

1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
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6 PUBLIC MEETING held pursuant to the
7 Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A,
8 Section 18-25, on Monday, June 18, 2012,
9 commencing at 12:15 p.m., at the Sheraton
10 Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Grand
11 North Ballroom, 1657 Worcester Road,
12 Framingham, Massachusetts.
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22 ----- Shirley A. Riga, RPR, CLR, -----
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1 APPEARANCES:

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3
4 Steven Crosby, Commissioner

5 Gayle Cameron, Commissioner

6 Enrique Zuniga, Commissioner

7 James McHugh, Commissioner

8 Bruce Stebbins, Commissioner

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: This is an open public
2 meeting. It's a meeting of the Commission, and the
3 single agenda item is to discuss the forum that we
4 had today. We have never done this before. We
5 don't know whether there is anything really to
6 discuss or not, but we thought it would be fresh in
7 our minds and it was a good opportunity to seize
8 the moment and see what came of it. I know some
9 people have to leave so we'll just play this as it
10 lays.

11 I wanted to throw out for starters one
12 question to the Commissioners. We have always had
13 this sense that there is a tremendous need for
14 support for the communities, even the large
15 communities but particularly the smaller
16 communities. We talked this morning with a couple
17 of city councilors from Springfield. Theoretically
18 they've got more resources and more access to
19 experience and sophistication, but they've got
20 tremendous questions, but our meeting today really
21 reinforces that. The panel's conversations today
22 really reinforces that.

23 The one panelist who has had extensive
24 experience as a host community and for that matter

1 a surrounding community practically warned us to be
2 sure that the cities and towns are properly
3 outfitted. You know, there is nothing pejorative
4 about the casino industry. The casino industry are
5 experts in their interests what they do which is
6 fine, but she makes the point about a level playing
7 field and I think the point really was as pointed
8 as it can be.

9 So we have been wrestling with what
10 kinds of resources can we provide, how can we do
11 it. We're trying to move quickly on it.
12 Commissioner Stebbins and I have had meetings and
13 we will have more, but the negotiations are going
14 on. Many towns are under pressure right now to be
15 negotiating and to be beginning to lay out the
16 outlines of the deals which are the agreements
17 which will eventually become the topic of a
18 referendum, and I wonder, and this is just a
19 question and not a rhetorical question, should we
20 consider issuing some kind of a statement that
21 speaks a little bit to the time line, meaning that
22 people, cities and towns don't have to be
23 responding right now. There is pressure on all of
24 us to get moving, but we don't know what the

1 criteria -- we're a long way from getting the
2 second phase of an RFP out there yet which is going
3 to be what will actually get a proposal on the
4 ground. And we know we will be getting ourselves
5 organized to deliver services sometime pretty soon
6 to support the community sometime pretty soon, but
7 it will take us a while. We still are only ten
8 weeks into this and we've got some work to do
9 before we can figure out how to organize the
10 resources for the communities.

11 So, would it be constructive for us to
12 put out some kind of a statement that kind of --
13 what am I trying to say -- that empowers the
14 municipalities that are affected here to realize
15 they don't need to feel that they are getting the
16 bum's rush. There is time, and that we will be
17 providing resources in due time, and if they want
18 to try to keep their powder dry a little bit.
19 Anyway, I don't have it articulated in my mind,
20 formulated completely but I just wanted to throw
21 out the idea.

22 I have this tremendous sense of need at
23 the community level, and I feel a compulsion to
24 address it somehow and I wonder if that's the way

1 to do it.

2 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: I think we do -- I
3 think it would be enormously helpful to do that to
4 the extent that we can to put out a broad time
5 line. A number of people from communities that
6 I've talked to are concerned that all of a sudden
7 the RFA is going to be out there. The request for
8 applications is going to be out there and they will
9 have 30 days to respond and they will be at sea.
10 I've tried to reassure them that's clearly not
11 going to happen, but I think something that talks
12 in generic terms, general terms, as to what our
13 time line looks like would be enormously helpful.

14 I think it would also be helpful that we
15 develop and put up on the web site, and we've got
16 the basis for it in documents we've created and
17 talks we're giving around the state, a process
18 chart to show what the process is going to look
19 like in general terms.

