

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
GAMBLING IMPACT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 5, 2007

The scheduled meeting of Northampton County Gambling Impact Committee was held at 6:35 p.m., November 5, 2007.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present:

John Stoffa - County Executive
Robert Balum - Hellertown Police Chief
Vic Mazziotti - Fiscal Affairs
Ross Marcus - Human Services
John J. McGeehan - Prison
Phoebe L. Teichert - Bethlehem Township
Robert Pfenning - Chair of the Gambling Committee
Ann Terres - Retired Social Worker

The following media representative were present:

Sarah Cassi - The Express-Times

MINUTES

- Correction needs made to the spelling of Representative Brennan's last name.
- Approval of minutes from October 8, 2007 Meeting as distributed by chair with the above correction.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (for the Public on Agenda items)

- One member of the public present but did not wish to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Bucks County Municipal Grant Program

- i.) Does it have grants for personnel costs? Needs follow up with David Sanko.

B) December 10, 2007 is the rescheduled "Municipalities Meeting" with the 5 contiguous municipalities, City of Bethlehem and the 3 COG's. Work of

committee to date will be discussed using the "Questions Regarding ..." handout dated November 5. Concerns and the idea of a periodic "working group" will be discussed. Committee dialogue addressing concerns will occur once all municipalities and COG's have an opportunity to express their concerns. Public comment and adjournment will follow.

C) Change in Sands Bethworks projected opening date from Q1 to Q2 2009.

- i.) Revised 2009 Municipal Grants Funds - \$458,000
- ii.) Revised 2009 County Revenue Funds - \$511,000

D) Which County Authority will be making Municipal Grants under Act 71?

- i) GPA - General Purpose Authority was approved by the Solicitor (memo distributed).
- ii.) Expected termination date of the GPA needs to be determined to ensure the Authority will be around long enough. Is its termination date now the conclusion of the bond issue? Appropriate action to be taken if the termination date needs to be extended as was recently done with the IDA.
- iii.) If the GPA is willing to take on the role of the municipal grant maker, Bob Pfenning will meet with the GPA to explain this committee's function and offer the committee's services.
- iv.) John Stoffa will look into various issues regarding the GPA and determine if they are willing to make the Act 71 municipal grants.

E) Committee meeting schedule for 2008

- i.) If County Council agrees, committee members invited to attend the second meeting of County Council on the third Thursday in January at 6:30. This meeting will take the place of the committee's normally scheduled monthly meeting.
- ii.) In 2008, committee will meet in the following months: January (at County Council's meeting only), February, April, June, September, October, November and December.
- iii.) Dates for the meetings are to be determined. Suggestions are for either the second Monday or the second Wednesday of the month depending on when the County Council Liaison is available. The meeting time will remain at 6:30 PM.

iv.) Location of meeting will be in Council Chambers.

F). Committee Name

i.) The official name of this committee is now Northampton County Gambling Impact Committee.

G). Other Old Business

None

NEW BUSINESS

A) Review of selected gambling facts and figures

i) Trends in other states

- Connecticut and Nevada down in revenue in September.
- Atlantic City down consistently all year.
- Maryland is considering slot machines and West Virginia is adding table games.
- New Jersey's Senate President recently revived the idea of VLT's (slots) at the Meadowlands Race Track.

ii.) Pennsylvania Gross Terminal Revenue - in total and by facility

- Review of revenue chart
- Spike in Revenue seen on holidays
- About 25% of the adult population gambles

iii.) Pennsylvania Weekly Wagers by Day of Week by facility

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lower levels of wagers
- Spike on Friday and large spike on Saturday
- Drop down on Sunday to Friday or slightly below levels

iv.) Mount Airy facility - result of week 1

- Play per slot 18,908 (Wagers divided by the number of slot machines)
- Win per slot \$197, per machine per day.

v.) Morning Call article re: funding for State Police in casinos

- 189 on-site arrest mostly for theft, public drunkenness, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief at Pennsylvania casinos since opening in November 2006. Worst case was Philadelphia Park with 77 arrests in about 10 months of operation.

- B) Review of plans for Sands Bethworks as approved by City of Bethlehem's Planning Commission 10/16/07
- i.) Rough site plan given to the committee
 - ii.) Car parking (3,200 spaces in parking garage and 1,194 surface spaces) may become an issue, bus parking (75 spaces) looks adequate with 12 or 13 bus loading bays on the ground floor of the parking garage
 - iii.) A connecting walkway linking the casino and the retail space to the west under the Minsi Trail bridge will include a spa and restaurant
 - iv.) 200,000 square foot retail space will be available on two levels
 - v.) 10 story hotel with 300 rooms
 - vi.) 46,000 square foot multi-purpose facility seating 2,000 for banquets and 3,800 for concerts. Room can be subdivided. Movie theater originally proposed has been eliminated and replaced with this multi-purpose facility about twice the size at the suggestion of the Lehigh Valley Visitors and Convention agency
 - vii.) 3 vehicular entrances
 - viii.) 90 million dollars are going into traffic improvements from 78 to 378

C) Other New Business

- i.) None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (for public comment of the impact of gambling)

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

ADOPTED THIS DATE:

Chairperson