

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
PALMER CITIZEN CASINO IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE
GENERAL GROUP MEETING 17
PALMER TOWN BUILDING, MEETING ROOM 1
OCTOBER 15, 2008 – 6:30 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT Rocqueline Blazejowski, Charlotte Burns, Gerald Chudy, Anthony Dimitropolis, CathyAnn Gehlhausen, Stephen Sears, Michael Swiatlowski

ABSENT Mickey Ghosh, Joseph Mastalerz, George Roy, Carol Sugrue, Paul Wisnewski

OTHERS PRESENT Ken Somerville, Leon Dragone (Northeast Realty), James St. Amand (Northeast Realty)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Paul Brody, of Mohegan Sun, emailed M. Swiatlowski. Due to personal reasons, he is unable to attend our meeting tonight. He would like to reschedule as soon as possible. The committess decides that November 12th would be a good alternative.

Leon Dragone, of Northeast Realty, is present and would like to give a provisional update. He states because of the recent global economic crisis that has hit Massachusetts hard, Governor Patrick is about to make large cuts to the state budget and it will be formally announced tomorrow morning. The cuts are estimated to eliminate 800 million dollars. Dragone believes this will push new casino legislation. There is a discussion regarding casinos as resilient industries but Dragone does not claim that this one industry can solve all economic woes. There is also discussion as to the rumored retirement of House Speaker Sal DiMasi.

S. Sears asks Leon Dragone for examples of other host communities that have a direct agreement with a casino to provide money to a town budget on an annual basis.

S. Sears states that one of examples given (Tunica, MI) comes close to this type of agreement but much of their money is recieved through the state and now their funds are in jeopardy. Leon Dragone mentions Auroa FL, but does not have specifics off the top of his head. Leon Dragone stated he would get back to the committee with more information.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The committee discusses how to best incorporate proposed population increase(s) into our subcommittee reports and into our final report. S. Sears states that the increase of population as a result of a casino should be included in our report anaylsis. C. Gehlhausen proposes that we should clearly show population growth patterns of other communities near casinos and estimate our own growth.

A discussion takes place regarding the differences between a casino bedroom community and a casino host community. A. Dimitropolis states that the population has not grown significantly in Ledyard or Montville and that Norwhich has many mult-family housing units. These are areas to be studied.

Getting back to the minutes review: A motion was made by S. Sears to approve the minutes for Meeting 16. A. Dimitropolis seconded. The vote passed (7:0).

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

- October 29 – Meeting with Sen. Brewer and Rep. Smola
- November 12 – (reschedule meeting with Mohegan Sun)
- November 19 – Review of the Social and Cultural Impacts report
- December 3 – Review of the Impacts on Schools report
- December 17 – Review of the Impacts on Housing report
- January 7 – Discussion to wrap up full committee report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A. Dimitropolis to adjourn meeting at 7:55 pm. R. Blazejowski seconded. The vote passed (7:0).

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SWIATLOWSKI.

APPROVED – JANUARY 21, 2009