

Draft of Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2007

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:40 p.m.

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Larry Hall, Cushing Samp and Peter Danton. Michael Peters has resigned from the Board.

Staff members present: Exec. Director Robert Welch, Lt. Patrick Fleming, Auditor Scott Woods and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Melissa O'Dea, Ass't Attorney General

- **Minutes from March 28, 2007 meeting approved.**

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp

Seconded: Peter Danton

Vote: 4-0

- **Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch**

A. SAS 70 Audit – We don't have the money for it now, so will leave on the list of to-do's.

B. Legislative Update: LD 35 – Ought not to pass; LD 805 & 987 – Passed; LD 994 – Hearing today, LD 1828 – Hearing on 5/4/07 at 10:00 and LD 701 to be heard.

C. Wiring Project – We have the microphones in and the power station. OIT is working on the Firewall for the project. Hopefully will have an icon on our website.

D. Progressive Gaming, (formerly known as Mikohn), was issued a renewal license with an expiration of April 2008.

- **Financial Update – Scott Woods**

Mr. Woods reported, per request of the Board, on his findings of what the University of Maine had been doing with the monies received as revenue from Hollywood Slots. Per Title 20-A, Chapter 411, K, scholarships had been offered to biomedical students in the University system for one year only. Following this year, the scholarship monies will be divided over seven University of Maine Campuses and given based on the need and volume of those attending. The Community College had not returned a call and has not returned previous calls, requesting the same type of information from Mr. Woods. Dr. Welch will draft a letter to the Community College Council. April 14th was the highest gross pay day so far at the Racino with proceeds of \$2.9 million.

- **State Police Activity Update – Lt. Patrick Fleming**

Lt. Fleming has been nominated to be the new Colonel of the State Police and awaits final vote. The Board congratulated him. Inspector Tom Russell is done on Monday, April 30th. Sgt. Parker, Det. Armstrong and Inspector Ed Olson will be filling in shifts while this position is vacant. The Inspectors continue to check vehicles at the Racino for animals and people left in them during the hotter weather.

- **New Business:**

Mr. Welch inquired from the Board in reference to the Moratorium on Future Gambling, how long they perceive that to be for as he has been asked this question. Discussion ensued, minutes checked to reveal they had decided on a six month basis. Suggestion of reviewing the Moratorium at the next Board meeting. Mr. Welch also inquired from the Board if it continues to be necessary to keep electronic copies of employees' applications on the computer as it costs money to have this storage space on the hard drive. Discussion and decision to table for now and have it on the next Agenda, with costs projected from Mr. Welch.

- **Public Comments**

Jon Johnson, Mgr of Hollywood Slots advised the Board that of the \$52 million in revenues so far from the Racino, \$26 million had been paid in taxes, making them the highest taxed industry in Maine. As far as the permanent facility is concerned, the rebar is in place, pouring of cement should be within a week, things are going very well.

Commissioner Jordan addressed the Board and expressed her concern over several bills that are currently in Legislature having to do with other proposed locations for Slots/Gambling venues. Her concerns include an apparent lack of oversight as to who will administer these locations; lack of personnel to oversee them; and currently in the Maine Statutes - no oversight as to where the money goes after it is distributed from the revenue of the Racino. (see Scott Wood's report above)

- **Next meeting dates – May 23, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. and June 20, 2007 same time.**

Motion by Larry Hall to adjourn meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain
Secretary