

**ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - July 9, 2009**

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on July 9, 2009 in the Hirt Auditorium, Blasco Memorial Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507. Legal notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times News on June 4, 2009 and the change-in-location meeting notice published on June 29, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jennifer Dobbs Woods at 11:38 a.m.

Roll Call:

ECGRA Voting Members Present: Chairperson Jennifer Dobbs Woods, Vice-Chairperson Arthur L. Smaltz; Treasurer Stephanie B. Freeman; Mike Paris, David S. Sample and David H. Yaple.

ECGRA Voting Member Absent: Pasquale Bruno, III (resignation from ECGRA submitted prior to start of meeting)

ECGRA Non-Voting Members Present: Erie County Council Chairperson Ronald Cleaver

Others Present Included: Robert R. Spaulding, Director of Economic Development; Jake Welsh, Director of Erie County Department of Planning; Carolyn E. Gold, Esquire, Gaming Revenue Manager, and Deneé Hedges, Administrative Assistant to Gaming Revenue Manager.

Hearing of the Public:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to remove from the table the approvals of minutes of meetings held on January 13, 2009; March 19, 2009; April 16, 2009 and April 23, 2009 was made and duly seconded. A motion to approve the minutes from meetings held on January 13, 2009; March 19, 2009; April 16, 2009; April 23, 2009; May 7, 2009 and June 11, 2009 was made and duly seconded and these meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Stephanie B. Freeman, Treasurer, reported that funds in the ECGRA Uncommitted Funds Account were transferred to Erie Bank and that user names and passwords would be set up for Jennifer Dobbs Woods and Carolyn E. Gold.

Report of Gaming Revenue Manager:

Carolyn E. Gold, Esq., Gaming Revenue Manager, reported that all 14 of the 2009 Municipal Grant Applications were received on time and that she will submit to Authority members an application completeness report. She requested Authority members to review applications for areas where Authority members would want to request supplemental information on a topic. This information will be discussed at the

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next ECGRA meeting; if additional information is sought this will be handled by the Gaming Revenue Manager via letter to applicant(s) and there will be a due date set for a response.

The second quarterly gaming revenue payment from the Commonwealth is expected at the end of July, 2009. Regarding Summit Township Sewer Authority project R-2007-21, correspondence of June 26, 2009 from William Steff, Manager, STSA, describing the basis for estimates in the grant application was circulated to Authority members by e-mail with attachment. Regarding unrestricted funds, vacancies created by members of the Regional Assets Funding Committee are in process of being filled. Regarding the STEIDA litigation, outside counsel previously advised that a decision by the Commonwealth on the appeal was not expected until August, 2009 at the earliest.

Old Business:

Regarding the first order of old business, item 7.a. under the Agenda, "Resolution to Adopt Application for Gaming Revenue Grant (Uncommitted Funds) and the second order of old business, item 7.b. under the Agenda, "Resolution to Adopt Criteria for Gaming Revenue Grant (Uncommitted Funds)", Carolyn Gold was asked to re-circulate to Authority members the draft grant application for uncommitted funds submitted by Atty. Talarico, and the "Keystone Principles" supplied by Jake Welsh from Erie County Planning. Authority members were asked to review these documents and to supply feedback to Carolyn Gold via e-mail by Friday, July 24, 2009 regarding the application and use of Keystone Principles or other criteria as possible criteria for uncommitted funds process.

A motion to table further discussion of Agenda Items 7.a. and 7.b. was made and duly seconded.

New Business:

The first order of new business, item 8.a. under the Agenda, "Introduction of David H. Yaple" – Chairperson Jennifer Dobbs Woods first announced the resignation of Pasquale Bruno, III effective immediately. The resignation was submitted earlier in the day, via telephone. Ms. Dobbs Woods then introduced and the Authority welcomed David H. Yaple, Erie County Council's appointee to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Kathleen A. DeSante. The appointment was made on June 9, 2009. Ms. Dobbs Woods advised that Mr. Yaple is a graduate of Academy High School and Central State University; is married with three children and joins the Authority with substantial business experience, having owned and operated a local Dairy Queen for 28 years and having served on the National Franchise Board for Dairy Queen and currently serving on the Dairy Queen National Supply Chain Council representing Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The second order of new business, item 8.b. under the Agenda, "2009 Municipal Grant Applicant Presentations"- Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting was recessed to accommodate the remaining 2009 Municipal Grant Project Presentations scheduled to begin at 11:50 a.m. The Project Presentation session ran from 11:50 a.m. until 1:05 p.m.

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Following the conclusion of the presentations, a motion to reconvene the meeting was made and duly seconded.

The third order of new business, item number 8.c. under the Agenda, "Community Presentations – Uncommitted Funds Process" – Representatives from the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership were scheduled to make a presentation, however, were unable to attend this meeting. At the request of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Ms. Dobbs Woods provided to each Authority member a photocopy of correspondence of July 8, 2009 of Timothy Hunter, Member, Growth Partnership Committee, along with a one-page attachment, "Proposed Conceptual Framework for Distribution of Gaming Revenues in Erie County, Adopted by the Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership Board of Directors June 5, 2007."

An additional presentation was scheduled for a representative from the non-profit community to address the Authority on the topic of the uncommitted funds process. The presenter was Mr. William Jackson, Chief Operating Officer of the United Way of Erie County. Mr. Jackson, who spoke generally on behalf of non-profit organizations, addressed the economic impact of non-profits. He reported on the importance and economic impact on the community of the following: early childhood care and education; programs for adolescents to reduce arrest rates; decreasing high school drop out and truancy rates and programs to assist adults, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign.

The fourth order of new business, item number 8.d. under the Agenda, "ECGRA Meeting Schedule" – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Authority will occur as previously scheduled on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 11:30 in the Press Conference Room, Suite 504, Erie County Court House. The scheduling of additional Authority meetings to address the pending 2009 Municipal Grant Applications will be discussed at the August 13th meeting. In addition, ECGRA discussed scheduling a public forum or town hall type meeting at Blasco Memorial Library one evening in early August, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to give the public an opportunity to present input on the parameters of the uncommitted funds process. Three minutes would be allotted per person; presentations by two persons per organization would be allowed. The forum or town hall meeting would be publicized.

The fifth order of new business, item number 8.e. under the Agenda, "2009 Municipal Grant Applications – Timetable" – Upon motion made and duly seconded, discussion of this Agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

Time Meeting Recessed for 2009 Project Presentations: 11:50 a.m.

Time Meeting Reconvened: 1:15 p.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 1:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 13, 2009

Minutes submitted by: Carolyn E. Gold, Esq.

NOTE: These minutes were approved at the August 13, 2009, meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. s/Carolyn E. Gold, Esquire; October 16, 2009.