

1 THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
3 RACING DIVISION
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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8 RE: HARNESS HORSE RACING LICENSE APPLICATION

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11 BEFORE: COMMISSIONER GAYLE CAMERON
12 COMMISSIONER BRUCE STEBBINS
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18 November 4, 2015 10:00 a.m.

19 PLAINVILLE SENIOR CENTER

20 9 School Street

21 Plainville, Massachusetts
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1 APPEARANCES:

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3 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION:

4 Todd Grossman, Deputy General Counsel

5 Dr. Alex Lightbaum, Interim Director of Racing

6 Doug O'Donnell, Sr. Financial Analyst

7 Cecelia Porche, Paralegal

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10 GUEST SPEAKERS:

11 Steve O'Toole, Plainville Racing and

12 Redevelopment

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P R O C E E D I N G S :

COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.
Today is Wednesday, November 4, 2015. This is a public hearing before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. I am Gayle Cameron representing the Commission today. Also present is Commissioner Bruce Stebbins.

This hearing is being held pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 128A, section 3.

We are here today to accept public comment on the racing license application submitted by Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment for harness horseracing to be held at Plainridge Park Casino.

Before we begin, the Commission would like to thank you all for being here today. This is a public hearing. It is critically important for you, the public, to be part of the process to ensure that the Commission achieves the best results possible.

The purpose of this public hearing is to offer any interested person or group the

1 opportunity to comment on this racing license
2 application. This is not a question-and-answer
3 period or a debate. Once we begin, anyone who
4 wishes to comment will raise their hand and be
5 recognized by the Commission. They may then
6 proceed to offer their comment.

7 The Commission requests that all
8 speakers identify themselves prior to commenting
9 and please be sure to keep your voices up as
10 this hearing is being recorded.

11 With that we will now open up the
12 floor for comment. Mr. O'Toole, did you have
13 some opening comments you'd like to make?

14 MR. O'TOOLE: Yes, Commissioner.
15 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to
16 present the annual racing license application
17 for 2016.

18 I believe the past year and half,
19 last season, last season and this season so far
20 has demonstrated that Plainville, now Plainville
21 Gaming and Redevelopment meets the seven
22 statutory requirements in order for licensure.
23 Safe and convenient facilities at the time of
24 year that we race, maximizing state revenues,

1 etc.

2 Last year we had a successful 2014
3 meet where we raced 80 days. We paid \$2.4
4 million in purses, almost \$900,000 overpayment
5 in purses. So far this year, we paid out \$3
6 million in purses until the money from the Race
7 Horse Development Fund started flowing into the
8 purse account, which has now stabilized that
9 purse account, we were overpaid \$1.9 million.
10 Now that purse account has stabilized. And it
11 looks like at the end of this season, our total
12 purses for 2015 will be \$3.5 and we estimate
13 about \$5 million next year.

14 The improvements to the facility
15 have gone over well with the customers as well
16 as our employees. Handle and simulcast is up
17 dramatically. The last three months have really
18 been good months for us. All of the dust has
19 settled, if you will, from the construction and
20 from all of the activity. And we've had a
21 really good turnout.

22 We'd like to see a little bit better
23 on our live handle, but we're still hoping with
24 the influx of funds to the horsemen we'll be

1 able to put out a better product next year.

2 There are a few areas of concern
3 that we still have from the construction.
4 Although when we raced continuously through the
5 construction efforts, I think the horsemen as
6 well as the employees did a fantastic job of
7 just the gymnastics that had to go on in order
8 to have a race meet while all of that
9 construction was going on went very well.

10 I walked last week with the town
11 planner on some of the drainage issues. As you
12 know, all of the storm water drainage goes to
13 the infield of the track. So, there were some
14 concerns about all of the sediment and
15 everything that initially came down especially
16 from those last two or three storms that we had
17 some severe downpours.

18 Those are being addressed and we go
19 before the planning board for the final
20 occupancy permit shortly. That shouldn't be an
21 issue.

22 Second-tier seating viewing of the
23 races is a little bit of a concern with our
24 customers. And we're working on that. But

1 other than that that's really the only area of
2 concern we have from our customers. Having that
3 as a banquet room, there's not tiered seating
4 and we'll try to do something to make that a
5 little bit more pleasant for people who like to
6 watch the races from the second level. Other
7 than that I think we've done a pretty good job.

8 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: I certainly
9 would agree. So, did I hear you say \$3.5
10 million in purses this year expected to be \$5
11 million next year?

12 MR. O'TOOLE: Correct.

13 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Excellent.
14 What is the issue with second-tier seating?

15 MR. O'TOOLE: The building is flat
16 on that second floor. This has been a problem
17 since it was built. So, we're just trying to
18 raise up a couple of levels to do something so
19 the people can sit there and actually see over
20 each other. On the apron, we just installed 100
21 fix seating seats on the apron, which came out
22 very nice.

23 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Those are in
24 now, those seats?

1 MR. O'TOOLE: Those are in, yes.
2 So, we're just trying to do something kind of
3 like stadium seating on the second level so that
4 people can watch the races on the window and
5 then a couple of rows behind. So, we are
6 working on that.

7 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Excellent.
8 Thank you for that. Director Lightbaum, any
9 issues you want us to be aware of? The
10 application looked to be intact?

11 DR. LIGHTBAUM: Yes. The
12 application is intact. We had a good meet. As
13 Steve mentioned, the disruption from the
14 construction was minimal and racing was able to
15 work around it. And the Gaming Commission is in
16 the new racing building, which is very nice.
17 So, our employees are very happy to have that
18 facility right now.

19 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Excellent.
20 Have you concluded with your comments, Mr.
21 O'Toole?

22 MR. O'TOOLE: I just hope you look
23 favorably upon our license application. A lot
24 of jobs depend on it. We believe we've

1 fulfilled all of the statutory requirements.

2 And we will have our best efforts and our best
3 foot forward for 2016.

4 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you for
5 that. Anyone else want to make comments at this
6 time? Why don't we do this. Why don't we
7 suspend until 10:30 so we can give people an
8 opportunity to come here to make comments if
9 they happen to be a little late. So, at this
10 time, we'll suspend the hearing. And it will be
11 reconvened at 10:30. Thank you.

12

13 (A recess was taken)

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15 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Good morning.
16 This is Commissioner Gayle Cameron. We are
17 reconvening this hearing. It is about 10:38.
18 Are there any additional citizens that would
19 like to make comment on this racing application?
20 Seeing none, we will close the hearing at this
21 time. Thank you all.

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23 (Hearing closed at 10:38 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laurie J. Jordan, an Approved Court Reporter,
do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
and accurate transcript from the record of the
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I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify that the
foregoing is in compliance with the
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I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify I neither
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financially nor otherwise interested in the
outcome of this action.

Proceedings recorded by Verbatim means, and
transcript produced from computer.

WITNESS MY HAND this 4th day of November,
2015.



LAURIE J. JORDAN
Notary Public

My Commission expires:
May 11, 2018