20 I also think it would be helpful if we
21 began to capitalize on some of the expertise that
22 exists in the regional planning groups and others
23 to try to get some support mechanisms started in
24 the various regions to help the cities and towns

1 think through these things. So yes, I think it
2 would be helpful to put out a broad time line, but
3 also to do some of these other things that we've
4 talked about doing. We have talked about doing
5 these for a while, but this for me crystallized the
6 need to move forward on some of those other fronts
7 as well.

8 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Yeah, I agree with
9 both the time line and the statement, the statement
10 and the time line to inform communities of the
11 process we are thinking about and talking about in
12 a summarized way so that they don't necessarily
13 have to go through our transcripts to figure out
14 what we've talked about.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right.

16 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: But also I want to
17 come back to the notion of technical assistance
18 which I hear loudly today relative to how
19 overmatched or the playing field is not level, and
20 I think there is a role for this Commission I know
21 that in terms of addressing this imbalance, and I
22 think we should discuss and just what could
23 objectively be the tools that we could also
24 communicate.

1 I know that we brought this up earlier
2 in a meeting or two, two weeks ago and I understand
3 there is also the need to make sure that we're not
4 interceding in the process that we will later be
5 evaluating. So I'm really interested in figuring
6 out a mechanism where that is also addressed, but
7 we're providing help, and one take away from my
8 perspective is that the regional planning agencies
9 could be a real powerful tool because it's already
10 -- first of all, they are the experts when it comes
11 to bridging this between the region and the town,
12 but also because they have already thought about
13 the issues relative to mitigation that's going in
14 their communities -- exactly how we make that
15 happen we need to start thinking about because
16 that does take time and money, but I think we should
17 consider funding some of it.

18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Well, that's part of
19 why this is going to take us a little while because
20 the funding mechanism I think is in the
21 legislation. The proposers basically are
22 committed, but it's a circuitous process about how
23 that money gets set up, and we may need to figure
24 out a way to front it as a calculated risk that we

1 are going to be able to get it back at some point,
2 but that's part of the problem because, you know,
3 it's really about money. The resources are out
4 there, and there are people who can deliver the
5 resources like the RPAs but most of the RPAs are
6 tremendously stretched too. They can't just drop
7 everything and focus on this for two or three
8 towns.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: It's primarily
10 about money, but I've talked to people who are
11 looking for assistance in preparing an RFP to get
12 assistance. I mean for some people this is -- it's
13 not simply a question of money. It's a question of
14 trying to find out how you approach from the very
15 beginning this entirely new and different thing
16 that nobody has ever had any experience with, and I
17 sympathize with that. So I think that in addition
18 to trying to figure out how to provide the money,
19 we need to think about how to provide a gateway to
20 expertise. I'm not sure how we can do that, but
21 the discussion we heard today about providing
22 checklists for example, is a different variant of
23 the same theme. But it helps to take expertise
24 that exists and tell people what they ought to be

1 thinking about. So I think we have a role both in
2 money provision and in doing some of these other
3 things as well.

4 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I like the idea
5 -- I like the idea of the checklist also. I
6 thought that made sense because we can't be in a
7 position where we're giving different advice to
8 different folks. So you know, a checklist which
9 really lays out all the issues I thought made a lot
10 of sense.

11 I was telling the Chair a little earlier
12 because of some of the issues with local officials
13 maybe not being on a level playing field, in New
14 Jersey they started a state agency, the Casino
15 Redevelopment Authority that really did the
16 negotiation on behalf of the surrounding
17 communities in Atlantic City. So it's the whole
18 casino district not just Atlantic City, and they
19 made decisions. The money was funneled there from
20 the casinos into this agency and they made
21 decisions about which projects were funded. I'm
22 not saying that would be the case here because it's
23 not all in one city. The casinos are regional, but
24 because of some of those issues around the playing

1 field, they really thought that was the way to go
2 and decided project by project what they should do.

