

MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
**PALMER CITIZEN CASINO IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE**  
GENERAL GROUP MEETING 14  
THREE RIVERS FIRE STATION  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 – 6:30 PM

Meeting opened at 6:40 pm by Gerald Chudy, Chair.

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT** Charlotte Burns, Gerald Chudy, Anthony Dimitropolis, Joseph Mastalerz, George Roy, Stephen Sears, Carol Sugrue, Michael Swiatlowski, Paul Wisnewski

**ABSENT** Rocqueline Blazejowski, CathyAnn Gehlhausen, Mickey Ghosh

**OTHERS PRESENT** Ken Somerville

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

*Review of minutes for General Meeting 12 and 13 will take place at Meeting 15.*

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Sub-committee reports for Infrastructure, Schools, and Social & Cultural Impacts are distributed to the group. Sub-committee report for Housing will be distributed at our next meeting.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESIGNATION**

G. Chudy states that Gene Olearzyk and Albin Les have resigned from the committee due to personal commitments. The committee recognizes that their unique knowledge and experience will be missed.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

A discussion begins with the upcoming meeting schedule and delivery of a final report. The Impact on Schools sub-committee states that they have recently contacted officials in other cities and are expecting to hear back from them soon. It is decided that the committee will continue to meet every other week to prepare the final report.

It is also discussed that the final report may take several forms. The committee may make a presentation to the Town Council and hand over a hard-copy report to the Town, the Library, and the Journal Register. A digital copy may also be provided for the town web site.

G. Chudy states that he met with Paul Brody over the weekend and gave him a personal tour of the town and surrounding communities. G. Chudy did this outside of the committee and had personally invited Mr. Brody to take a look at the area.

G. Chudy took Paul Brody around to look at the quality of housing, the landscape, the schools, golf courses, and the Quabbin. He took him to the “good” sections and the “bad” sections of the area. Regarding the Quabbin, Mr. Brody stated that they did not feel it would be necessary to draw water from the Quabbin to the casino site. Mr. Brody also stated to G. Chudy that he does not expect to begin construction until 2011 and expects to open a casino by 2013. The legislative process takes time.

G. Chudy states the Paul Brody has invited the entire committee to visit Pocono Downs in Wilkes-Barre, PA for a fact finding mission. It is discussed that any trip

to either Wilkes-Barre or CT not be orchestrated entirely by Mohegan Sun. Our job should be to examine the impact on the townspeople. G. Chudy tells the committee of his travels to Ledyard, Montville, and Stonington. He spoke to many people, from the fire chief to a guy mowing his lawn. The opinions on the casino are mixed but provide good background information.

Regarding the sub-committee reports, a discussion takes place over how the committee should present the “laundry list” of requests from town officials to mitigate the casino impacts. Should the committee include everything that is asked for or edit to what we feel the town would need? Perhaps the committee makes its recommendation but also includes the full list from our interviews as an appendix.

It is decided that the committee will take the next two weeks to read through the sub-committee reports and that at our following meetings, we will give a peer review of the reports.

Regarding upcoming meeting schedules, M. Swiatlowski states that Rep. Todd Smola and Sen. Stephen Brewer will join our meeting on Oct 29th. It is discussed and decided to invite both Mohegan Sun and Northeast Reality to our Oct 1st or Oct 15th meeting. M. Swiatlowski will contact the two parties and notify the group.

For our next meeting on Sept 17th, it is suggested that we invite the new Town Manager, Matthew Streeter, to introduce ourselves and familiarize him with our committee’s goals. M. Swiatlowski will contact Mr. Streeter and notify the group.

G. Chudy shares his conversations with a variety of people in Connecticut regarding the casinos. From employee of Foxwoods who was grateful to his health insurance coverage while he was battling cancer, to an employee of Mohegan Sun who said he wouldn’t have had a future if it wasn’t for the job opportunity he was granted, to a landlord in Norwich who says he has lost control over the tenants in his apartments. G. Chudy encourages everyone to visit CT and ask their own questions to strangers.

P. Wisnewski explains his analysis of the Northeast Reality-funded UMass Dartmouth survey of Palmer residents. He states that the survey “cooked the books” with the first of two questions that were asked of residents. The first question was if the resident was aware that a non-binding vote was passed in Palmer in 1997 to allow a casino to be built in the town and the second question was if the resident supported a plan for Palmer to host a Mohegan Sun casino. P. Wisnewski felt that the first question held no relevance to the survey and set the table for people to answer that they were in support of a Mohegan Sun casino. P. Wisnewski attempted to gain clarification from UMass Dartmouth but has yet to receive it.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by G. Roy to adjourn meeting at 8:04 pm.  
G. Chudy seconded. The vote passed (9:0).

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SWIATLOWSKI.  
APPROVED – DRAFT