

**OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**10 A.M. - MARCH 7, 2011
RIFFE CENTER, 77 SOUTH HIGH STREET
31ST FLOOR, SOUTH B AND C
COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. She welcomed the members of the Commission as well as the interested parties attending the meeting.

Chairman Davidson stressed the tight time frame the Commission is working under and the need to get into operation as soon as possible within the constitutional and statutory framework provided. She stated she expects to work closely with state and local officials and pointed out it is imperative the public has confidence in the operation of the Ohio casinos voters supported.

In addition to Chairman Davidson, Commission members present at the meeting were McKinley Brown, Martin Hoke, Ranjan Manoranjan, Peter Silverman, John Steinhauer and June Taylor. Each member introduced themselves and provided brief background information.

Chairman Davidson advised the audience that each Commission member had completed their oaths of office and are being briefed by the Ethics Commission. She also mentioned that a blanket bond is currently providing the \$10,000 bond required by law. This bond will be replaced by individual bonds by July 1, 2011.

Without objection, the members agreed that Roberts Rules of Order would be followed except in those instances where specific provisions of the Ohio Revised Code will prevail, i.e. quorums and special vote requirements.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien spoke to the Commission briefly and thanked the Chairman for acknowledging the involvement of his office in the process. He said his office will provide assistance to the Ohio Casino Control Commission as necessary.

Ohio Inspector General Randy Meyer informed the Commission his office has the authority to investigate the Ohio Casino Control Commission, as well as any other state agency, for any wrongful acts. Announcing that he will work closely with the Commission on employment and ethical issues, he also indicated he will assign a Deputy Inspector General to the Commission on a full time basis.

Ohio Ethics Commission Interim Director Paul Nick presented a broad overview of Ohio's ethics laws, stressing that the application of the law must be achieved ethically and with integrity. He shared an information sheet on the provisions of Amended Substitute House Bill 519 and stressed that Commission members are prohibited from accepting anything from casino operators. Director Nick reminded members that they must file a financial disclosure form. He also reminded Commission members that their revolving door limitation is two years. In addition, members are prohibited from investing in casinos. Director Nick indicated he would assign a staff member to work with the Commission.

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Legal Counsel Pete Russell, on behalf of Director Tony Bledsoe, informed Commission members they are required to register as a legislative agent. The Commission's Executive Director and key staff in supervisory or policy making positions are also governed by Ohio's lobbying laws and must register.

Ohio Assistant Attorney General Hilary Damaser, who has been designated as Legal Counsel for the Commission, introduced Michael Rzymek who will be working with her. They will both be assisting the Commission with the development of rules required by House Bill 519. They were joined at the meeting by Lauren Lubow of the Attorney General's office who provided a detailed review of Ohio's open meeting and public records law.

Highlights of the presentation were:

- Meetings of the Commission are subject to Ohio's Sunshine Laws.
- The Commission is required by law to meet monthly but may meet more frequently.
- A majority of the Commission is four of the seven members but five members are required for a quorum.
- No virtual meetings are permitted.
- Public notice must be given on all meetings, regular or special.
- The Commission may go into Executive Session to discuss certain topics including personnel, purchase or sale of property, pending or imminent litigation, collective bargaining, matters required to be kept confidential by law and security arrangements.
- Public records are generally considered to be any document or email about what the Commission does.
- Public records (paper or email) may only be deleted or destroyed according to a retention schedule established by the Commission and must be made available within a reasonable period of time.
- Texting for Commission business is discouraged.
- Once personal work is shared with other Commission members or staff, it becomes a public record.

Chairman Davidson briefly reviewed her conversations with the Office of Budget and Management about making funds available to the Commission for FY 11 expenditures. She also explained that it will be necessary for the Commission to meet bi-weekly for the next several months. Davidson mentioned the possibility of Commission members touring the back room operations of a casino which would be helpful in developing rules and in making a decision on whether Ohio should proceed with a centralized system.

Discussion followed on how research requests should be handled and the possibility of providing official email accounts for members. Agenda items for the next Commission meeting were discussed and include: review of the budget; office space; dates for casino back room tours; election of a vice chairman; adoption of a record retention policy, presentations by Ohio's casino operators and possibly a presentation on the proposed license application and rule.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.