3 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: A couple of
4 points that came out for me from the panel forum.
5 First of all, this notion which was clearly
6 conveyed and I don't think it's a surprise to any
7 of the local officials here about, you know,
8 negotiating a host community agreement and not
9 trying to get from the negotiation making sure that
10 what you need to mitigate is a lot of the costs and
11 reimbursements from the developer that you're going
12 after. Don't try to do everything. Well, we want
13 to solve this problem over here and we'll slide a
14 little bit more money into the agreement requests.
15 Make sure what you're asking for is really
16 addressing some of your mitigation issues.

17 Secondly, I look at this question of
18 outside assistance and having them focus on two
19 pieces. Helping them understand the scope and size
20 of the project and what that is going to be on your
21 local community; water issues, sewer issues, things
22 like that, actual project costs, and I think there
23 is some third party resources that we can identify,
24 and I would hope pretty quickly to help a community

1 understand what the project mitigation needs are
2 going to be.

3 And then the second piece of it is
4 mitigating everything else that comes under it.
5 Impact on the local school system; impact on the
6 fire department, police department and things like
7 that. You have a small community that probably
8 hasn't put out a fire on anything beyond a
9 three-story building is now looking at a fifteen to
10 twenty story hotel that they need to understand how
11 to respond to an emergency there.

12 I like the idea of checklists. You
13 know, it's just simply coming up with a list of
14 questions to get local community leaders to begin
15 to think about as they think about the size and
16 scope of the project. Some basic information that
17 we can put out to the communities in that respect I
18 think is a helpful first step.

19 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: One of the other
20 thoughts that I thought was very insightful and
21 relevant was this notion of an owner's agent or an
22 owner's project manager. There is an access to the
23 school building authority and the construction
24 reform passed. Communities were then obligated to

1 have a project manager when doing a large
2 construction project. So we could take that notion
3 and explore it relative to the role of a third
4 party that helps start asking those questions that
5 need to be asked early on.

6 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I know there are -- I
7 think I still see Vera in the back room, right, our
8 panelist, and I know there's some folks from
9 Springfield here. I just wonder from anybody else
10 who's from a community, is there -- and there is a
11 mic floating around somewhere I think. Yeah.
12 Would it be in your views -- are we misreading this
13 concern that maybe communities are feeling too
14 pressured? Would it be constructive as we're
15 talking about here to send out some kind of a
16 notification that does give a broad brush of a time
17 line, that does say that resources are coming, that
18 does say it's okay to take a deep breath and you
19 don't have to join all these issues yet if you're
20 not ready? Are we imagining this or is this --
21 okay, Vera, go ahead.

22 MS. KOLIAS: I'll certainly let the
23 municipal officials who are more locally dealing
24 with this answer that question as well. I see

1 someone over there on the other side that might
2 want to speak about this. I do think that's
3 important. I think the communities and the
4 regional planning agencies, all of us would greatly
5 benefit from that sense of perspective from you
6 folks, and making sure that no one does feel like
7 they need to do anything right away if they don't.
8 I think some back guidance document that frames the
9 process going forward and what's happening would be
10 very helpful certainly I would think from the
11 communities, if that's something you can put
12 together, so they understand what is expected of
13 them and from everyone else in the conversation. I
14 think I did get that sense, but I'm certainly happy
15 to -- Steve is here as well and he's dealing with
16 this in his region as well.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Steve, it would be
18 great to hear your thoughts -- or you. You're from
19 Pioneer, right? Go ahead. Sorry, I forgot your
20 name.

21 TIM BRENNAN: It's Tim Brennan. I think
22 it would be enormously useful. The communities are
23 to some extent scared. Even if they see this as a
24 benefit and many of them do, they are concerned of

1 being swamped by the kinds of impacts that could
2 come. So the more that that could be laid out plus
3 the fact that you're going to try to level that
4 playing field to the extent humanly and financially
5 possible, I would see that as an enormous value.

6 The only caveat I would put in is I
7 would not use the fact that they have time to give
8 a sense of sort of sit back and relax. I think the
9 more that municipalities start to think about this
10 now and not feel that they are being rushed but the
11 sooner the better. We've had the benefit of
12 working with these municipalities from 2008 and on,
13 but there are other communities that have not been
14 engaged in any kind of conversation so this is all
15 new turf for them.

