



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 March 21, 2023 Board Meeting
Held in person at Gambling Control Conference Room & online via Zoom application

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steven Silver called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Board members were all present in person. The meeting was also accessible via Zoom to allow members of the public to attend.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Silver, Board Chair
Chief Noel March

Sari Greene
Charmaine Brown

STAFF PRESENT

Milton Champion, Executive Director
Det. Don Armstrong
Vicki Gardner, Inspector Supervisor
Mallory Reilly, Office Specialist I
Cami Hippler, Office Assistant II
Amanda Spencer, Auditor
Alex Joutov, Auditor

Jennifer Willis, Assistant Attorney General
Philip Mantis, Assistant Attorney General

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

January 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes approval

Board member Sari Greene moved to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes. Board member Noel March seconded the motion. Moved to roll call.

Members

Charmaine Brown: Abstain
Sari Greene: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

3 in favor, 1 abstention, motion passed.

OPERATIONS REPORT – Inspector Vicki Gardner

In January 2023 there were 5 shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from the licensed facilities. On-site inspectors completed 736 observations and 30 checklists. There were 12 self-exclusions. There were 2 minor violations that will continue to be monitored on the Unit's activity log. There was 1 formal complaint of potential violation placed on the dashboard.

Oxford Casino had 9 calls for service to Oxford PD, that included were 8 in the parking lot, including intoxicated subjects, traffic complaints, and drugs. 11 were Casino-related, including things such as domestics, 911 hang-ups, intoxicated subjects, unwanted people, and officer walk throughs. Hollywood Casino had 19 calls for service to Bangor PD, 5 in the parking lot or outside, 3 in the hotel or lobby, including wanted outs and welfare checks, and 11 in the casino, including multiple people wanted out, 911 hang ups, and a welfare check.

In February 2023 there were 8 shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from a licensed facility. On-site inspectors completed 610 observations and 30 checklists. There were 10 self-exclusions. There were 3 minor violations that will continue to be monitored from the Unit's activity log. There was 1 formal complaint of potential violation placed on the dashboard.

Oxford Casino had 28 calls for service to Oxford PD, 5 in the parking lot, and 22 were Casino complaints, including 911 hang-ups, intoxicated subjects, unwanted subjects, threats, person with a firearm, drugs, suspicious calls and officer walk throughs. Hollywood Casino had 25 calls for service to Bangor PD, 7 in the parking lot or outside, and 18 in the Casino, including fraud, theft, intoxicated subjects, people wanted out, loitering, trespass, 911 hang ups and subpoena service.

Inspector Supervisor Gardner fielded clarifying questions from the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Alex Joutov

For the month of January, the Casinos reported an 15.45% increase in revenue collected versus January 2022. For the month of February, the Casinos reported an 5.18% increase in revenue collected versus February 2022. Year-to-date the Unit has identified an increase of 9.90% versus last year at the same time. Total revenue collected year to date is \$10,617,039.30.

Oxford reported an 8.18% win for the month of January and 8.40% for the month of February from slots. As for table games, Oxford reported 27.88% win in January and 22.53% in February. Average gross win per machine was \$224.67 in January and \$269.86 in February.

Hollywood reported an 8.29% win for the month of January and 8.26% for the month of February from slots and 21.33% win from table games in January and 18.81% in February. Average gross win per machine was \$178.53 in January and \$216.42 in February.

In Advance Deposit Wagering the Unit has identified an increase of 9.3% for the month of January compared to January 2022. For the month of February, Advance Deposit Wagering activity increased by 4.1% compared to February 2022. Year-to-date revenue collected from out of state and in state races was \$40,174.80, which was an increase of 6.8% versus last year at the same time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –

Director Champion updated the Board on 2 bills that currently fall under the Gambling Control Board.

LD 504 - This bill sets the initial application fee for a slot machine distributor that distributes fewer than 50 machines annually at \$50,000 and the annual renewal fee for those distributors at \$10,000. The bill resulted at the work session on March 8 as Ought to Pass as amended. However, not yet voted out of committee.

LD 731 - This bill repeals the provision of law that directs the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board to award, through a competitive bidding process, one bidder the privilege to be licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering and instead allows commercial tracks, off-track betting facilities and multijurisdictional account wagering providers to obtain a license to conduct advance deposit wagering. It did require advance deposit wagering licensees to remit 1% of in-state gross wagering income and 1% of out-of-state gross wagering income to the board for distribution. That percentage was amended by the sponsor to 5% for both in and out of state gross income wagers. Director Champion anticipates 8-10 operators with employees of an undisclosed amount to be licensed as required by this bill.

The letters the Board requested at the January 2023 meeting to be sent to individuals who had self-excluded solely with casinos prior to the enactment of the State's self-exclusion list, were delayed until AdCare renewed their contract. AdCare's contract had just been renewed and Director Champion planned for the letters would be mailed out the week of the meeting. The director will keep the Board updated on the results.

LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

HC Bangor LLC, Hollywood Casino Hotel and Raceway – Applicant for Casino Operator License

Board Chair Silver disclosed that the law firm where he works represents Penn National, but that he is walled off from and does not in anyway participate in that representation.

