

Racing and Gaming Committee Minutes  
June 10, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Grattidge; Supervisors Martin, Wood, Sausville, Veitch, Barrett, and Johnson; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Skip Carlson, Casino Gaming and Raceway; Press.

Chairman Grattidge called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Chairman Grattidge announced the appointment of Supervisor Tom Wood as committee Vice Chair.

Mr. Bardack from Ed Lewi Associates gave a brief overview of the 2014 Saratoga Racetrack season. Open house will be on July 13th. The season will run from July 18th through Labor Day. Mr. Bardack said there would be forty days of special events throughout the year with a build out of a permanent structure called the Saratoga Pavilion. On the final Wednesday of the racing season, August 27th, Saratoga Heritage Day will be held, celebrating Saratoga's heritage and history.

Mr. Bardack said for the first time ever, season passes will be available outside the track. A partnership was entered into with Stewarts Shops, where passes will be available at 151 Stewart Shop locations throughout the four immediate counties Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga, as well as Warren County. He said tickets are selling at well ahead of last years' pace, available for \$34 for a grandstand season pass and \$50 for a clubhouse season pass.

The Annual Saratoga Press Conference will be held on June 23rd at Fasig-Tipton in Saratoga Springs. He said once the time has been finalized invitations will be sent to all Supervisors.

Mr. Martin said that it was his understanding that there was a revenue sharing arrangement among the thoroughbred tracks from some of the VLT profits from the Aqueduct VLT. He asked if the money was coming in as expected and on time and had a plan been put together for the capital improvements for 2015. Mr. Bardack said he couldn't speak for 2015, but for 2014, there is \$1.9 million for capital improvements to Saratoga Racetrack.

Mr. Carlson from the Saratoga Casino & Raceway gave a brief overview of the East Greenbush project and asked for Saratoga County's support of the project. He said there will be a Casino location in the capital district, and Saratoga Casino and Raceway thinks they have the best location in East Greenbush. The project is a \$300 million project that will be located on Rt. 90 between exits 8 and 9 in the Thompsonville District. The project is expected to create approximately a 1,500 to 1,700 construction jobs and another 1,700 permanent jobs at the location.

Mr. Carlson said Saratoga County will receive between \$2.4 to \$2.8 million in revenue. He said studies have been done that show Saratoga County could lose 35% to 45% of the current business at the Saratoga Casino and Raceway to the commercial casino. Mr. Carlson said if there was a combined effort between Saratoga County and the Saratoga Casino and Raceway in East Greenbush it would be beneficial to employees and to Saratoga County.

Mr. Carlson said a 108 room hotel is currently going through the SEQOR process to be built in Saratoga Springs, connected to the current Racino facility. He said the hotel is a wonderful amenity that can complement what is currently there.

Mr. Carlson said their gaming partner for the facility in East Greenbush is Churchill Downs, a strong partner that they are looking forward to working with.

Mr. Grattidge said as there may be a loss of business in gaming in Saratoga County, the dedicated employees could have an option to relocate or work in the East Greenbush Casino. Mr. Carlson said since the Casino will have to be up and running within two years after they are designated, it would be helpful to have employees that are experienced.

Mr. Carlson said on Thursday, June 12th the East Greenbush Town Board will be voting on a site specific resolution that is required by the State.

Mr. Moore said if Saratoga County was to lose the casino business that they currently have through the VLT facility what impact would it have on the payments made to the horsemen. Mr. Carlson said it is part of the legislation that the horsemen will be protected.

Mr. Grattidge said no other operation or gaming company has approached Saratoga County and asked for consideration. He said he would propose that the committee support a resolution supporting Saratoga Raceway and Casino to be the preferred operator at the East Greenbush location and that the county pass it on to the Law and Finance Committee for consideration.

Mr. Wood said he was in full support for all the reasons that have been described. He said it is clearly in the best interest of Saratoga County that this proposal be supported.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve a resolution of support for the Saratoga Casino and Raceway East Greenbush Project. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Martin the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom