



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

TIMOTHY S. DOYLE
CHAIRMAN
MILTON CHAMPION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gambling Control Board
Minutes of December 18, 2019 Board Meeting
Held in the Gambling Control Conference Room at 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tim Doyle called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Timothy Doyle, Board Chair
Alfred Skolfield
Greg McNeal

Barbara Dresser
Robert Harmon

STAFF PRESENT

Milton Champion, Executive Director
Vicki Gardner, Inspector Supervisor
Mallory Reilly, Office Assistant II
Det. Don Armstrong, MSP
James Horr, Auditor

Ron Guay, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Sauschuck, Commissioner
Kendra Coates, Assistant to the
Commissioner

Before staff and member introductions, Chairman Tim Doyle asked for a moment of silence to honor the lives of Harry Stickney, who was a previous Gambling Control Board Member, retired from the Maine State Police and a Command Sergeant Major in the Army National Guard; and Patrick Fleming, who served as the Colonel of the Maine State Police and as the Executive Director of the Maine Gambling Control Board.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

October 2019 Meeting Minutes

Robert Harmon presents two items missing from the minutes. Under New Business in the Hollywood Complaint discussion there was talk of one incident that resulted in multiple violations, and also the lack of information flow going to the Board members. The additions were made after the meeting.

Approval of minutes was tabled until they have had a chance to read the additions and approve at the next meeting on January 21, 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Milton Champion provides his report to the Board. In October 2019 there were 7 Shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. On site inspectors completed 762 observations and 34 checklists. Two minor violations are being monitored from the activity log. There were three patron complaints and four dispositions of formal reports were sent for members to review per statute. There were 13 self-exclusions.

For the month of October 2019, the Unit has identified an increase of 10.0% in total tax revenue for both facilities versus October 2018. Year to date there has been an identified increase of 1.3% versus last year at the same time. Oxford reported an 8.2% win for the month of October from slots and 24.7% win from table games. Oxford's payback percentage was 91.8%, with an average gross win per machine of \$220.84. Hollywood reported a 9.7% average win for the month of October from slots and 34.8% win from table games. Hollywood's payback percentage was 90.3%, with an average gross win per machine was \$165.46.

In November 2019 there were 12 Shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. On site inspectors completed 733 observations and 34 checklists. Two minor violations are being monitored from the activity log. Two patron complaints and four dispositions of formal reports were sent for members to review per statute. There were 14 self-exclusions.

For the month of November 2019, the Unit has identified an increase of 12.0% in total tax revenue for both facilities versus November 2018. Year to date there has been an identified increase of 2.1 % versus last year at the same time. Oxford reported an 7.8% win for the month of November from slots and 24.8% win from table games. Oxford's payback percentage was 92.2%. Average gross win per machine of \$200.51. Hollywood reported a 10.0% average win for the month of November from slots and 30.7% win from table games. Hollywood's payback percentage was 90.0%. Average gross win per machine was \$157.30

There were 3 proposals submitted for the ADW RFP and they will be reviewed by the selection committee for recommendation to the Board in January.

Director Champion informed the Board that an item on the Agenda in regard to a Bally name change to SG Gaming did not require Board approval. Email confirmation from Mr. Michael Fries was forwarded to the Board ahead of this meeting confirming that the name changes or mergers will not affect the contract of the operation of the central site monitoring system. Director Champion will keep the Board up to date on any new developments.

Chairman Tim Doyle inquired on the number of self-exclusions in the last two months and whether those numbers seemed a little high or not. Director Champion informed him that typically you will see those numbers start to rise around the holidays.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Detective Don Armstrong provides his report to the Board. During the last two months, 36 new licenses and 82 renewal licenses were investigated. There are 56 licenses pending processing and investigation. There were 6 thefts, and all have been resolved. Oxford Police Department received 32 calls for service. Bangor Police Department received 24 calls for service.

COMPLAINT PROCESS REVIEW UPDATE

Commissioner Michael Sauschuck briefed the Board on his intent with the Gambling Control Board and what steps he is taking to help correct the complaint process for the two facilities. He assured them that the meetings he has had with both facilities, the Executive Director and AAGs have been productive and they have discussed their struggles and clarified the process. The Board gave their input and feedback on the issues that the Commissioner has been working with the facilities and Unit on, and everyone seemed in agreeance that this was a great thing. Chairman Doyle noted the importance of Board notification and suggested the State and Casinos look into some sort of a dashboard process as a way to communicate with the Board about pending investigations, to keep them better informed. He thanked the Commissioner for taking this time and going above and beyond.

