



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 405 8447

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Brad Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

1. [Call to Order](#) (0:10)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 376th public meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Roll call attendance was conducted. All Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Approval of Meeting Minutes](#) (1:08)

a. November 18, 2021

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2021, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Abstain.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.
The motion passed 3-0, with one abstention.

3. [Administrative Update](#) (2:15)

a. On-site Casino Updates

Executive Director Karen Wells introduced Bruce Band, Assistant Director of Investigations & Enforcement Bureau, and Gaming Agents Division Chief to provide an on-site Casino Update. Assistant Director Band reported that Encore Boston Harbor (“EBH”) added a thirteenth table within their poker room. Assistant Director Band further reported that Plainridge Park Casino (“PPC”) held its Opening Day event on April 11, 2022, with all four Commissioners in attendance. Assistant Director Band reported that the “Play My Way” program, launched at MGM Springfield (“MGM”) on March 31st, was running smoothly for all patrons.

4. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (4:00)

a. SEIGMA COVID-19 Impacts Report

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming introduced Thomas Peake, Senior Analyst with the UMass Donahue Institute and Dr. Rachel Volberg, the Principal Investigator of the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (“SEIGMA”) program. Director Vander Linden explained that M.G.L. c. 23K, §71 directs the Commission to conduct comprehensive factual studies on the economic impacts of gambling in the Commonwealth. Director Vander Linden explained the *SEIGMA COVID-19 Impacts Report*, included on pages 8 through 87 of the Meeting Packet, addressed: the pandemic’s impacts on casino business operations; the casino workforce; business-to-business spending; and government regulation and fiscal revenue.

Dr. Volberg then introduced Mr. Peake to present the *SEIGMA COVID-19 Impacts Report* to the Commission. Mr. Peake provided a summary of findings based on the research conducted from January 2020 to June 2021, when the casinos were reopened. Mr. Peake started by sharing that while that the shutdown led to major layoffs, many workers have since been re-hired. He added that employees of color were impacted at a higher rate by layoffs in the gaming sector, reflecting a broader trend nationally. Mr. Peake stated that specific departments within the gaming industry: food and beverage; gaming and recreation; and hotel hospitality had a higher concentration of workers of color, which accounts for the heavy impact of layoffs when establishments were closed.

Mr. Peake explained that revenue had recovered faster than visitation and had exceeded pre-pandemic levels by the end of the study period; suggesting shifts in patron behavior. Mr. Peake added that the increase in revenue, and the lack of increase in patron visitation, could be associated with to problem gambling, which the Commission may want to research in subsequent studies. Mr. Peake noted that throughout the pandemic, the gaming licensees struggled to meet their commitments to women and minority vendors.

Commissioner O'Brien noted to Mr. Peake that a summary of the gross gaming revenue ("GGR") for Summer 2019 was included in the presentation, but requested the individuated GGR for June and July of 2019 to compare it to June and July 2021. Mr. Peake responded that he did not have the information on hand, but would obtain the actual numbers, and provide them to the Commission shortly.

Commissioner Hill commented to Mr. Peake that the report was of excellent quality, and clearly explained the reasons why the pandemic impacted affected minorities and women within the workforce more significantly. Commissioner Hill asked Mr. Peake to explain the considerable dip in the GGR in November 2020, December 2020, and January 2021. He noted that for all three casinos, the GGR in January 2020 was slightly higher. Mr. Peake explained that around January 2021, there was an increase in COVID-19 cases and the state placed an hours of operation restriction on the casinos. Commissioner O'Brien confirmed that there was a rise in COVID-19 cases and recalled that the Governor enacted restrictions during that time.

Commissioner Hill subsequently inquired if perhaps that the gaming revenue being significantly higher than the visitation, as in other industries such as restaurant, and retail, could be attributed to increased costs passing to the consumer. Mr. Peake acknowledged that the data has been analyzed in the past with regards to the slot machines, but that he did not have the numbers on hand to determine whether the increase in gaming revenue was attributable to increased costs at this time.

Mr. Peake responded to Commissioner O'Brien's prior question regarding the July 2019 GGR, which was approximately \$20.3M at MGM Springfield, approximately \$12.5M at Plainridge Park Casino, and approximately \$48.6M at Encore Boston Harbor.

Commissioner Skinner thanked Dr. Volberg, Mr. Peake and the UMass Donahue Institute for their work on the study.

Chair Judd-Stein suggested that Mr. Peak add a note within the study and presentation to indicate how many of the gaming employees had been rehired. Mr. Peake confirmed to Chair Judd-Stein that the total number of employees re-hired was approximately 6,520. Chair Judd-Stein then asked if Mr. Peak knew what the total number was at the close of 2021. Mr. Peake stated that he did not have the numbers on hand but would provide the Commission with the total number of employees re-hired to date at his earliest convenience.

Chair Judd-Stein informed the meeting participants that the Commission and the three gaming licensees worked collectively in March 2020 to suspend gaming operations at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Judd-Stein added that each licensee agreed to keep their employees employed for two weeks and clarified that the two-week lag in the tables displaying employment rates were attributable to the licensees' generous commitment to provide their employees with two-weeks of employment. Commissioner O'Brien added that EBH and Wynn MA, LLC further committed to keeping their employees on the payroll for months.

Chair Judd-Stein then inquired if whether the increase in revenue, without an increase in visitation, was attributable a higher demand for recreation and entertainment, or due to more disposable

income. Mr. Peake explained that both factors could be responsible. Mr. Peake added that few people were surprised that the amount of money spent per visitor increased, but he stated that it was a dramatic enough increase to highlight within the report. Director Vander Linden agreed with Mr. Peake that the increase in revenue, and decrease in visitation was attention-grabbing, and may be attributable to a change in gambling behavior. Director Vander Linden added that the possible Responsible Gaming ramifications should be explored further, inclusive of strategies to address and respond to the new information. Director Vander Linden stated that the research team was completing the *Second Follow-up General Population Survey* which extensively explores gambling behavior amongst the general population of adults in Massachusetts. The survey will provide clarification on how gambling behavior has changed from 2013-2014 when the baseline study was completed and provide insight on how gambling behavior has changed following the pandemic.

Commissioner O'Brien requested that the research team analyze the upticks when the casinos began to allow blackjack tables, craps, and poker tables to open, as well as when seating was expanded at those tables to gain more behavioral data. Mr. Peake confirmed that the Donahue Institute would continue to explore new methods to review and examine patrons' gambling behavior.

Chair Judd-Stein asked Dr. Volberg for confirmation that this *the SEIGMA Covid-19 Impacts Report* was one of many studies that will emerge out of the pandemic. Dr. Volberg confirmed the *Second Follow-up General Population Survey*, an online panel survey and a patron survey at Encore were all recently completed and confirmed that there would also be a data analytics report for each survey forthcoming in the next fiscal year that would provide information on the patron and population's behavior. Dr. Volberg, Dr. Peake and Director Vander Linden thanked the operators for collecting and maintaining the data that was utilized was in these studies. Chair Judd-Stein thanked Director Vander Linden, Dr. Volberg and Mr. Peake for their presentation.

5. Racing Division

Before proceeding, Chair Judd-Stein suggested that agenda item 8(a) 'Commissioner Update Appointment of the Treasurer' be held over until they have the statutory language for the appointment on hand from the Legal Division. Commissioners agreed with Chair Judd-Stein's suggestion.

a. [Quarterly Local Aid Payments](#) (1:03:58)

Chief Veterinarian and Director of Racing Dr. Alexandra Lightbown introduced Financial Analyst Chad Bourque to present the quarterly local aid payments for the first quarter of 2022. The Quarterly Local Aid Payments were included on pages 88 through 90 of the Meeting Packet.

Mr. Bourque presented the first quarter local aid which was payable to each city and town where racing activities were conducted. The amount payable to the City of Boston was \$153,513.21. The amount payable to the Town of Plainville was \$44,608.26. The amount payable to the Town of Raynham was \$19,411.21. The amount payable to the City of Revere was \$76,755.48.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission authorize the quarterly local aid payments for the first quarter of calendar year 2022 to the City of Boston, Town of Plainville, Town of Raynham, and City of Revere in the specific amounts reflected in the memorandum in the Meeting Packet totaling \$294,288.16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

b. [Racing Opening Day at Plainridge Park Casino](#) (1:07:50)

Dr. Lightbown reported that Chair Judd-Stein, all the Commissioners, and Executive Director Wells were present for Opening Day at PPC. She added that there were over 20 drivers, 35 trainers, 60 horses, and 30 other employees from PPC and the Commission who participated in the event. Dr. Lightbown added that there would be over 27 races held, and that nearly 200 horses would race, across the following three days. Dr. Lightbown extended her gratitude to the Commission's licensing team, as over 150 people were recently licensed. She also thanked the HR, IT, and legal teams for their assistance with onboarding and training.

Commissioner Hill noted that there was a tremendous amount of work that went on behind the scenes, specifically in the stables, and added that the racing and training staff did an excellent job. Chair Judd-Stein thanked Racing Director Steve O'Toole for his 20 years of service, as well as Dr. Lightbown and her team. She extended her gratitude to athletes, staff, trainers, and horses at the racetrack as well.

6. [Community Affairs Division](#) (1:16:15)

a. Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Grant Amendment

Division of Community Affairs Chief Joe Delaney presented the Amendment to the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Grant for Metro Boston Regional Gaming and Hospitality Consortium ("MassHire"). A memorandum detailing the amendment was included on pages 91 through 93 of the Meeting Packet.

Chief Delaney reported that in the previous year, MassHire was granted approximately \$400,000 for various workforce efforts, one of which was Action for Boston Community Development ("ABCD"). Chief Delaney stated that MassHire intended to hire a Program Coordinator in the ABCD career services center in Malden but had been unable to fill the position in the Malden location and would like to re-allocate \$56,000 to the existing full-service MassHire Metro North Career Centers located in Cambridge, Woburn, and Chelsea. Chief Delaney explained that the Review Team recommended approving the funds be reallocated.

Commissioner Skinner asked Chief Delaney for confirmation that although MassHire career services centers were within Cambridge, Woburn and Chelsea, the beneficiaries of the employment outreach program grant would still be residents of Malden. Chief Delaney confirmed, explaining that the grant would be re-allocated to the Cambridge, Woburn, and Chelsea career centers, which were also operated by ABCD. He added that the grant would be utilized to accommodate part-time staff, or as overtime to handle the increased workload from jobseekers in Malden.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve the re-allocation of \$56,000 of the funds previously granted to the Metro Boston Regional Gaming and Hospitality Consortium to existing full-service MassHire Metro North Career Centers located in Cambridge, Woburn and Chelsea for the reasons outlined in the memorandum included in the Commissioner's Packet, and as discussed at the meeting today. She further moved that Commission staff be authorized to execute an amendment to the grant instrument commemorating this decision in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Skinner.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

7. [Licensing Division](#) (1:22:35)

a. Encore Boston Harbor Service Employee Exemption Requests

At the beginning of this agenda item, Commissioner Skinner announced that she filed a disclosure with her appointing authority, Treasurer Goldberg, and with her fellow Commissioners, to dismiss any appearance of a conflict of interest, given her former role as the Chief of the Licensing Division, and her administrative involvement in matters that may now come before her as Commissioner. Commissioner Skinner stated that she was confident no conflict existed but filed a disclosure to be vigilant of any perception of conflict. Commissioner Skinner added that the Commissioners had also been given a copy of the disclosure.

Commissioner O'Brien asked Commissioner Skinner about her level of involvement in Encore Boston Harbor's service employee exemption requests currently before the Commission. Commissioner Skinner confirmed that her involvement in these requests was purely ministerial, explaining that she sent communications to ascertain when the requests would be put on the Commission's agenda. Commissioner Skinner added that she did not review the requests themselves and made no determination regarding whether the requests were ripe for presentation, review, or approval by the Commission.

Loretta Lillios, Director of the Investigation and Enforcement Bureau ("IEB") presented EBH's request for exemption for the Valet Lead and Lead Doorperson positions from the Commission's service employee registration requirements to the Commissioners. Director Lillios also noted that

the Commission had previously exempted valet drivers from the registration requirement. The IEB's *Exemption Requests Memorandum* was included on pages 94 through 109 of the Meeting Packet.

