to as the national model in a book entitled "Our Towns" written by James and Deborah Fallows. Erie was one of 41 mid-size American cities that they noted that were bringing revitalization to our economy.

Progress is and should be of top importance, not only to government but to all set sectors of our communities. We see that today in Erie and Erie County. I am reminded of a Chinese proverb which notes while the destination is important, it is the companions we travel with that make it worthwhile. It is in that spirit that I wish to thank ECGRA, its board members, executive director and staff on behalf of myself, on behalf of the Jefferson Educational Society, for the progress they have aided in and for the partnership we share.

Joyce Savocchio, former Erie mayor and founding member and former chair of the board of trustees of the Jefferson Educational Society

Ray Luniewski: ECGRA vital to festivals and events

I'm also here tonight to speak on the advantages and the wonderful thing that we have in our local ECGRA, that takes care of so many groups around the area. I've had the privilege of probably working with half the people behind me on one or another project over the years and half of you guys too up front. We've done a wonderful thing. And ECGRA has been there every step of the way as far as I'm concerned.

I'm primarily representing Lake Erie Fanfare, which is responsible not only for all the drum and bugle corps competitions that have been here the last 40 years ... We've also operated the German festival for the last 20 years. And on a personal note, my wife and I are parishioners at Holy Trinity, so we've chaired Zabawa for the last 11 years. I'm here today not to tell you what's wrong with ECGRA. I am telling you what is good.

First off, you have a bunch of festivals in this town. And people may say, "Oh well, who cares?" Those festivals — the Italian, the Polish, the German, the Greek, whoever — we pull in well into the hundreds of thousands of people. They all eat. They all drink. And all that food and that product is sourced locally. ECGRA helps us each and every year through their events program that they have. We go through and apply for it and then of course have to account for

it at the end. There's a long, long report that's done for each one. But they get it. They understand the importance of bringing these festivals in and how many people travel from out of town to get here for these things. So I guess for consideration these festivals, say there is six of us, we're getting between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year in money, \$35,000 total. That \$35,000 is leveraged into hundreds of thousands of people that come here. They spend time in Erie. They spend money in Erie. We spend money in Erie. I know we spend a ton of money for food and everything else. So you take that. If you gave it to a project out on the sidewalk here, you'd probably get about 100 lineal foot of sidewalk put down for that same \$35,000, whereas you're bringing in hundreds of thousands of people.

We get it done with all volunteers. It's the one nice thing about all of it. It's all volunteer. Everything that I'm involved with is strictly volunteer. We have no paid people that are getting salaries. There's nothing of that. That money goes right straight into making the program. How did we get here? Most of the groups like myself with Fanfare and all the churches that did this, we all ran bingo years ago. In the 1980s, you could go every night and there was at least four or five bingos all over town. When the casino came in, we were all, "What's going to happen now?" We found out because when the casino opened our 130-person bingo crowd on that first Sunday dropped to 80. We all started losing. One by one the churches folded up bingo. Groups like ours folded up even faster.

County Council made a promise to us at several meetings like this. We would not be forgotten. When the money was going to be distributed, there were going to be the six lead assets and there was going to be a pool for all the other people to apply to. When that got started, it stalled out for almost two full years. There was nothing happened. That money just kept accumulating. No awards were made. And all of a sudden ECGRA came on the scene. They rolled out and I want to say within weeks, checks were coming out. There was grants that were done. Things were applied for. Projects got funding. And that has continued right up until this very day. I'm not sure what any problems might have been with everything. But I can tell you, it's a pretty smooth machine on the inside when you're trying to get money for these programs and keep going with it.

Ray Luniewski, executive director of Lake Erie Fanfare

ECGRA helps Edinboro and farmers

My name is Marti Marks. I live in Edinboro, District 6. I'd like to thank Erie County Council for this opportunity to speak and for your supportive efforts. I live and work in Edinboro.