The Board raised an issue to the attendees representing HC Bangor and Penn National about Barstool branding and advertising.

No public comment.

Board member Noel March moved to approve HC Bangor LLC as a Casino Operator in the State of Maine. Board member Sari Greene seconded the motion. Moved to roll call.

Members

Charmaine Brown:	Yea
Sari Greene:	Yea
Noel March:	Yea
Steven Silver:	Yea

4 in favor, motion passed.

SG Gaming, Inc. – Applicant for Slot Machine Distributor License

There was discussion surrounding the numerous open litigations nationwide against SG Gaming and if board staff had any concerns. Director Champion assured the Board that GIS, a third-party contractor who reviews licensees, closely monitors any type of new evidence or litigations. In answer to a Board member question about the company, an attendee indicated that this company is one of the worldwide market leaders in this area. Board Chair Silver indicated he thought the litigation was not disproportionate for a company this size.

No public comment was made.

Board member Sari Greene moved to approve SG Gaming, Inc. as a Slot Machine Distributor in the State of Maine. Board Chair Steve Silver seconded the motion. Moved to roll call.

Members

Charmaine Brown: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

The motion passed 4 in favor, motion passes.

Patriot Gaming & Electronics, Inc. – Applicant for Gambling Services Vendor License

Board member Charmaine Brown moved to approve Patriot Gaming & Entertainment, Inc. as a gambling Services Vendor in the State of Maine. Board Chair Steve Silver seconded the motion. Moved to roll call.

Members

Charmaine Brown: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

The motion passed 4 in favor, motion passes.

VSR Industries Inc. – Applicant for Gambling Services Vendor License

There was Board discussion with Director Champion regarding the application for VSR industries not being completed on a current form, Chair Steve Silver stressed the importance of sending back any and all applications that come in on outdated forms. Chair Silver would like to see a section in the business entity applications for the companies to explain what services and products they provide to the State.

Board member Noel March moved to approve VSR industries, Inc. as a gambling Services Vendor in the State of Maine. Board member Charmaine Brown seconded the motion. Moved to roll call.

Members

Charmaine Brown: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

4 in favor, motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Updates to Casino Licensee Internal Controls – due date

With the recent adoption of the internal minimum controls, it is now up to the Board to provide a due date for the facilities to submit their updated internal controls. Austin Muchemore, HC Bangor General Manager, requested for at least a 90-day deadline to complete this, due to the fact that this was a more extensive IC change and there have been many supply chain issues that could cause unforeseen delays. The Board gave a deadline of May 31, 2023 for the Casinos to submit their updated Internal Controls to the Unit..

Review of Casino Operator Responsible Gaming Programs

Gambling Control Unit Enforcement Staff, which included Vicki Gardner, Inspector Supervisor, and an Inspector from each casino facility, met with AAG Jennifer Willis and AAG Phillip Mantis to review the submissions made by each facility on the responsible gaming program. Enforcement Staff prepared an Informational Memorandum for the Board of their recommendations based on their enforcement experience working in the casinos dealing with exclusion enforcement. The Informational Memo raised issues for the Board’s consideration as they evaluate the proposals from each casino. The casinos received the memo in advance and responded to the memo’s points in their presentations.

HC Bangor and Penn Entertainment presented their responsible gaming program specific to self-exclusions to the Board. The Board asked questions about the proposed programs from each casino. The Board discussion covered whether checking every patron’s ID prior to entry to the gaming floor was feasible and whether it would ID-checking would be effective to prevent excluded individuals; and whether HC Bangor’s proposal that the casinos instead enforce their policies to eject excluded individuals by calling the police would be supported by the two relevant police departments. The Board took no final action on the proposals.

Rulemaking Packages

Chapter 17 and rule Appendix AII C Surveillance-

Board member Noel March moved to allow the Director to publish chapter 17 for rulemaking.

Board member Sari Greene seconded the motion. Motion moved to roll call.

Members

Sari Greene: Yea

Charmaine Brown: Yea

Noel March: Yea

Steven Silver: Yea

4 in favor, motion passed.

Chapter 13 - Exclusions

Director Champion proposed that the Board address multiple areas of concern in Chapter 13 via MAPA rulemaking. The Board agreed to begin the preliminary steps of drafting proposed changes to Chapter 13 before entering MAPA rulemaking. The Board agreed to add a meeting for the Board's discussion to review and propose changes to Chapter 13 on April 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Patron A – Reinstatement request from self-exclusion list

Board member Sari Greene moved to approve. Board Chair Steve Silver seconded the motion. Motion moved to roll call.

Members

Sari Greene: Yea
Charmaine Brown: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

4 in favor, motion passed.

BOARD BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Charmaine Brown moved to adjourn the Gambling Control Board meeting. Board member Noel March seconded the motion. Motion moved to roll call.

Members

Sari Greene: Yea
Charmaine Brown: Yea
Noel March: Yea
Steven Silver: Yea

4 in favor, motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Chair Silver will confirm the format prior to that date.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mallory Reilly

Office Specialist I

Board approved: May 16, 2023