16 STEVE SMITH: If I could add to that and
17 I think I touched on this in my remarks. I would
18 think it's a very good idea for the Commission to
19 put out a time line. It's the absence of
20 information and the absence of a process that tends
21 to polarize everyone, solidify positions and as
22 long as they feel there is a process they can
23 participate in and they have a sense of the timing,
24 I think there will be much more constructive

1 engagement than if there is nothing forthcoming
2 from the Commission and they do feel rushed and
3 there will tend to be a lot less constructive going
4 forward.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Go ahead.

6 BRIAN GIOVANONI: Thank you

7 Mr. Chairman. My name is Brian Giovanoni from
8 Middleborough. I'm a school committee member and
9 one of the things having been dealing with this
10 since 2007 in Middleborough is that the time line
11 would be great, but you have to do a second time
12 line because there's a commercial aspect and
13 regency there is an IGRA, or an Indian Game
14 Regulatory Act, Native American casino. In that
15 case where there is word that we may even have a
16 compact coming out of the Governor's office
17 quickly, if that happens all the mitigation is
18 rushed already. And as we kept hearing about time,
19 time, time, you know, we don't want to slow things
20 down but we don't want to rush either because the
21 biggest thing we want to do is make sure we have a
22 time line for commercial and a time line for the
23 Native American one.

24 And if the suggestion -- if you look at

1 this and the suggestion is to maybe slow down the
2 Governor and maybe a change in the law is necessary
3 and we get our legislators on board, maybe that is
4 the recommendation of this Commission that we
5 really take the time to evaluate all those
6 mitigations that need to be done prior to signing
7 off on a compact with regards to a Native American
8 site. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I don't want to let
10 this get out of hand. I know we have -- there are
11 representatives of some of the developers here I
12 know and speaking for myself, and I would ask the
13 other Commissioners to speak up even if they
14 disagree or not, we're not talking about trying to
15 figure out a way to slow this process down. If
16 anything, in a way I think we can speed this
17 process up if within the next matter of a very very
18 number of few weeks we can make cities and towns
19 feel like they have the resources available to them
20 to really sit down and do this job and do it well.
21 Then we won't be going back and redoing this and
22 redoing it.

23 We won't have people that are angry. We
24 won't have people that are insecure. We won't have

1 people that are feeling steamrollered. It will be
2 a process which will be a better process and will
3 be more lasting and in the long run probably even
4 quicker.

5 We are certainly not going to be talking
6 to the Governor about rewriting the legislation or
7 anything like that at least at this stage of the
8 game, but I do think that there is a way to make
9 the process effective which puts the resources out
10 there now that will also make it more expeditious,
11 and that's what we're talking about.

12 We are as anxious as anybody else is to
13 get these things up and running and get the
14 economic development impacts and the revenue
15 impacts rolling, but we want to do it right. A
16 couple of other comments.

17 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Just one thing to
18 add in terms of the message going to the host
19 community to also be thinking about any surrounding
20 communities encouraging them to work together and
21 to have some teamwork involved, that they can
22 actually pool their resources as host and
23 surrounding communities to encourage that they
24 don't work competitively but they could actually

1 work cooperatively so that when the time comes that
2 if their community is involved and their
3 surrounding communities are involved in a licensing
4 process, they are going to have to be all involved
5 in the same licensing process and the same RFR
6 together anyway. So if they start working
7 cooperatively at this time, they could actually
8 pool resources and maybe even save money too.

9 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: I think that's a
10 terribly important point. The legislation talks
11 about two ways to become a surrounding community,
12 and this was touched on by the panel. One is by
13 agreement between the developer and the surrounding
14 community. If there is an agreement, the
15 surrounding community is a surrounding community.
16 If that doesn't happen, then after the request for
17 application is responded to then the Commission can
18 have a role in designating surrounding communities,
19 but it would be to the advantage of everybody for
20 the host community and the surrounding communities
21 to work together because the legislation also talks
22 about a regional overlay, and that's one of the
23 things that the Commission has to ultimately
24 consider is the regional impact of the development

1 which is broader than just the host community or
2 even the host community and the surrounding
3 communities. So there is a real incentive to work
4 together from the very get go on this process and
5 make it an inclusive one.

