



Subcommittee on Community Mitigation Minutes

Date/Time: December 18, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Members Present:	Andrew Cade Stephen Cirillo Zack Blake for Sean Cronin Eric Demas Carmina Fernandes Ron Hogan Lloyd Macdonald John Robertson	Attendees: John Ziemba Joseph Delaney Mary Thurlow Ed Bedrosian
Members Absent:	None	

Call to Order at 11:30.

Chair Macdonald welcomed members and the members introduced themselves. Zack Blake filled in for Sean Cronin as the Department of Revenue member. John Robertson is a new member representing the Mass. Municipal Association.

Commissioner Lloyd Macdonald called the meeting to order. He asked whether all members were ready to approve of the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Demas motioned that the minutes be approved as written, Ms. Fernandes seconded.

Chairman Macdonald then turned to a discussion of the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines. Commission Ombudsman John Ziemba provided a brief presentation about the 2018 Guidelines. He noted that the actual spending to date has been is much less than the awarded funding and that the grant funds are distributed in three tranches at 25%/50%/25%. He then discussed the changes to the program for the 2018. The proposed changes were:

1. Funding would be available for unanticipated public safety costs, in particular the State Police trooper training required for troopers entering the Gaming Enforcement Unit (“GEU”). This authorized cost was approximately \$2.5M for trooper training.
2. The targeted spending for transportation planning costs is proposed to increase to \$1M from \$800,000 in 2017.
3. For communities that have already allocated all of their \$100,000 Reserves, communities may apply for non-transportation planning grants in the amount of \$50,000.
4. Workforce Pilot Programs targeted spending in each region was increased from \$200,000 per region to \$300,000. In prior meetings there had been many comments about a greater need for these programs.

Mr. Ziemba then noted that the allocations for technical assistance for surrounding communities potentially impacted by the Tribal development in Taunton remained at \$200,000, but that no spending would occur until and unless facility starts construction.

Mr. Ziemba noted that the Host Community Agreements with MGM Springfield will be generating funding to host community. Once MGM is operational, money would be available at the local level. The Specific impact grant target is currently \$400,000. This was proposed to increase to \$500,000. For communities requesting additional funding, the community may ask for a waiver in either the amount or number of applications submitted.

Mr. Ziemba mentioned that in this round there were some costs not specifically construction based such as state police training or cadet classes.

There ensued a discussion of the state police training costs and how they are funded. Mr. Bedrosian noted that current legislation obligated licensees pay for the police. It did not consider training 42 troopers of the State police. It was noted that there was no earmark for training costs. This would be a one-time assessment. Chair Macdonald noted that the mitigation regulation references public safety as an acceptable use for these funds. Mr. Ziemba then read Section 61 of legislation and noted that governmental entities were included.

Ms. Fernandes asked why it was difficult to get numbers on crime. Mr. Bedrosian noted that there were no studies; no one had a baseline but we can now due to the 1-year crime study as a result of Plainridge. It was noted that \$2.5M is a lot of money and a questions was raised whether there was a current class underway. Mr. Ziemba mentioned that there was a current state trooper class.

Mr. Ziemba noted that the MGC will have to watch the recurring nature of some of those costs. Mr. Hogan asked whether the class going to happen anyway and noted that it seems like a big amount category; opening door for local debate as to whether this is an appropriate place.

Mr. Ziemba then noted the Regional Planning Incentive Award program on page 6 of Guidelines. The incentive for communities to join in joint projects with other communities and sharing of costs for studies impacting more than one community.

There was a brief discussion by Mr. Ziemba regarding the Hampden County Sheriff's need to catch-up from the previous fiscal year. Funding would be approximately \$765,000.

It was mentioned that the new applications now contain a box requesting detail showing how the request is related to the casino.

Grants based on need; once operational actual amounts available to the fund will be paid by taxes. Chair Macdonald noted that western Massachusetts will not have the same needs of eastern Massachusetts while also not generating the same amount of revenue. Mr. Hogan noted that eventually requests will be more than availability.

Mr. Blake expressed that he did not have concerns regarding the Guidelines but is hoping more meetings – 2 or 3 times a year. Additionally he hoped next year's Guidelines would be more expansive regarding schools and real estate in later years.

Mr. Demas wondered about expanding the meeting members.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:06.

/s/ Mary S. Thurlow
Mary S. Thurlow, Secretary

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of meeting and agenda
2. Minutes from the November 29, 2016 meeting
3. Membership List
4. Flyers regarding Women in Construction Trades
5. Policy Recommendations for Inclusion in the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund ("CMF")
Guideline Discussion Draft
6. Draft 2018 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines