

Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2008
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:40 p.m.

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold, Larry Hall and Peter Danton

Staff members present: Exec. Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods, Lt. Bowler, Sgt. Gomane and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G. absent

- **Minutes from August 20, 2008 meeting:**

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes

Seconded: Richard Arnold

Vote: 5-0

- **Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch**

- Aristocrat Distributor License Renewal granted. Both the criminal and financial suitability for re-licensure done by Det. Armstrong and McDonald Page. NRT Vendor License Renewal also granted and same suitability investigation performed. NRT makes the ticket redemption machines.
- The Gambling Control Board/Unit budget has been submitted. Since records kept from 2004, we are a little under budget. No word yet on cuts if any.
- Bangor Police Dept has received 36 calls total since opening day of 8/1-8/31.

- **Financial Update – Scott Woods**

Scott reported there are still some ongoing glitches with the communication between the two operating systems. SCI Games is correct, Hollywood Slots' numbers are still off, but it's improving. For **August** – 2.1 million average played daily, had three days over three million and 12 days over two million. **September** was 1.8 million daily average with a net revenue of \$63,000 for those days. September had one day where over three million was played.

- **State Police Activity Update – Lt. David Bowler and Sgt. Bill Gomane**

Lt. Bowler addressed the board and advised that he had done an inspection on the Security at Hollywood Slots (HS) on Sept. 3rd. He talked with both Security and Surveillance. He feels they have a good security team in place with contingency plans that are well thought out. HS has an EMT as a security member, but all are trained in CPR. HS also has state of the art security equipment in place. Sgt. Gomane reported that the Gambling Unit has processed and done background investigations on eleven applicants since the last board meeting. 33 are pending approval for licensure, with two pending criminal cases – one unfounded and one active.

- **Unfinished Business**

Application Review – to be tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Nomani is not available.

- **Sub-Committee Report – Cushing Samp**

Cushing Samp reported that, given that there is currently no history of violations in Maine and that many jurisdictions do not, in fact, have a schedule of fines at all, she recommends that the Board not adopt a schedule of fines at this time. A reference library of fines imposed by other jurisdictions, however, would be useful to have on hand in the event that a fine needs to be imposed. She also reported that she had completed a first draft of rules to be used for violations. However, it had not been finished in time for Lara Nomani or Bob Welch to review. She did not give any details of the proposed rules. She will meet with Lara and Bob before the next meeting. Commissioner Jordan requested to be kept apprised of the rules once they were in a more nearly finished form.

- **New Business**

Mr. Welch advised he would have any Rules to be considered for review at the next meeting.

- **Public Comments**

Steve Lambert, Assistant General Manager of Hollywood Slots addressed the Board. Since the opening of the permanent facility of July 1st, there has been 118 million in revenue, 59.6 million in taxes paid to the state. The Hotel opened on 8/20 which was the first three floors. On 9/12, the rest of the hotel opened with a total of 152 rooms. He feels they are up 35-40% more in revenue from the temporary facility, with it being 75% full on the weekends, with softer attendance during the week. They are open now 8 a.m. to 4 a.m. every day.

Board member Richard Arnold inquired from Mr. Welch if he had in fact stated at the prior board meeting that when he was away, that Scott Woods was placed in charge of the Gambling Control Unit. Discussion followed and Mr. Welch confirmed that Mr. Woods was indeed put in charge. He knows the systems, the passwords, the appropriate action to take if something happens to the systems and/or machines in Mr. Welch's absence.

Motion: Mr. Arnold made a motion that the highest ranking state police officer should be left in command whenever Mr. Welch was away.

Seconded by Peter Danton

Discussion: Mr. Welch advised then that that would be Det. Armstrong. The unit has lost two positions now due to budget, Lt. Kelly and Sgt. Parker's positions, leaving Det. Armstrong as the only State Police employee in the unit. Commissioner Jordan addressed the Board at this point, to report on budget conditions and that she could not warrant taking another trooper off the road or from their duties, to also do this work for the Gambling Unit. She will know better in January after budget talks again with Legislature and the Governor's Office, where things stand.

Motion: Peter Danton motioned to table this until the Commissioner sees if she can get more positions and budget.

Amendment: by Peter Danton to table the 2nd motion until January 2009

Seconded by Richard Arnold

Vote: 5-0

Next meeting date – October 23, 2008

Motion to adjourn by Cushing Samp **and Seconded** by Peter Danton.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chamberlain
Secretary