ECGRA funds have supported several projects in the borough that have made it a town I'm proud to live in. From the facade grants that renovate the public-facing side of our older downtown buildings to ongoing supportive events like the arts and music festival that draws thousands of people to Edinboro each May, ECGRA funding helps to drive economic growth in my community.

I'm also co-founder and executive director of the Edinboro Market, a 501 (c)(3) fresh food business incubator that opened in December of 2017 to provide a year-round storefront for local small farms and food entrepreneurs. We currently support 80 small businesses by providing a retail location for their products, along with input on product development. In six years of operation, we sold \$1.35 million in product grown or made made within 150 miles of Edinboro, all out of a 900-square-foot space. Seventy-five percent of those sales are returned directly to the producer, which means Edinboro Market has added over a million dollars to the local economy.

In spring of 2023, we applied for ECGRA community center funds as a partial match to a \$663,000 federal investment through the Appalachian Regional Commission. Both proposals were funded and the project began in November of last year. The project titled "Cultivating the Agriculinary Industry in Northwest Pennsylvania," focuses on both economic development by providing support and resources for those working intentionally to feed their community, and workforce development by illuminating a pathway for young people interested in food and farming careers.

Through this project, we will work with partners at Chatham University ... to provide business skills and mentoring for adults starting a food or farm business, while also provide apprenticeships and hands-on opportunities for youth interested in careers in food and farming through collaboration with the Erie Farm-to-School program. We will double our retail space, providing more room for more products for additional producers. We will open a shared-use kitchen which can be rented by the hour by businesses needing an inspected kitchen to produce their products. Specifically, ECGRA funding will cover a portion of the construction costs including an electric upgrade to the building we've purchased and a significant amount of the equipment for the commercial kitchen. This investment will help us to reinforce the importance of healthy delicious food as part of a welcoming community and a vibrant economy. ECGRA funding priorities assist nonprofits fulfill their missions in many ways across your accounting. For this reason, we ask council to support their current breadth of funding initiatives. Thank you.

Marti Marks is a founder of the Edinboro Market

Police Athletic League 'forever grateful' for ECGRA

Good evening. I'll be very brief. I know it's been a long night for everybody. I am very honored to be here. I first off want to thank the current council members and the council members of the past for everything that you've done for our particular program through the years, so for that I thank you. I'm not here for any political agenda.

I heard it said several times tonight, "doing the right thing." The one thing that I can attest to and I can speak on tonight is what ECGRA has done for our program the Police Athletic League from year one back in 2015, going into 2016 with our former Chief of Police Randy Bowers and also former Mayor Joe Sinnott. When the vision was hatched with regards to starting the Police Athletic League, not a lot of people believed in us. Not a lot of people thought that this was going to work. So as we're sitting down formulating this plan to you know to start working with the kids in our community, funding was a major concern. And I remember that ECGRA — it was the first time that I had ever even heard of ECGRA — they were the first ones to the table. They were the first ones that came in and went through the grant process.

I didn't know anything about grant writing and processes. I'm a police officer. But through the years I had to educate myself as this program grew. And again, I want to thank you guys because I know you hear about PAL, probably at least a couple times a year. But that small investment in the infancy stages, I can't thank that entity enough. We started off at Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School with 35 kids the first year. Going into year two, it grew like a wildfire. I remember thinking I don't know how we're going to be able financially to provide the kids in the schools the things that we have. So enter year two, we reapplied for another ECGRA grant and they delivered again. So as time went on, we got through year two, brought on three more locations. Fast forward to now, we are in 19 different locations throughout the city. Thirty-five kids to 1,200 kids actively in the program. And in about a month or two, I know that you guys are going to hear about us branching out even further, bringing on other jurisdictions in Erie County, not just the city of Erie. So, you know, with that being said, I'm forever grateful for ECGRA being the first ones to the table when it started off as a little idea with no financial backing. And the interesting thing about that is, I was taught by Perry (Wood) and the people that worked with ECGRA on how to be fiscally responsible, how to run a nonprofit program and to grow this program to what it turned into today.

