



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Gambling Control Board
87 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0087

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

STEVEN SILVER
CHAIRMAN
MILTON CHAMPION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gambling Control Board
Minutes of December 17, 2024, Board Meeting
Held in person at 45 Commerce Drive & online via Zoom application.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Silver, Board Chair
Noel March, Board Member (Virtual)
Joseph Hanslip, Board Member (Virtual)
Kelly Bickmore, Board Member (Virtual) – joined the meeting at 9:16 am

STAFF PRESENT

Milton Champion, Executive Director
Matthew Motti, Deputy Director
Det. Don Armstrong, MSP (Virtual)
Mallory Reilly, Office Specialist
Alex Joutov, Auditor
Cami Hippler, Office Associate (Virtual)
Philip Mantis, Assistant Attorney General
Reid Hayton-Hull, Assistant Attorney General

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steven Silver called the meeting to order at 9:03 am in person & via Zoom application online.

2. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

October 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes Approval –

One minor correction to a name.

Board member Noel March moved to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion. Moved to roll call vote.

Members

<i>Joseph Hanslip</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Noel March</i>	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Steven Silver</i>	<i>Yea</i>

3 In favor, the motion passed.

3. OPERATIONS REPORT – Executive Director Champion

In October 2024, there were ten (10) shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. In November, there were twelve (12) such shipments. There were 108 work orders completed in October and 146 in November, which ranged from new game installs, removals, changing themes, options and communications issues. There were 62 entries in the inspector pass-on log in October and 52 in November, to share information not only from within the facility but also between the facilities.

There are currently twelve (12) formal complaints with status updates reported in the complaint dashboard; 1 is pending referral to the Board in a consent agreement, 2 were issued letters of guidance, 2 were dismissed by the director, 4 are under review by the investigative committee, and 3 are awaiting a response from the facilities.

There were no patron complaints; and there were 38 self-exclusions in October and November; 15 1yr, 5 - 3yr, 8 – 5 yr, and 10 lifetime.

Oxford PD reported 19 calls in October and 17 calls in November:

- 1 arrest
- 1 customer concern
- 5 potential driving under the influence
- 8 for illegal activity
- 3 risk management
- 4 medical responses
- 2 suspicious activities
- 4 possible intoxications
- 1 undesirable conduct

Bangor PD reported 27 calls in October and November:

- 1 harassment
- 11 under the influence
- 6 fraud or thefts
- 4 traffic offense
- 2 welfare checks
- 1 removed from facility
- 1 trespass
- 1 incident of property damage

4. FINANCIAL REPORT – October and November 2024 – Alex Joutov

Total Tax Revenue paid from both Casinos to the State of Maine increased by 5.64% (or by \$304,498) in October and increased by 1.26% (or, by \$66,603) in November 2024 compared to the same months in 2023. 2024 year-to-date Tax Revenue collected from the casinos was \$62,091,508 in November. This was a decrease of 3.86% (or by \$2,492,193) compared to the same time last year.

For each Casino:

The Oxford casino reported a total net win from Slot machines of 7.34% in October and 7.42% in November 2024. Reported total win from Table Games was 21.38% in October and 19.00% in November 2024.

The Hollywood casino reported a total net win from Slot machines was 8.92% in October and 7.98% in November 2024. The reported total win from Table Games was 18.56% in October and 24.38% in November 2024.

For Advance Deposit Wagering –

We observed a decrease of 19.5% for October and a decrease of 16.2% in November 2024, compared to the same months in 2023. Year-to-date Tax Revenue collected from in-state and out of state races was \$196,198 through November. This was a decrease of 10.4% (or by \$22,862) compared to the same time last year.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Unit has been approved to move to a new location towards the front of the building on the west side, in front of the Café. After the meeting there will be a walk through to show the Board the new space. Board meetings will take place in the new area. Entrance is located on the east side of the building. The unit plans on having the February Board meeting in the new space provided if it is ready. Currently staff are working in a temporary space one door down from these conference rooms.

In collaboration with the two casinos, the Unit is providing a 4-day training course in January 2025 on Gaming Protection by Richard Marcus. Each casino will host two of the four days of training. Information about Richard was placed in the Drop Box for Board member reference. This training will be attended by Unit staff, Casino Table Game supervisors and above and Surveillance staff.

Additionally, the Unit is coordinating with a Maine State Police Major and Detective to offer to Unit Inspectors in all areas: Investigative processes and report writing later in the spring. Also, the Unit will continue to look at any training available to Unit staff and certainly include the casinos when applicable.

6. LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW –

a.) Pavilion Payments Gaming Services Inc. – Gambling Services Vendor - Initial

Board member Noel March moved to approve Pavilion Payments Gaming Services Inc. as a Gambling Services Vendor. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.

Members

Joseph Hanslip: ***Yea***

Noel March: ***Yea***

Kelly Bickmore: ***Yea***

Steven Silver ***Yea***

4 In favor, the motion passed.

b.) Jackpot Digital – Table Games Distributor – Initial

There was Board discussion as to why the Wipfli financial report came back citing 18 years of losses and material uncertainty related to going concern with Jackpot Digital’s financial suitability. The Board requested that the company respond to the Board’s concerns in writing prior to the February meeting for the Board’s further consideration .

Board member Kelly Bickmore moved to approve Jackpot Digital's Table Games Distributor Initial license. Board Chair Steven Silver seconded the motion.

Members

Joseph Hanslip: No
Noel March: No
Kelly Bickmore: Yea
Steven Silver Yea

2 In favor, 2 opposed the motion was tied.

Board Chair Steven Silver moved to table the approval of Jackpot Digital's Table Games Distributor license until the February meeting when the company has a prepared statement in response to the Wipfli report. Board member Noel March seconded the motion.

Members

Joseph Hanslip: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Kelly Bickmore: Yea
Steven Silver Yea

4 In favor, the motion passed.

With the possibility of a 5th Board member at the February meeting, the motion to approve was tabled.

c.) LNW Gaming Inc. – Slot Machine Distributor - Renewal

Board member Noel March moved to approve LNW Gaming, Inc.'s slot distributor license renewal. Board Chair Steven Silver seconded the motion.

Members

Kelly Bickmore: Yea
Joseph Hanslip: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver Yea

4 In favor, the motion passed.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

a.) Lab Certification application

The Board established a resolution to extend the certifications to the end of the year. Director Champion will need to create the basis statement and present to the Board at the February meeting for comments and/or approvals.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Internal Controls Organizational Chart changes – Hollywood Casino

**There was no actual motion or second made, but the intention was to vote on approving the internal controls organizational chart changes.*

Members

Kelly Bickmore: Yea

Joseph Hanslip: *Yea*
Noel March: *Yea*
Steven Silver *Yea*

4 In favor, the motion passed.

b) IRIS database approval – Hollywood Casino

Jason Gittle presented to the Board what IRIS is and how it would benefit Hollywood Casino. Gittle explained that they would use IRIS to perform periodic status sweep of the slot floor, and it would provide access to the MGCB staff for a periodic status report. There was Board discussion about the IRIS product. There was no need for a motion or vote.

c) Consent Agreement GCB 2024-82

The Casino Operator this consent agreement pertains to agrees to the conduct spelled out in the Agreement, and they agree to the disciplinary action warning. The Board Chair had an issue with the disciplinary action being just a warning, citing the fact that this same conduct occurred 12 months prior, which also resulted in a warning. He believes this occurrence is more egregious, where a warning does not seem appropriate. The Casino Operator will provide additional information on their recourse to the issue, from a disciplinary and training perspective. The violation committee will come back to the Board in February with a different Consent Agreement proposal.

Board Chair Steven Silver moved to reject Consent Agreement GCB 2024-82 in its current form. Board member Noel March seconded the motion.

Members

Kelly Bickmore: *Yea*
Joseph Hanslip: *Yea*
Noel March: *Yea*
Steven Silver *Yea*

4 In favor, the motion passed.

9. BOARD BUSINESS –

Board member Noel March attended a webinar on problem gambling delivered by the State of Massachusetts. It was enlightening and helped him to better understand what the Board’s role is with respect to self-exclusions, and resources and services for gambling issues and addictions.

Board Chair Steven Silver has been in contact with the Governor’s office in regard to a 5th Board member. His understanding is that there was at least one applicant, maybe more.

Chair Silver requested that each Casino supply them with an Organizational Chart so that they may have the names of the individuals currently in the positions of management. Chair Silver would also like to see the April and June meetings to be held at either of the 2 Casinos. It was tentatively planned to hold the April meeting at Oxford Casino and the June meeting at Hollywood Casino.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Deputy Director Matthew Motti brought to the Board’s attention a few upgrades made to the MGCU website. Sections were added for the Gambling Control Board itself, such as a bill tracker, and all 16 Board resolutions. If there are any suggestions the Board has on other upgrades that can be made to the website, those can be directed to Deputy Director Motti.

11. Next Meeting – February 18, 2025 @ 9:00am – 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta ME.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Joseph Hanslip moved to adjourn the Gambling Control Board meeting. Board Chair Steve Silver seconded the motion. Moved to the roll call.

Members

Kelly Bickmore: Yea

Joseph Hanslip: Yea

Noel March: Yea

Steven Silver Yea

4 In favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mallory Reilly

Office Specialist I

Board approved: 2/18/2025