Commissioner Sauschuck introduced Kendra Coates who will be replacing Janet Joyeaux as the Assistant to the Commissioner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Two Consent Agreements – Two consent agreements were introduced to the Board at the October meeting and require the Boards approval.

Mr. Robert Harmon motions to approve the two consent agreements for Timothy Nardo and Travis Lombard. The motion is seconded by Ms. Barbara Dresser. The motion carries unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Greg McNeal).

Self-Exclusion Process – The Board was presented with two individuals who requested to be removed from the Lifetime Self-Exclusion list at the October meeting. The Board had questions on whether or not they should be seeking further advice from a mental health professional or someone involved in Addiction counseling to help the Board make an educated decision as far as removing the individuals.

Lori Manson who represents Ad-Care (Addiction Care) as the Problem Gambling Services Coordinator presented to the Board the history of and the purpose of the program. Ad-Care

currently trains and handles the management of the non-Casino related Self Exclusion sites for the State of Maine. It was discussed what funds the program receives and how it is allocated. Ad-Care offers Problem Gambling 101 training held at no cost for any organization that requests it. Ms. Manson described the barriers in getting the word out to the community for problem gambling awareness and says that treating the gambling addiction is out of the scope of practice for licensed Drug and Alcohol counselors. Another difficulty in getting help out to the community is that there is currently only one licensed Health Care Provider who is a certified gambling treatment specialist, located in the Augusta. Chairman Doyle asks what the best practice would be when determining an individual's request to come off the State Self Exclusion list. Ms. Manson suggested that Board could develop some kind of formal application for relief from the Self Exclusion List, as a guidance to those wishing to come off the list; at the moment patrons are expected to submit a letter stating "Please let me back in the facility" with no formal instructions. Another suggestion was an exit interview, so that the Board may gain the information needed from the patron to make this decision. Chairman Doyle requested a copy of the CDC report and the summarization of what other States processes are.

Discussion began on whether or not to proceed with a motion or if tabling the matter was in order to gain a little bit more information. AAG Ron Guay asked if the patrons received a letter stating the date and time of this meeting, it was determined that yes, they did and they elected not to be present.

Ms. Barbara Dresser motions to approve both requests to be removed from the Lifetime self-Exclusion list. The motion failed for lack of a second vote.

Mr. Robert Harmon motions to deny both requests to be removed from the lifetime self-exclusion list, with the understanding that they should seek some sort of treatment before resubmitting another letter with this request. The motion is seconded by Mr. Greg McNeal. Before a final vote, Chairman Doyle asked for clarification from AAG Katie Johnson on the difference between denying these requests and tabling for a future vote once treatment has been completed. The motion carries with a four for and one opposed vote (Ms. Barbara Dresser).

The motions are revisited later in the meeting, Mr. Robert Harmon withdrew his motions and Mr. Greg McNeal Withdrew his second.

Mr. Robert Harmon motions to table the two requests for relief of self-exclusion, with a letter from the Executive Director. The motion is seconded by Mr. Greg McNeal. The motion carries with four for and one abstention (Ms. Barbara Dresser).

NEW BUSINESS

Request for hearing on forfeiture (Confidential) – Board review of the interception and forfeiture of winnings of a Casino Patron who is Excluded from gambling activities.

Ms. Barbara Dresser motions to uphold the forfeiture of winnings based upon the proposed findings of facts. The motion is seconded by Mr. Al Skolfield. The motion carries with a Three for and Two opposed vote (Mr. Robert Harmon and Mr. Greg McNeal). The forfeiture is upheld.

ADW notices regarding continued wagering in Maine

Updates on investigations will be brought to the Board as they become ready.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Barbara Dresser inquired on any updates for new nominations from the Governor's office.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Greg McNeal motions to adjourn. The motion is seconded by Ms. Barbara Dresser. The motion carries unanimously.

The meeting adjourns at 11:15 AM. The next Board meeting will be held on January 21, 2020 at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Mallory Reilly
Office Assistant II*

Board approved: January 21, 2020