ECGRA lit the spark for our program and our entity when nobody else in the beginning gave us a chance — and actually, I'll take it a step further, and say that at that particular time, it

really wasn't fashionable for police to be even working with the youth in our community. But I'm here to tell you that although you as council members don't get to see the finished product, I'm blessed that I get to see that every day.

I hear a lot of people talking tonight about investing in property. That is extremely important, but I would venture to bet that that isn't worth as much as investing in people and in our youth, and that's what we're doing and what ECGRA allowed us to do in the beginning.

Lt. Tom Lenox, Erie Bureau of Police's PAL coordinator

Advertisement

A look at evidence in claims against ECGRA

Davis accuses gaming board of violating local law, contract

A.J.

Rao

Eric Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK
TUESDAY APRIL 2, 2024

Eric County Executive Brenton Davis has been open in criticizing the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Evidence to support his claims, including allegations that ECGRA has violated local law and an American Rescue Plan contract, has been harder to establish.

Here's a closer look.

Davis claims ECGRA violated Right-to-Know Law

Much of Davis' criticism of ECGRA has involved the speed at which ECGRA provides information to him. In early February, Davis formally requested years of financial records from ECGRA. The records, which stretched back to ECGRA's inception in 2009, included a comprehensive report of each loan issued by the authority; contracts, check detail reports and credit card statements since 2016; financial interest reports and conflict of interest statements since 2009; and a detailed account of all payments made to ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood since 2012.

Due to the breadth of materials, ECGRA responded that they would treat

the request like a standard Right-to-Know request and require 30 additional days to gather the information.

Davis, appearing at an ECGRA board meeting Feb. 15, said the authority was showing "resistance to accountability."

He said other organizations were more forthcoming, that he "requested the same thing" from the Erie County Redevelopment Authority and Diverse Erie and received responses in a matter of hours.

"In about three hours, they had every detail of every loan," he said of the Redevelopment Authority.

However, Davis requested three years' worth of records from the Redevelopment Authority, according to a Feb. 7 email obtained by the Erie Times-News.

Diverse Erie has existed since 2021.

By March 6, ECGRA had posted the requested financial records on its website. Davis still accused the authority of violating the Right-to-Know Law during a March 18 interview on TalkErie radio.

He claimed ECGRA took more than 30 days to provide him the information and that, as county executive, he oversees ECGRA and should not have to go through the Right-to-Know process.

ECGRA Solicitor Tim Wachter, in a Feb. 9 memo to Wood and Board Chairman Dale Barney, stated that while he agreed that Davis has the authority to request the documents, the Home Rule Charter is "silent as to the time periods and processes to be used to comply with such a request."

"As the county executive does not have the power to dictate the day-to-day activities of ECGRA, the county executive cannot dictate the timeline governing the provision of those records," Wachter wrote in the memo.

Davis claims ECGRA violated American Rescue Plan contract

Davis in March turned attention to ECGRA's compliance with the American Rescue Plan.

ECGRA received \$4 million of the county's ARP funds in 2021 as part of a transformative grant agreement.

Roughly \$3.6 million of that total was put toward ECGRA's grant awards. The remainder was put toward administrative costs, including \$93,406 for salaries and benefits, according to a copy of the agreement obtained by the Erie Times-News.

Since the agreement has a three-year grant period, ECGRA has until Dec. 31 to use the funds.

Davis, however, has accused ECGRA of violating the agreement.

In a March 14 email to Wood, Davis wrote that he had concerns about “direct violations” of the agreement.

He claimed in a March 18 interview on TalkErie radio that ECGRA was “in violation” of the contract. Specifically, he noted that ECGRA had depleted its \$93,406 in salaries and benefits within the first two years alone.

“I just called (ECGRA) this week and I said, ‘Hey, you’ve already outspent — for a three-year contract, you’re authorized X amount of money — well, you already spent all your overhead in two years. You’re in violation of a contract,’” Davis said.

Wood pushed back against the claim.

