

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY  
GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 10, 2007

The scheduled meeting of Northampton County Gambling Impact Study Committee was held at 6:35 p.m., September 10, 2007.

**ROLL CALL**

The following committee members were present:

John Stoffa – County Executive	Ross Marcus – Human Services
John Conklin - County Administrator	Ann Terres
Robert A. Pfenning - Bethlehem	Vic Mazziotti - Fiscal Affairs
Phoebe L. Teichert	Jill Mancini – Solicitor (new member)
Constance Nelson - ADA	

The following media representative were present:

Sara Cassi - The Express - Times

**MINUTES**

- Approval of minutes from August 13, 2007 Meeting as distributed by chair.

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

- No members of the public are present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Speakers
  - a. David Sanko, Bucks County, confirmed attendance at the next meeting on October 8, 2007.
  - b. Police Commissioner Randall Miller, Bethlehem – will try to have the gambling crime survey results ready for the November meeting.
  - c. Asked Ross to invite his gambling addiction expert for the December 10, 2007 meeting.
- Monroe County Grant Proposals

- a. 1% of gross terminal revenue from Mount Airy facility goes into a fund, which the State Department of Community and Economic Development will be administering.
  - b. Invite, Bill Brackbill, Nazareth COG and Victor Rodite, Slate Belt COG business managers to a future meeting to give notification of the funds available.
- January Check in 2010 from Sands BethWorks facility's gross terminal revenue.
    - a. Per Vic Mazziotti can be included/accrued in County Revenue in 2009.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Survey available on line at [LehighValleyresearch.org](http://LehighValleyresearch.org). They are trying to get a centralized research point in the Lehigh Valley. The survey gives information on the behaviors and affects of gambling in the Lehigh Valley.
- b. Draft of municipalities meeting handout discussed. Committee trying to create a summary of material covered since its inception. Handout will form a basis of discussion. Some points to be made at municipalities meeting include:
  - County will issue checks only after the money is received.
  - An "authority" must administer the grants. Solicitor's office to needs to provide information on the use of an authority and timeframes.
  - County Council is leaning toward using the General Purpose Authority for the authority. Needs further investigation. The committee will try to have a definite answer before October 8, 2007.
  - Reviewed specific language regarding the acceptable uses of the grant.
  - Grant request must go through the municipality to the County, including Human Service requests.
  - The money coming in gets split three ways: 20% to City of Bethlehem, 30% to the County and 50% for grants to County Municipalities with preference to municipalities contiguous to Bethlehem.
  - \* This committee can only advise/recommend to the Granting Authority how to distribute the grant money. It cannot make the final decisions for the Authority.
  - Recommend that no more than 30% to 35% of the total be given to a single municipality.
- c. Agenda for next meeting.

- Municipality participation moved to the following meeting in November because David Sanko is scheduled for the October meeting. Given his relevant experience in Bucks County, ample time must be made available for his presentation plus questions.
  - The handout will be given to the municipalities in advance so they can review it prior to the meeting, thus it must be finalized at next meeting.
  - Document will be email to either John Stoffa or John Conklin to give to the Solicitor for legal review. Solicitor to rule on the appropriate authority to oversee the grants.
- d. County Council will be invited to attend the next two meetings.
- e. Presentation will be given to County Council at their second meeting in January 2008.
- f. Proposed Agenda for the meeting with the municipalities.
- Give municipalities an opportunity to review and react to the document.
  - Give each municipality an opportunity to express their concerns to the committee.
  - Open to the public for comment.
  - \* Proposal of quarterly “Regional Task Force” meetings including this committee, the municipalities and Sands BethWorks starting in April 2008.
- g. County Council received an undated letter from Joseph Brennen, State Representative, requesting the Borough of Fountain Hill be added to the list of eligible municipalities qualifying for funding. Bob Pfenning and Ross Marcus will meet with Joseph Brennen to discuss his issues.
- h. The County’s portion of the funds has not been discussed yet as to the use of it. This committee can discuss uses and make recommendations. A County Health Department and a Crime Center are some possibilities.

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

- No members of the public are present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn

ADOPTED THIS DATE:

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Chairperson