Commissioner O'Brien asked Director Lillios whether these were new positions within the gaming establishment, or whether the positions previously existed but were not exempt. Director Lillios responded that these were new positions within the gaming establishment. Chair Judd-Stein sought confirmation from Director Lillios that employees in these positions would not be permitted on the gaming floor. Director Lillios confirmed this fact to Chair Judd-Stein and added that these positions would also not have access to secure areas within the establishment without being escorted by authorized personnel.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission exempt the Valet Lead and Lead Doorperson positions at Encore Boston Harbor from the Commission's registration requirements in accordance with 205 CMR 134.03(1)(b) for the reasons discussed at today's meeting and described in the Commissioners' Packet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

8. [Commissioner Updates](#) (1:47:17)

a. Appointment of Treasurer

Chair Judd-Stein informed meeting participants that this agenda item would not be discussed today but would be discussed at a meeting in the future.

b. FY23 Budget Preparation

Chief Administrative Officer to the Chair and Special Projects Manager Crystal Beauchemin explained this item had been added to the agenda so that Commissioners could ask questions and discuss the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget and the accompanying process. Ms. Beauchemin reported that the budget was still in the early stages of planning, and the team was still preparing recommendations on how to craft the budget for 2023. A memorandum detailing the FY23 Budget Preparation was included on pages 110 through 116 of the Meeting Packet.

Ms. Beauchemin provided an overview of the line items that the Commissioners could decide to increase or decrease within the next budget year. Chief Finance and Accounting Officer Derek Lennon explained how the Commission, and the Commissioner's budget was funded.

Chair Judd-Stein asked Chief Lennon about the number of Commissioner parking spaces and the costs. Chief Lennon responded that the Commission's lease includes two parking spaces, and the line item in the budget was the cost of three additional parking spaces for five Commissioners, at a rate of approximately \$6,000 per parking space, per year.

Chief Lennon then addressed the next line item, the additional cost of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to hire a service to live-stream public meetings in remote locations. Chair Judd-Stein offered explanation that the service was necessary if the Commission decided to hold a public meeting, or public hearing on-site at the gaming establishments, which the Commission had done in the past. Chief Lennon explained that the estimated cost was approximately \$2,000 for the meeting space, per meeting, and approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 per meeting for the live-stream services for approximately three to four of the on-site meetings. The Commissioners agreed that the budget should include the costs necessary for these on-site meetings.

Commissioner Hill suggested that the Commission consider recording the public meetings held on-site at gaming establishments, and posting it online subsequently, but recognized that it would prevent the public from viewing the meeting live. Chair Judd-Stein noted that the Commission could decide to save on costs by recording public meetings, but it would not be possible to record the public hearings as public hearings need to be conducted live. Chair Judd-Stein added that the budget should anticipate the live-streaming costs, and if there were a savings, the Commission would address the surplus at a later meeting.

Next, Chair Judd-Stein addressed the line item for Transcription Services and asked General Counsel Todd Grossman whether there was an ADA requirement that a transcript be produced from the public meetings. Ms. Beauchemin explained that while closed captioning was available once the public meetings were recorded, it was not available during live-streaming. Ms. Beauchemin added that conversations were being held internally regarding ADA requirements for accessibility of the public meetings. Commissioner O'Brien shared her concern that closed captioning was not always correct, due to cadence of speech or a speaker's accent, concluding that transcription services might still be necessary. Commissioner O'Brien added that the Commission should follow the requirements of the ADA as it was streaming meetings and uploading recordings via YouTube. Chief Lennon clarified that the current budget for transcription services/stenography was approximately \$20,000 which gets reverted every year after non-use.

Chair Judd-Stein inquired whether transcription services were a necessary expenditure. General Counsel Grossman added that the Commission had been using a transcription service for the past few months which was utilized to transcribe the meeting minutes. General Counsel Grossman added that the transcripts were typically accurate and did not suffer from the same issues as the closed captioning commonly did. Deputy General Counsel Carrie Torrisi confirmed to Commissioners that the transcription service subscription was with company Otter and provided an overview of the costs to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hill suggested that Chief Lennon revise the budget to add the Otter Transcription services and save the Commission approximately \$19,000 per year. Commissioner O'Brien agreed. Chief Lennon confirmed that he would revise the budget to reflect \$400 for transcription services in the event the Commission needed transcription done in real-time. Commissioner

O'Brien asked Deputy General Counsel Torrissi to research the full capabilities of the service. Deputy General Counsel Torrissi confirmed.

Commissioner Skinner inquired about whether the fees for the current transcription services subscription came out of the Commission's budget or the Legal Division's budget. General Counsel Grossman confirmed that the current Otter subscription came out of the Legal Division's budget. Chair Judd-Stein asked Commissioner Skinner whether she believed that the subscription cost should come out of the Commission's budget. Commissioner Skinner responded that the Commission should have some funds allocated for transcription services, in addition to the Legal Division's budget for transcription services. Chief Lennon confirmed with Chair Judd-Stein that the Commissioner's discussion regarding Transcription Services/Stenography had provided the budget team with adequate guidance. Chief Lennon added that he would continue the discussion with the Legal Division regarding how much of the \$20,000 should be kept for such services. Chair Judd-Stein requested that a portion of the transcription services/stenography budget of \$20,000 be moved from line item J33 to line item E22 for temporary meeting space for on-site meetings so that the budget for line item E22 would not be \$0.

Ms. Beauchemin then provided an overview on to the next line item, Travel and Conferences; particularly the cost of attending conferences and registration fees. Ms. Beauchemin explained that to accurately allocate funds, the Commission needed to consider how much travel was done prior to 2020, as there might be an interest in traveling more now.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if the allowable credit card purchases line item for \$7,500 was previously discussed. Chief Lennon confirmed that this line item was added into the Travel line item, as some travel expenses might be charged to a credit card, such as reserving rooms or flights if the Commission's travel agent were unable to do so, or expenses for meals while travelling. Chair Judd-Stein clarified to Chief Lennon that as a matter of policy, the Commissioners do not receive purchase cards, or "p-cards" for travel.

Chair Judd-Stein then asked Chief Lennon, Ms. Beauchemin and Ms. Beaulieu to clarify how the budget for travel, conferences and memberships was determined. Chief Lennon explained that the budget was based on the previous budget of three trips per Commissioner, per year, which also included a 1% inflation rate increase of the trips costs from the previous fiscal year. Chief Lennon added that travel costs were increasing due the rise in gas prices, and hotel costs had dropped, likely due to demand for hotels decreasing. Chief Lennon commented that current travel costs might reflect a 3 to 4% inflation rate from the year prior.

Ms. Beauchemin then addressed the Membership Fees line item, using the International Association for Gaming Regulators ("IAGR"), the Greater Boston Business Chamber, and National Council on Problem Gaming as examples. Ms. Beauchemin explained that these organizational memberships provided discounts for attending conferences, but the perks varied by organization. Ms. Beauchemin stated that there were also login-based membership perks that offered resource components, or workshops throughout the year. Ms. Beauchemin explained that the Commission's regulatory position was likely the primary reason membership in these organizations and added that she would conduct further research into the additional benefits. Ms. Beauchemin added that the Commission was also a member of the American Gaming Association

(“AGA”) and the AGA had invited Commissioners, or the Commission itself, to participate in its conferences in the past. Ms. Beauchemin added that memberships could be added if the Commission, or Commissioners were interested. Chair Judd-Stein noted that it might take some coordination to ensure that all the Commissioners are aware of and benefitting from the memberships. Commissioner O’Brien agreed with Chair Judd-Stein in that all the Commissioners might not be aware of the benefits of the various memberships such as access to news articles, and research. Ms. Beauchemin added that many of the media-related memberships that were within in the Communications budget, have a general login which might account for the Commissioners not being aware of certain membership benefits. Commissioner Skinner echoed Chair Judd-Stein and Commissioner O’Brien’s concerns about the Commissioners being made aware of certain membership benefits and suggested circulating a document which compiled items such as publications, studies that were being conducted, and any other information that would be beneficial to the Commissioners accessing. Ms. Beauchemin confirmed that there was an internal list of publications which she would circulate. Commissioner Hill agreed that it was important for the Commissioners to receive publications related to sports betting or horse racing in addition to gaming, as they provide information from other jurisdictions which the Commissioners could use as an informational resource.