“The assertion from the county executive is that because we spent this line item down, we’re now going to overbill the county,” Wood said at a March 21 board meeting. “There would be no reason that we would do that.”

Wood stressed that it was the former Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper administration, not ECGRA, that required a portion of the \$4 million to go toward administrative costs in 2021.

“We weren’t even asking for administrative funds in the first place,” he said.

Wood added that Wachter performed a legal review and deemed the authority to be in compliance with the ARP agreement.

In a March 15 email to Davis, Wood requested written documentation to prove that ECGRA was in violation of the agreement. Wood told the Erie Times-News on Friday that Davis had not responded.

Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll, contacted by the Times-News, said the administration did not have a comment on the matter.

Other claims

Davis has claimed that ECGRA continues to retain a political lobbyist.

“Why does this authority spend \$5,000 per month on a political lobbyist? \$60,000 per year and has for years,” he wrote on a recent post to his campaign re-election Facebook page.

ECGRA, however, doesn’t have a lobbyist anymore, according to Wood.

ECGRA retained the lobbyist, the Ridge Policy Group, from 2016 to 2020, to initially better leverage the region’s gaming funds and later to ensure local share gaming revenue remained in state legislation after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in 2016. Davis has also criticized ECGRA for paying for Wood’s doctorate program at the University of Pittsburgh, asking in a Facebook post, “What if elected officials had their doctorate paid for at the expense of taxpayers?” Wood said ECGRA paid for one year of tuition and books before he chose to withdraw from reimbursements.

Davis has also claimed that he’s not “singling out” ECGRA and blamed the news media for creating a “frenzy” around his scrutiny. He said he’s requested similar information from other organizations and that his goal is mere accountability.

However, unlike with other organizations, the Davis administration sent its requests for ECGRA’s records directly to the news media. Davis also invited the news media for interviews shortly after he threatened to dissolve the authority during a Jan. 18 ECGRA board meeting.

The administration did not notify the news media that it requested financial records from the Redevelopment Authority or Diverse Erie. “It’s very frustrating to communicate with an elected official through the media rather than through the established liaison system that Erie County government created to increase communication between government and their authorities,” Wood told the Erie Times-News. “So, if his goal is to frustrate — it’s working. We would like to see the system work the way it was supposed to through a liaison in which questions are asked and answered — not accusations flung through the media.”

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.



\$1 MILLION

in makeovers



Façade grants lift up downtown North East.

There's nothing like a fresh coat of paint to breathe new life into a building.

And now more businesses in downtown North East than ever are putting their best foot forward thanks to façade grants offered through Downtown North East and the Borough of North East.

Since 2013, more than \$1 million has been invested into façade improvements, or more specifically any part of the building that can be seen from the street. That includes a wide variety of projects—from paint and repairs, to awnings and signs, doors and windows, even entryway carpets.

Here's how it works. Building owners apply with details and an estimated cost for their project. Once their project is approved and completed, owners get reimbursed for 50 percent of the expense up to \$10,000.



The program utilizes Mission Main Street grant funding from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and often includes additional matching by funds from the North East Community Foundation.

"Our business has been on Main Street since 1950," said W. Douglas Bemiss, president of MK Bemiss Agency Inc. whose business has utilized grant funds to assist with painting the entire exterior as well as updating signage. "This grant was an opportunity to extend our own resources and renew our building and signs with a fresh new look, while still keeping the traditional historic feel of downtown North East.

"Many of our long-term customers commented on how much they like our new look and color scheme, and we also gained new customers who noticed our agency's improvements."

Each year, new grants expand the reach of the repairs. Recent projects along Main and Lake streets have brought new, colorful painted exteriors to The Flower Cart, La Casa de Pizza, North East News Journal, and The Apple Basket, to name a few.

It's hard to miss the giant new mug sign that welcomes customers to The Bean coffee shop or the updated metal canopy in front of Dragonfly Sweets. While improvements at Yori

Wine Cellars and McCord Library not only beautified the historic buildings but helped remedy leaks that were causing damage.

