



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Gambling Control Board
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Augusta, Maine
04333-0087

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

STEVEN SILVER
CHAIRMAN
MILTON CHAMPION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gambling Control Board
Minutes of May 18th, 2021 Board Meeting
Held online via Zoom application.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steven Silver called the meeting to order at 9:05 am via Zoom application online due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT ONLINE

Steven Silver, Board Chair

Sari Greene

Chief Noel March

Dr. Charmaine Brown

STAFF PRESENT ONLINE

Milton Champion, Executive Director

Vicki Gardner, Inspector Supervisor

Mallory Reilly, Office Specialist I

Det. Don Armstrong

Katie Johnson, Assistant Attorney General

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

March 2021 Meeting Minutes approval

Dr. Charmaine Brown moves to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes which were tabled at the April meeting. Chair Steven Silver seconds the motion. Moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea

Sari Greene: Abstain

Chief Noel March: Abstain

Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed 2 in favor, 2 abstentions, motion passes.

April 2021 Meeting Minutes approval

Chief Noel March moves to approve the April 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Sari Greene seconded the motion. Moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Chief Noel March: Yea
Dr. Charmaine Brown: Abstain

The motion passed, 3 in favor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

In April 2021 there were 12 shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. On-site inspectors completed 573 observations and 26 checklists. There were 11 self-exclusions. There were 5 minor violations that will continue to be monitored from our activity log. There were no patron complaints, no formal complaints of potential violations placed on the dashboard, and 1 disposition of formal reports sent to members per statute; GCB 2021-53.

For the month of April 2021, the Unit has identified an increase of 100.0% in total tax revenue for both facilities versus April 2020. Both facilities closed around March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Year to date the Unit has identified an increase of 34.0% versus last year at the same time. And obviously versus last year, April, May and June will show 100% increases with July openings bringing the numbers back into comparison to the previous year. April 2021 was 3.5% over April 2019 and also increased in the average win per machine from pre-pandemic numbers.

Oxford reported an 8.7% win for the month of April from slots and 24.1% win from table games. Oxford’s payback percentage was 91.3%. Average gross win per machine of \$534.74. Hollywood reported a 9.6% average win for the month of March from slots and 21.4% win from table games. Hollywood’s payback percentage was 90.4%. Average gross win per machine was \$410.94.

STATE POLICE REPORT

Detective Don Armstrong of the State Police presents his report to the Board. He informs the Board that there were 18 new license and 53 renewal license investigations completed, and there are currently 47 still pending. There were 3 TITO thefts, all of which the funds were recovered, and no counterfeit bills were discovered. The Bangor Police Department was called a total of 8 times, and the Oxford Police Department was called a total of 9 times. Not all calls were due to gaming floor issues; some were in reference to the hotel or parking lot issues.

License Applications for Review-

Genesis Gaming Solutions, Inc. – Gambling Services Vendor License Renewal

Ms. Sari Greene moves to approve Genesis Gaming Solutions Inc. as a Gambling Services Vendor for renewal. Chair Steven Silver seconded the motion, moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Chief Noel March: Yea
Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed, 4 in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Progressive Controller Internal Controls – Oxford

This item was tabled from the April meeting to allow for the Director and AG’s office to further discuss the use of Controllers reporting to the central monitoring system through the slot machines. Director Champion met with representatives from both casinos, Scientific Games, the central site monitoring system operator and Gaming Laboratory International to discuss the progressive controller operation and its relation to connectivity with the central monitoring system on May 7. At that meeting, Steve Angelo, Sci Games VP of Operations and Sales, offered to meet separately with the Director and Board AAGs. Maine’s Sci Games GM, Darrel Frecker, attended that meeting as well on May 13. Director Champion deferred to AAG Katie Johnson, who does not have any concerns with proceeding.

Dr. Charmaine Brown moves to approve Oxford’s internal control changes regarding progressive controllers. Chief Noel March seconded the motion.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Chief Noel March: Yea
Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed, 4 in favor.

Chief Noel March moves to approve Hollywood’s internal control changes regarding progressive controllers. Dr. Charmaine Brown seconded the motion. Moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea
Sari Greene: Yea
Chief Noel March: Yea
Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed, 4 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic Table Games Internal Controls – Hollywood

Ronnie Little, Hollywood Casino Director of Finance/Compliance, presented the internal control change request as a way to clean up some antiquated language such as hoppers and coins, as well as introducing electronic tables games. This is currently allowed by statute but is not a part of their internal controls.

Katie Johnson, AAG, reviewed these changes and has some concerns regarding the definition section, for example she suggested adding electronic facsimile to the definition of bill acceptors, also making it clear that a cash storage box is something that either attaches to a slot machine or electronic facsimile. Chair Silver suggested that AAG Katie Johnson and Ronnie Little work together to clean up the language and bring it back to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Chief Noel March moves to table the Hollywood Casino request for electronic table games internal control changes. Chair Steven Silver seconded the motion. Moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea

Sari Greene: Yea

Chief Noel March: Yea

Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed, 4 in favor.

Minimal Craps Positions – Oxford

Oxford Casino has submitted internal control changes for the minimum requirement for dealers for live craps games. Dan Welch, Director of Table Games, explained that currently there are no internal controls that address the standard on the number of dealers on craps games. The issue arose while reopening after the pandemic, with plexi-glass and social distancing still in place this approval would allow the Casino to still run with fewer than the standard 3 dealers and a supervisor.

Board members discussed multiple scenarios to get a feel for what this could mean for business. Director Champion does not have a position on this, as he has never seen this done in other jurisdictions and supports the Board’s decision. He said it would be more of a business decision at the end of the day, rather than having anything to do with the integrity of the game.

Dr. Charmaine Brown moves to approve the requested change to the minimum dealers at a craps game. Sari Greene seconded the motion. Moves to roll call.

Members

Steven Silver: Yea

Sari Greene: Yea

Chief Noel March: Yea

Dr. Charmaine Brown: Yea

The motion passed, 4 in favor.

Board Business-

Casino Visits

Chair Steven Silver informed the Board members that the casinos are open, and it would be beneficial for them to get a sense of casino processes. A tour with an inspector on site could be arranged to see some back of the house functions as well as meeting the casino staff.

July Meeting

Depending on what the agenda looks like there may not be a July meeting to allow for everyone’s vacations. Meetings being held at the facilities will be pushed back until at least the August meeting, if not later.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Noel March moves to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Charmaine Brown seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourns at 10:41AM. The next Board meeting will be held on June 15, 2021 at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mallory Reilly

Office Specialist I

Board approved: June 15, 2021