



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 28, 2017 – 12:30 p.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA

Present: Chairman Stephen P. Crosby
Commissioner Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Lloyd Macdonald
Commissioner Bruce Stebbins
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga

**Time entries are linked to
corresponding section in
Commission meeting video**

Call to Order

See transcript page 2

[12:32 p.m.](#) Chairman Crosby called to order the 221st Commission meeting. Executive Director Edward Bedrosian, Jr. noted that this meeting is a continuation of the last Commission meeting.

Ombudsman

See transcript pages 2-113

[12:33 p.m.](#) Ombudsman John Ziemba provided an overview of the Community Mitigation Fund process and applications. He also provided a summary of the grants approved to date which included: \$150,000 that was awarded to the City of Everett for a bike sharing service; \$100,000 that was awarded to the City of Lynn to help remedy potential traffic impacts; \$25,000 that was awarded to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office for a study on impacts to their caseloads; \$148,750 that was awarded to the Plainville Fire Department for a fire suppression vehicle and \$98,397.92 was awarded for public safety-related equipment; and \$31,523 that was awarded to the City of Springfield for the continuation of the valet parking pilot program.

Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the Transportation Planning Grants. He reported that the City of Boston requested funding for a portion of the City's engineering design costs for the proposed reconstruction of Sullivan Square and Rutherford Avenue. He noted that this is a major traffic corridor expected to support casino related traffic. He stated that the request is for \$150,000 and also \$100,000 from

their reserves. Ombudsman Ziemba reported that the Review Team recommended funding for these purposes. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[12:43 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Macdonald moved that the Commission approve the application of the City of Boston for \$150,000, transportation planning application for the reasons that are summarized in the review committee's memorandum to us. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zuniga. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Macdonald amended the motion to include that the Commission approve the drawdown of \$100,000 from the current reserve account. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

[12:45 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Everett's request for funding for a preliminary design and engineering of a bus-only lane. The request is for \$150,000 and the Review Team recommended funding. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[12:51 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the 2017 Everett transportation planning grant as included in the packet. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion passed unanimously.*

[12:52 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Malden's request for funding for the rehabilitation of Exchange Street. Commissioner Zuniga expressed concerns about whether Exchange Street is a connector to the Wynn facility. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[1:11 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Cameron moved that the Commission approve the City of Malden's request for \$150,000 for a transportation grant. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion approved by Chairman Crosby and Commissioners Cameron, Macdonald, and Stebbins. Commissioner Zuniga opposed the motion. Motion passed 4 to 1.*

[1:11 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Medford's request for funding for a contract transportation planner and study for a new multi-use path. He stated that a multi-use path would be another way for employees and patrons to access the casino. He stated that the application was strongly supported by the City of Somerville. He noted that there is an incorrect number reported on page 25 of the summary, it should be \$80,000 not \$60,000. He recommended against the land use planning and recommended continuation of a planner and the new proposal – a multi-use path.

[1:15 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Macdonald moved that the Commission approve the application of the City of Medford for use of planning grant funds in the amount of \$80,000 in connection with the Medford and South Medford Connector part of their larger application for the reasons stated in the Review Team's summary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

[1:16 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Revere and Town of Saugus joint application for a planner for Wynn related traffic. Ombudsman Ziemba noted that although the guidelines do not specify joint applications, the Review Team feels like this is an innovative regional approach to transportation impacts. He stated that the

two communities will need to determine how the reserves will be split. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[1:25 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the joint request from Revere and Saugus in the amount of \$150,000 from the transportation planning grant for their planning efforts, with the understanding that \$100,000 would be first expended from the previously approved reserve to be divided as they see fit. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

[1:26 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Somerville's request for funding to study a high traffic crash intersection that may be impacted by casino traffic. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[1:37 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the Somerville transportation planning request in the amount of \$150,000 for activities related to the Interstate 93, State Route 28, and State Route 38 intersection as described in the packet. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stebbins. Motion passed unanimously.*

[1:37 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on West Springfield's request for funding for engineering design services for improvements to the Route 20 corridor from Westfield Street to Park Street to accommodate casino related traffic. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[1:43 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Macdonald moved that the Commission approve the application of West Springfield for a transportation planning grant in the amount of \$150,000 as explained in the report of the Review Team. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

[1:44 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the City of Somerville's request for use of its reserves to collect baseline data for highway air pollution and vehicular traffic patterns. He noted that some of their studies are out of date and they need to establish baselines to study the impact on their citizens and for future comparisons. He stated that this use of reserves is consistent with previous uses. The Commissioners discussed the application.

[1:58 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Cameron moved that the Commission approve the request by Somerville for the use of \$100,000 reserve fund for the purpose of transportation, pollution, air, and water quality data as outlined in the report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion approved by Chairman Crosby and Commissioners Cameron, Macdonald and Stebbins. The motion was opposed by Commissioner Zuniga. Motion passed 4 to 1.*

[1:58 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the Tribal Gaming Technical Assistance Grant. He recommended that the Commission reserve \$200,000 for potential technical assistance programs relative to a potential Tribal gaming facility in the region to be conducted by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). He stated that funding would be available after approval of an application by SRPEDD and determination by the Commission that construction of such gaming facility will likely commence prior to or during fiscal year 2018. The Commissioners discussed the grant.

[2:02 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Macdonald moved that the Commission approve the application of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District for a planning grant subject to the conditions that Ombudsman Ziemba has articulated. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stebbins. Motion passed unanimously.*

2:03 p.m. The Commission took a brief recess.

2:07 p.m. The meeting resumed.

[2:07 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba presented on the Workforce Development Pilot Programs. He stated that the Review Team recommended that the Metro North Regional Employment Board (Region A) be fully funded at its requested amount of \$200,000. He also stated that for Region B – the Review Team recommended that the Commission consider funding both the Springfield Public Schools application and the Springfield Technical Community College application. They recommended full funding for the Springfield Technical Community College (\$200,000) and partial funding for the Springfield Public Schools (\$171,833.03). The Commissioners discussed the applications.

[2:23 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the Metro North Regional Employment Board's Metro North Casino Careers Consortium Workforce Training application for \$200,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion passed unanimously.*

[2:23 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the Springfield Technical Community College Hampden Prep Workforce Development Program for the amount of \$200,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

[2:24 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the Springfield Public Schools application for their Ahead of the Game Initiative for \$171,833.03. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Zuniga noted that he is looking forward to gathering metrics on the success of programs at the end of the funding round.

Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

See transcript pages 113-114

[2:28 p.m.](#) *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Zuniga. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated June 28, 2017
2. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum from the Review Team to the Commissioners, dated June 19, 2017, regarding 2017 Community Mitigation Fund Application Review, with attachments

/s/ Catherine Blue

Catherine Blue, Assistant Secretary