"The downtown façade grants have been instrumental in businesses trying to update and stay competitive visually," said Tamara Walters, owner/president of The Bean Coffee House and Small City Roasting Co. "It has been such a blessing each year I have applied.

"I am always very grateful for the help in keeping the outside of my building an equal reflection of the inside and the service and experience I am offering."

At The Straw Hat Sundae Shoppe, grant funds helped enclose the outdoor counter, transforming the seasonal location into a welcoming area to order or enjoy ice cream no matter what the weather.

Maintaining the historical architecture of downtown North East is a priority, said Richard Tefft, local historian.

"The 1884 fire in downtown North East burned down about two thirds of North East's business district," he explained. "The buildings were all rebuilt within the next 20 years to identical time-frame architecture and building standards.

"Investing in these buildings and making them last is important to the community."



Spring 2024

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



Donors Making a Difference

Grants are an extremely beneficial funding source for the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House especially for special projects that are above and beyond our normal expenses. That is why The Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), and Find Your Light Foundation are our featured donors making a difference this month.

Because of these grants we were able to replace our roof and carpeting which were original to our founding in 1995! We now have a brand-new roof over our heads (that should last another twenty-five plus years), and new Marmoleum flooring instead of carpeting that allows us to offer a wider variety of classes in those spaces while also improving the cleanliness of those rooms.

We are deeply grateful for the support from The Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and Find Your Light Foundation. You have helped us to continue to inspire a better future through the arts.



Many thanks to our 2023 Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) Contributors!

- Dahlkemper Landscape Architects and Contractors
- Erie Insurance Group
- Knox Law
- MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton
- Marquette Savings Bank
- MAXPRO Technologies Inc
- Plastikos, Inc
- PNC Bank
- Scott Enterprises
- UPMC Health Plan

WISH LIST

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Gift cards to stores that sell art supplies, general office supplies, healthy snacks, or personal care items | Garden plants |
| Individually packaged healthy snacks | Lego dots |
| | Potting Soil |
| | Polyfill |
| | Sketch pads |
| | Watercolor paper |

Memorial

A special thank you to the family of Katherine "Kay" Hosterman for designating a memorial to the Neighborhood Art House in her memory.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 9, 2024

**Resolution to enter into agreements with two (2)
Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged
in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets,
Round 2**

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed funding proposals and made funding recommendations to support community assets as they relate to ECGRA’s Strategic Plan and community goals;

Whereas, there were two (2) applicants for Community Assets funding and the Board of Directors affirms that two (2) applicants have met the threshold for funding including being in good standing with taxing bodies and other reporting requirements;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$34,500.00 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit “A”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with two (2) Erie County Community Assets so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region through tourism and continue to enrich the quality of life for Erie County residents.

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on 18th day of April 2024 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
April 18, 2024

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



2023 Community Assets Grants Recipients

PARKS, FIELDS, & TRAILS

ROUND 2

Organization	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Borough of Union City	French Creek Greenway Trail & Walking Path	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Headwaters NRC Trust	Pocket Park Project	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
TOTAL Requested		\$34,500.00	\$34,500.00

Project Name: French Creek Greenway & Walking Path

Applicant: Union City Borough

Grant Request: \$25,000

Project Total: \$297,790

Match: \$273,790 (Borough applied for a grant from DCNR)