6 Insofar as the Middleborough comment and
7 the rush, it seems to me that we'll have to wait to
8 see what the initial compact says, but it seems to
9 me that there will be time to -- logic would
10 suggest there would be time to deal with these
11 things without everybody being in a complete tizzy
12 once a compact is announced. I think a thoughtful
13 process will occur there as well. That's at least
14 what one hopes.

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Right, and we do
16 understand for the school committee member's point
17 that there are two different issues here. There
18 are the commercials and A and B, and there is the
19 tribal and regency and we understand there is a
20 different process, but I certainly concur that
21 there is every reason to think that though it will
22 be structured differently, there will be time to
23 have these same kinds of community concerns
24 addressed. I know that's certainly the wish of the

1 Governor and the legislature.

2 Anything else that relates directly to
3 this issue of new insights from the communities to
4 -- yeah, go ahead from Springfield up here in this
5 front row.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you

7 Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. I just
8 wanted to thank you for the opportunity for having
9 these public educational forums because this within
10 itself has helped my community very much to gain
11 information and report back to the community as to
12 what exactly is transpiring and how the legislation
13 reads and some of the areas of concerns and
14 questions that it had.

15 One thing in particular that would
16 probably help the communities out and would
17 definitely help Springfield out, and you alluded to
18 it is a flow chart, kind of like a road map of
19 where these communities got to go and exactly how
20 to start the process and where we start with
21 different agencies, whether it be governmental
22 agencies, whether it be nonprofits, whether it be
23 quasi governmental agencies. The flow chart would
24 really add structure and it would also take the

1 politics out of the equation as well which I think
2 would be very helpful.

3 In Springfield we had the opportunity to
4 set up a casino site committee comprised of fifteen
5 members, some members of the Springfield City
6 Council. Others are members of a community from a
7 whole host of different neighborhoods in the
8 community to have the voices and the concerns, and
9 we are encouraging more public speak out. We are
10 encouraging more transparency and an open process,
11 and I think the flow chart would definitely help us
12 out as a road map. And I thank you again for all
13 the educational components that you've added, and
14 it certainly has added a lot of transparency to
15 this process which I'm sure the public and the
16 taxpayers enjoy.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. There's
18 someone in the back.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Mr.
20 Crosby. I'm a selectman from Berkley,
21 Massachusetts that's near the casino that the
22 Mashpee's are talking about. One thing I like that
23 I heard from you just a few minutes ago is that you
24 want to get it right. I don't care what it says in

1 the law. If there is something wrong in that law,
2 if you find it wrong, I think you should come out
3 and state the opinions of the Commission that
4 something in the law probably wasn't as good as it
5 should be and try to get amendments in the law.

6 One thing I really liked that
7 Commissioner Cameron has said today is that we
8 aren't on a level playing field. I've already
9 found that out in Berkley with the Mashpee's. I
10 know it's a different issue from the private
11 casinos in surrounding towns, but there should be
12 money upfront to give to these towns like the
13 Commissioners said they have in maybe New Jersey.

14 If you don't have any money you don't
15 have any power. These casinos have all kinds of
16 power. Berkley has already spent money. We spent
17 over a thousand dollars just trying to get a
18 meeting with the Mashpee's, and we haven't had a
19 meeting yet we have been trying to do this for a
20 month and a half.

21 So you can make a time line for this
22 whole thing, but if I was a surrounding city or
23 town and I'm not talking about what you've been
24 talking about the host community now, we've got

1 into that a few times, but on the surrounding
2 cities or towns, they should be on their toes right
3 now. They should be looking right now, not wait
4 for the 30 days or see something in the time line
5 that says oh, you have until two months from now
6 because then they'll just have -- they'll be like
7 we all do in our personal lives. As it gets
8 closer, that's when you start doing something.

9 When you were in a college like me, you
10 probably didn't start studying until the week
11 before. You know, you've got to start doing it now
12 because there isn't really a level playing field
13 here. The law, as good as you said the law was,
14 and they've had these laws all over the country and
15 all kinds of experience, I still think just looking
16 at some of the things in that law, you can see some
17 things just aren't quite right, just not good
18 enough.