Chair Judd-Stein requested that Executive Director Wells to work with Ms. Beauchemin and the Legal Division to compile a list of publications that would be useful to the Commissioners. Chair Judd-Stein acknowledged that Chief Lennon would likely need to work with Executive Director Wells to determine a budget for publications. Commissioner O’Brien inquired whether bar membership dues, and other association dues were reimbursed. Ms. Beaulieu and General Counsel Grossman confirmed that such membership dues were reimbursed. Chair Judd-Stein agreed with Commissioner O’Brien that reimbursement for membership dues should be reflected in the membership budget. Commissioner Skinner and Commissioner Hill concurred.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if the discussion could return briefly to the budget for travel and conferences. Ms. Beauchemin confirmed that the budget was based on the previous budget of three trips per Commissioner, per year plus inflation. Ms. Beauchemin reported that she had circulated a list amongst the Commissioners detailing upcoming conferences to ascertain their interest in certain subject matters. Chief Lennon added that the average cost per trip would be approximately \$3,500 to \$4,000 per Commissioner. Commissioner Hill mentioned that the conferences on the list which Ms. Beauchemin circulated were primarily located in, or around New England, making attendance inexpensive. Commissioner Hill commented that many of the conferences were important as they addressed horse racing on a federal level, sports betting, and responsible gaming. Commissioner Hill added that attending conferences would be important, so that the Commissioners could get as much information as possible, to effectively serve as Commissioners.

Chair Judd-Stein explained that although the Commissioners had not recently traveled for conferences, they would still be interested in attending out-of-state conferences, such as an upcoming horse racing conference in Kentucky. Chair Judd-Stein asked Chief Lennon whether \$3,500 was a reasonable budget to attend a conference. Chief Lennon responded that the budget could be up to \$4,000 per Commissioner per conference which would amount to a \$60,000 budget allowance for 15 trips total. Chief Lennon explained that he did not see a problem with the \$60,000 budget because the Commission has a \$33M budget. He added that if the number of conferences

attended by the Commissioners increased, the costs could also be covered by cutting back on spending in other areas. Chair Judd-Stein added that all the Commissioners may attend any conferences they were interested in, provided that they have a travel policy and budget in place, and that there might be some benefit in all five Commissioners attending the same conference and hearing the same information. Chair Judd-Stein asked the Commissioners their opinion on a budget of \$3,000 to \$4,000 per trip based on Chief Lennon and the budget team's recommendation. Commissioner Skinner responded that she thought that the recommendations were reasonable, and the line items were adequately funded. Commissioner O'Brien agreed with Commissioner Skinner, and that the budget could be revisited if there were any escalations. Commissioner Hill also agreed with the budget recommendation for the Travel and Conferences line item.

Chief Lennon then addressed the line item, Office Supplies and Furnishings, which was \$5,000. Chief Lennon explained that it was a catch-all to accommodate the Commissioners' office needs, including an example of an office chair. Ms. Beauchemin added that a portion of the funds would be used to purchase a new Commissioner an office chair. Chair Judd-Stein and the Commissioners agreed with the budget recommendation.

Chief Lennon then addressed the line item, Direct Reimbursable Costs of the Independent Monitor. He explained it would be added to the budget at each Quarterly Update as an amendment to the budget. Chair Judd-Stein asked about item H, Consultant Services. Chief Lennon explained that these items were also associated with the Independent Monitor. Chair Judd-Stein clarified to participants that these costs go into the budget because they were reimbursed, based on a decision by the Commissioners.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if the Commissioners were to vote to finalize the numbers when the full budget was presented. Chief Lennon confirmed and added that the next steps were that the Finance Division would enter the estimates and forward them to Ms. Beauchemin. From there, Chief Lennon and Executive Director Wells would meet with the Commission's Treasurer and review the budget for the entire agency. That reviewed budget would go to the licensees and then return to the Commissioners to make recommendations.

Chair Judd-Stein thanked Chief Lennon, the finance team, Ms. Beauchemin and Ms. Beaulieu for their presentation, and welcomed staff member John Scully to the team. Commissioner Skinner also thanked the finance team for navigating the Commissioners through the budget discussion.

c. [MGC Office Lease Update](#) – Executive Session (3:15:45)

Chair Judd-Stein read the following statement into the record, “the Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the lease of real property, specifically the Commission's office space at 101 Federal Street in Boston, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Commission.” Chair Judd-Stein added that the public session of the Commission meeting would not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

Having no other business, Commissioner O'Brien moved to enter executive session for the reasons articulated on the record by Chair Judd-Stein. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Commissioners entered executive session. The public session of the Commission meeting did not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

- a. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#), dated April 11, 2022
- b. Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2021
- c. [Meeting Packet](#) from the April 14, 2022, Public Meeting