Previous Grants: \$711,000

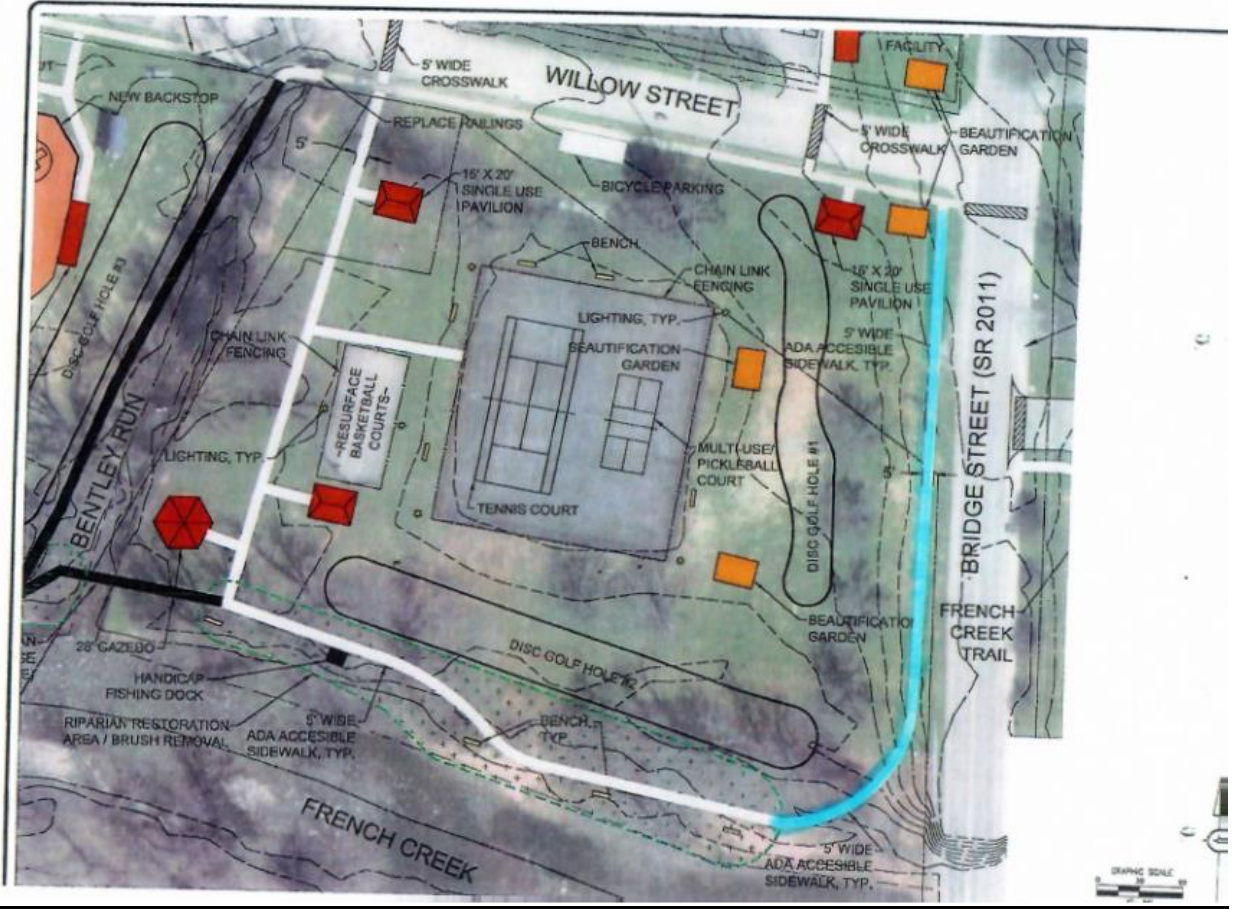
Project Summary: The French Creek Greenway Improvement project will involve development of three important segments of the French Creek Greenway Trail. The project will include the completion of a loop walking trail with views of French Creek in Devereaux Park. The project will also include the construction of a trail & stream bank beautification enhancements along French Creek in the municipal parking lot in downtown Union City. The third segment will include a trail along 1st Avenue from High Street to the American Legion ballfield complex which borders French Creek. There is currently no trail in any of these areas.

Demand & support for the French Creek Greenway project has been overwhelmingly received by our elected officials & residents. Union City presented information on the Trail during the 2022 French Creek Conservation Consortium. Great support was received from the participants. This project will expand recreational opportunities for residents & will attract visitors to the Borough. The project will provide more outdoor recreation opportunities & will encourage more physical activity by residents of all ages & abilities. The Borough is committed to completing this project because we understand that it provides an extraordinary opportunity to develop the kinds of amenities, access options & facilities that will best allow the Borough to take full advantage of the important French Creek resource.