19 Middleborough gave you something today
20 about the whole planning procedure for tribal
21 casinos and how it's backwards. You know, you do a
22 lot of the stuff after you've already got the
23 compact when you should have done things before you
24 did the compact.

1 One other thing I wanted to say. The
2 one thing I did like from the panel today that they
3 said. They said what they found out in Connecticut
4 is that about the mitigation, whether it's the host
5 communities or surrounding cities or towns, they
6 found it to be wholly negligent. They found the
7 host communities and the towns didn't get what they
8 should have got from the beginning, so why don't we
9 learn from our mistakes. That's why I thought it
10 was good what Chairman Crosby said. We want to do
11 it right.

12 Do it right. Don't just think that
13 what's in that law that the statehouse came out
14 with, I think if you should find something wrong or
15 you think that's not right, you should contact the
16 Governor's office and express your opinions because
17 you're the only ones protecting some of the cities
18 and towns right now. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very much.
20 There were one or two more and then I have one
21 other quick question. I think this woman had her
22 hand up and this woman and then we'll call it a
23 day.

24 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I am just an

1 architect and planner from Monson, Massachusetts,
2 and my question is, is that I haven't heard anybody
3 at all discussing in this mitigation thing is the
4 two nuclear evacuation zones in Massachusetts.
5 These two men represent the two nuclear evacuation
6 zones in Massachusetts, and one is the Cape in
7 southeastern Massachusetts and one is the whole
8 entire Pioneer Valley. If the Connecticut River
9 becomes contaminated by Yankee Rowe, you know,
10 somebody put up signs recently in South Amherst
11 just to show the population where the evacuation
12 zone goes to, and it goes to South Amherst and who
13 knows what other communities.

14 Now the ones that have been -- the
15 casino proposals in Hampden County wouldn't be
16 included in that. So what you have to say is are
17 these casinos going to be points of refuge in case
18 of a nuclear emergency or are they going to have to
19 be evacuated, and that causes a horrible problem.

20 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Good
21 thought. One more.

22 RUTH GEOFFROY: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
23 Ruth Geoffroy, Planning Director for Middleborough.
24 Speaking from experience of preparing to negotiate

1 with a casino developer and actually negotiating,
2 the compacted time frame that you're under is
3 immense, and I don't know whether the process for
4 the commercial casinos will have any more extended
5 time frame, but for a municipality it's very very
6 tight.

7 The types of things that you need to
8 understand in your community, including the
9 adequacy of water -- first of all, understanding
10 the demands on water supply. The demands on sewer
11 capacity. The demands on public services,
12 emergency response. A lot of times you don't have
13 that information at hand so that you have to gather
14 all your departments together. They then have to
15 hire their own consultants to evaluate your system
16 versus what's being proposed and that costs money.
17 And you also have to have somebody quarterbacking
18 that process, so having that ombudsman or somebody
19 within the community is very important.

20 But then you have to go through that
21 process, gather all that, do those studies, gather
22 that information very quickly. And you need the
23 legal expertise and it's not just town counsel. It
24 is outside legal representation. And we're talking

1 over a hundred thousand dollars I'd say for any
2 community, particularly a host community, and
3 that's from what we went through.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. I know you
5 all have a lot of experience in this. That's
6 really helpful. I know we are going to lose
7 Commissioner McHugh in just a few minutes. I
8 wanted to throw out one other thing.

9 Should we start thinking about a staff
10 person now who would be the coordinator of this
11 stuff, not the person who would do it. I think we
12 have decided that we're not going to do this
13 in-house but, you know, we have talked about
14 sketching out a time frame, drafting MOU templates,
15 you know. There is a whole lot of different --
16 finding resources, making resources available.
17 Being somebody the communities can contact to say I
18 need X, Y and Z. We could use -- and we've also got
19 this idea that Commissioner McHugh and I have been
20 talking about possibly having a person on our staff
21 who will help the developers find contacts at state
22 agencies and expedite their process. It could be
23 the same person, but should we make sort of a
24 presumption that we need a community ombudsman, a

1 community litigation ombudsman in effect or a staff
2 person to help us pull this together and implement
3 this and then keep it rolling over the next, you
4 know, years. Any reactions to that?

