

Minutes for January 6, 2009 Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cleaver at 11:34 a.m. in the Caucus Room of Erie County Council. Present were Board Members Kathy DeSante, Jennifer Dobbs Woods, David Sample, Pat Bruno, Board Solicitor Thomas Talarico, as well as others including Councilman Giles, County Planning Director Jake Welsh, County Director of Economic Development Robert Spaulding, and Gaming Revenue Manager Carolyn Gold.

After welcoming all in attendance Chairman Cleaver thanked past Chairman Joseph Giles for his hard work and many hours of service to the Authority. Mr. Cleaver also announced that it was his intention to introduce changes to the County gaming ordinance that would remove the Chairman of Council from the body allowing them to elect their own chairman and be a more autonomous organization.

Jake Welsh presented a map of the County which showed all of the projects that had applied for 2007 gaming funds. The map displayed their location relative to the casino property. Mr. Welsh also suggested a review which will look at projects in terms of their consistency with the county's comprehensive plan and whether they fall in "growth" areas.

Earl Brown and Bethany Fritz, of the Erie County Conservation District, gave a presentation which detailed the manner in which manure and waste water are handled by the race track during regular operations. Mr. Brown reported that the 213 acre track currently has 500 horses but has the capacity to hold 1000. Run off from the parking and other areas go into the wetlands on the property while other waste water goes to the public sewer. Ms. Fritz indicated that the horses are regulated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection in addition to the local oversight she provides. She further stated that water is tested on the site itself and that the water leaving the site through the sewer system is cleaner than the water going into site. Mr. Brown cited the possibility of e-coli being present in runoff from the track and that it could be transmitted through creeks all the way to Presque Isle.

Mr. Cleaver reported that a new appointee to the Authority would be approved by County Council that evening and that another appointee would be approved shortly thereafter. Discussion then began concerning the formation of subcommittees to create written criteria for review of all project applications. Ms. Dobbs-Woods stressed the importance of creating such criteria and volunteered to be part of the subcommittee. Attorney Talarico suggested that the examination of such criteria should be on the next agenda for the Authority. Mr. Bruno asked about the status of authorities and non profits as applicants and all agreed that a decision by the Authority would have to be made at the next meeting.

The meeting closed with a final discussion about an appropriate percentage of unrestricted gaming funds that should be used as operating capital for the Authority, which was permitted by county ordinance to be 2 to 5%. A vote on this matter was also suggested by Attorney Talarico. The meeting adjourned around 1:40pm.

NOTE: These minutes were approved at the February 23, 2009, meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. s/Carolyn E. Gold, Esquire; October 16, 2009.