These three critical sections of the French Creek Trail were identified as top priority in the Borough's recently completed French Creek Greenway Trail Town Plan, the Active Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan. This project will expand recreational opportunities for residents & will attract visitors to the Borough & will encourage more physical activity by residents of all ages.

Recommendation: Since Union City does have the match for the project, the recommendation is to fund the project this year.

Update: Union City received a grant from DCNR to complete the project and looks to bid the project this spring if ECGRA funds are awarded.



Project Name: Pocket Park Project

Applicant: Erie County Conservation District (Headwaters NRC Trust)

Grant Request: \$9,500

Project Total: \$19,000

Match: \$9,500

Previous Grants: \$61,046

Project Summary: The Pocket Park project will transform a vacant lot adjacent to the ECCD facility into a small, accessible park for the public. It will have ADA access, be incorporated into the existing trail system, and be additional space to expand the Memorial Tree Trail project and highlight native species.

Currently Headwaters Park offers nearly three miles of trails, ADA access, four habitats for exploration, and many informal opportunities for the public to learn more about conservation and preservation. As the owner of this parcel of property, the District is looking to expand its mission of conservation and preservation while educating visitors of various environmental topics. The development will also highlight native species, both trees and flowers, along with showcasing a wetland habitat up close. Benches and a small picnic shelter will also be available with views of the Park. The ADA trail loop, approximately 0.2 miles in length, will be marked for visitors interested in achieving a certain distance while enjoying the outdoors. A corner of the park will also be dedicated to a xeriscaping demonstration area, providing visitors with ideas on low maintenance, conservation-focused landscaping practices. The vacant lot is adjacent to the Erie County Conservation District at 1927 Wager Road. The lot is in an industrial park, sharing the area with Turned Products, Castle, and Eriez Magnetics. It is just north of the headwaters of Mill Creek, making its care and maintenance important as it impacts over 20 miles of creek, stream bank, and development downstream.

Recommendation:

The grant funds will be used for construction and not design as originally proposed. In light of the recent award of matching funds, the recommendation would be to grant the small request.

Update: ECCD received a grant from DCED so they will be able to begin the first phase this spring. An ECGRA grant in the amount of \$9,500 will be used as part of the construction this year if approved.

4/11/2024 email from ECCD

The total cost of the project is \$130,000.00

We have received a grant from DCED for 38,200.00, plus our match of \$7,800.00, for a total of \$46,000.00. This grant will immediately be used for a detailed design to be created for a contractor (\$11,700.00) with the remainder of the funds to begin the work of surveying, soil testing, amending grading, and planting native trees for the border and placing boulders along the border to define the space.

We are hoping to be awarded \$9,500.00 from ECGRA, with a \$9,500.00 match (total grant award \$19,000.00). These funds will go directly toward further creation of the Pocket Park, including a trail loop, demonstration wetland for education, xeriscape displays, and native wildflower and tree planting.

ECCD submitted a DCNR C2P2 grant on April 1st for the remainder of the project total, requesting \$65,000. We hope to be able to use ECGRA funds to assist with our match for that grant. DCNR grants are anticipated to be awarded in the fall of 2024.

ECCD will be initiating the Pocket Park this spring and continue work this summer. Anticipating a positive response from DCNR this fall, we intend to complete the project in the summer of 2025.

Again, please let me know if you need any further clarification of this project. I'm happy to provide further details and paperwork as needed.

Thank you –

Kristen



TOTAL AREA OF DISTURBANCE GRADING 38,625 SF
 TOTAL AREA OF DISTURBANCE GRADING 38,625 SF
 TOTAL AREA OF DISTURBANCE GRADING 38,625 SF



Master Plan East Lot
ECCD
 DATE: 10/15/2013 1:30 PM