5 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Yeah, I think so.
6 We just received the memo on immediate hiring
7 needs, I think from Spectrum which we will discuss
8 tomorrow, but I was really thinking about it in
9 that context and I think it's very relevant to
10 start thinking about the local, the mitigation, the
11 coordination pieces, which are all very important.

12 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: I think to pick
13 up on that point and one other point made in the
14 previous panel discussion about our gaming policy
15 advisory committee, and as we know in the
16 formulation the organization of that, a couple of
17 the seats are set aside specifically for a host
18 community or for the license applicant, but I don't
19 think there is anything that prohibits us from kind
20 of tackling some of those same issues with either a
21 working group or a task force. I mean it's
22 certainly a place where I see the RPAs having an
23 opportunity to interact with us on a regular basis
24 to kind of identify a lot of these issues because

1 as we know, the organization, that policy advisory
2 group involves several entities with the government
3 recommending names and background checks. You
4 know, I think there is an informal task force that
5 we should be able to organize and be mindful of
6 these issues in relationship with those local
7 communities as well.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: That's a really good
9 point. Such a person as we have just been talking
10 about could staff the advisory commissions too
11 which they are going to need. I think we have all
12 sort of tacitly assumed that because the advisory
13 committee has people in it that can't be identified
14 until after the licenses are awarded, then we sort
15 of imagine that this was to follow, but I think the
16 feedback we are getting is that's probably not the
17 way we ought to pursue this, but that again will
18 require some staff work to follow up on it.

19 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: I want to bring
20 another point that's related. As I was listening
21 to a lot of discussion this morning, I remembered a
22 couple of the meetings that we've had with groups,
23 particularly Western Mass. recently Chamber of
24 Commerce or the Tourism Bureau, and I remembered

1 that they felt a need to let us know right up front
2 where they stood in the casino debate. One of them
3 was neutral and they felt compelled to tell us, and
4 I was thinking maybe in the spirit of neutrality,
5 it is really resulting in inactivity, and whether
6 they were eventually for or against, they just
7 don't want to take a position, I couldn't help but
8 wonder that planners should be engaged at the local
9 level whether they are for or against because it's
10 something that will have to be evaluated if there
11 is somebody interested in or has purchased an
12 option to land in a town.

13 So I just want to relate it back to the
14 point about this person. Maybe clearly there is a
15 piece in coordinating and in forming at that level,
16 at the local level that somebody could also help in
17 that regard.

18 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER MCHUGH: I look forward to
20 discussing the issue of the staff person tomorrow
21 in the context of this immediate hires thing that
22 we are going to do. One of the things that I took
23 away from today's discussion was how much at a
24 higher level that there is to think through, at a

1 policy level for us to think through and at the
2 moment because we are where we are, each one of us
3 is engaged in a whole host of minutiae in addition
4 to the policy kinds of things, and it seems to me
5 that we need to solve that issue and get on with
6 these higher level issues as well, at the same time
7 meeting the needs that we have heard are so urgent
8 among the cities and towns. I think we can do
9 both, and I think in thinking about the whole
10 staffing process tomorrow will be a start in that
11 direction.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great. Commissioner
13 McHugh is referring to our weekly public meeting,
14 our open public meeting that we have every Tuesday
15 afternoon at one o'clock when we'll be talking more
16 about staffing.

17 So I take from this I think we
18 definitely have a consensus that we want to see if
19 we can't put together some kind of a notification
20 to perspective surrounding and host communities,
21 that have something about time lines, something
22 about resources coming, and we'll continue to think
23 about the idea of a person and get moving on the
24 advisory committee. I think all three of those are

1 really important new thoughts.

2 Any other feedback, conversation about
3 today's meeting that we want to have before we call
4 it a day? We'll call it a day. Thank you all very
5 very much for hanging with us.

6 (Adjourned at 1:23 p.m.)

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REPORTER CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, a Registered Professional Reporter within and for the State of Massachusetts, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that a verbatim record of the proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand which was thereafter transcribed under my direction; further, that the foregoing is an accurate transcription thereof.

I further certify that I am neither financially interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney or any of the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed my name.

Dated:

SHIRLEY A. RIGA, RPR

My Commission expires 2/6/2013