



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 March 19, 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
Barbara Dresser

Alfred Skolfield
Greg McNeal

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA SKYPE

Robert Harmon

STAFF PRESENT

Milton Champion, Executive Director
Don Armstrong, State Police Detective
Vicki Gardner, Inspector Supervisor
Mallory Reilly, Office Assistant II

Katie Boynton, Office Specialist I
Ron Guay, Assistant Attorney General
Janet Joyeux, Assistant to the Commissioner
Michael Sauschuck, Commissioner

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

AAG Ron Guay provides the Board with notes from AAG Katie Johnson. AAG Johnson recommends changing “and present as it is” to “as presented” and “a judicatory” to “an adjudicatory” under New Business Sections A and D respectively. Robert Harmon requests that Staff revise and expand the coverage of New Business Section D. Mr. Harmon asks that the revised draft be sent to the Board for review in advance of the April Board meeting. Chairman Timothy Doyle tables the approval of the February minutes until the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Milton Champion provides his report to the Board. In February 2019, there were 30 shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. On-site inspectors completed 604 observations and 29 checklists. Nine minor violations are being

monitored from the activity log. There have been no patron complaints and no dispositions of a formal report were sent for members to review per statute. There were eight self-exclusions.

For the month of February 2019, the Unit has identified an increase of 0.6% in total tax revenue for both facilities over February 2018. Year-to-date, there has been an identified decrease of 0.3% versus last year at the same time. Oxford reported an 8.45% win for the month of February from slots and a 25% win from table games. Oxford's payback percentage for February was 91.6%, with an average gross win per machine of \$218.02. Hollywood reported 10.43% average win for the month of February from slots and 27.14% win from table games. Hollywood's payback percentage for February was 89.6% with an average gross win per machine of \$134.46.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Detective Don Armstrong provides his report to the Board. Last month 22 new licenses and 68 renewal licenses were investigated. There are 37 licenses pending processing and investigation. There were nine thefts and most of the funds have been recovered if contact with the individual was made. If contact was not made the individual's accounts have been flagged or they were mailed a letter. As reported last month, an investigation has been made on a theft the casino. Attempts have been made to locate the suspect, who is a transient. Attempts to locate the suspect will continue. Oxford PD has received 17 calls for service and Bangor PD has received 20. Chairman Doyle inquires if other area casinos have been made aware of the transient theft suspect. Detective Armstrong clarifies that the suspect is still local and has just moved to a neighboring town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Self-Exclusion Removal Request

Executive Director Milton Champion informs the Board that the request for removal is confidential and the requestor's name should not have been published on the Agenda. He asks that the Board refrain from identifying the requestor by name. He reminds the Board that the Statute allows for someone who has requested a Lifetime Self-Exclusion to request removal after a full five years has lapsed. Chairman Timothy Doyle opens the discussion for members of the Board. Mr. Robert Harmon questions if the requestor has received any counselling. AAG Ron Guay tells the Board that they are within legal authority to issue a decision that requires counselling prior to removal from the list. Mr. Greg McNeal questions if anything has changed due to the nature of the requestors comments in the letter. Ms. Barbara Dresser asks AAG Guay if there are any evaluation criteria; there is not. She states that the requestor's statements are the epitome of a gambling problem.

Mr. Alfred Skolfield moves to deny the self-exclusion removal request. The motion is seconded by Ms. Dresser. The motion carries unanimously.

Chairman Doyle reminds the Board and Public that Mr. Harmon is unable to vote or count towards quorum during these proceedings as he is not physically present.

Adjudicatory Hearings – Alex Masciarelli & Chelsea Dickinson

Executive Director Milton Champion informs the Board that both adjudicatory hearings have been continued to allow further action and the potential for consent agreements.

Consent Agreement – Catherine Hughes

AAG Ron Guay informs the Board that this agreement comes from the delegations which will need to be looked at and brought currently. The delegation allowed the Executive Director to “offer” but not “enter into” an agreement which is why it came to the Board for review. There is discussion by members of the Board on the background relating to the agreement.

Ms. Barbara Dresser moves to approve the consent agreement as presented. The motion is seconded by Mr. Alfred Skolfield. The motion carries unanimously.

Bonus Spin Black Jack – Hollywood Casino

Mr. Kevin Taylor makes a presentation to the Board regarding the casino’s request to be approved for a bonus spin side bet to be added to a black jack game. He informs the Board that it is a side bet only, with no bearing on the results of the black jack game. The presentation goes over the rules, potential winnings, and the jurisdictions which are currently using the bonus spin side bet.

Mr. Greg McNeal moves to approve the request for Bonus Spin Black Jack. The motion is seconded by Mr. Alfred Skolfield. The motion carries unanimously.

Table Game Rules of Play Changes in Irregularities – Both Facilities

Mr. Jack Sours of Oxford presents a request for a rule change relating to automatic shuffler usage. The casino is looking to amend their rule to be in line with industry standard. When a single deck shuffler malfunctions all losing bets will be refunded and if the light was played through, surveillance will be used to locate all individuals to return their bets. When a multideck shuffler is used, a certain percentage of cards are removed from play by the shuffler as “the cut” to discourage advantage play. The rule change would allow any additional cards missing or comingled due to shuffler malfunction to be considered part of the cut and allow game play to continue. Mr. Kevin Taylor of Bangor agrees with what Oxford said and stated that their request is for an identical language change.

Executive Director Milton Champion informs the Board that in no way would this change give away the right to discipline for violations. This would allow for the table gaming rules to reflect industry standards. The Board agreed that proposed rules of play would not overrule internal controls.

Mr. Greg McNeal moves to adopt the proposed changes at both casinos. The motion is seconded by Ms. Barbara Dresser. The motion carries unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Alfred Skolfield moves to enter executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the Board attorneys. The motion is seconded by Mr. Greg McNeal. The motion carries unanimously.

Chairman Timothy Doyle asks the public to leave the room and for staff to turn off the recording devices. He lets everyone know that no decisions will be made and no votes will be taken during executive session. The Board enters executive session at 9:57. The Board returns from executive session at 11:14.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Greg McNeal moves to adjourn. The motion is seconded by Mr. Alfred Skolfield. The motion carries unanimously.

The meeting adjourns at 11:15. The next Board meeting will be held on April 16, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Katie Boynton
Office Specialist I*

Board approved: April 16, 2019