

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

Subject: FW: [External] Caernarvon Twp Casino

From: Allen Eagles <aeaglesjr@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2019 1:05 PM

To: GB, PGCB <RA-PGCB@pa.gov>

Subject: [External] Caernarvon Twp Casino

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Hello,

I just wanted to let you know that most of the naysayers don't even live in our township - please feel free to disregard their BS.

Regards,
Allen Eagles
150 Dover Court
Morgantown Pa 19543

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Shelly King <thekingsmountain@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 1:44 PM
To: gmcewen@tvsd.org
Cc: cosborne@tvsd.org; srucci@tvsd.org; abolt@tvsd.org; jburdy@tvsd.org; cchappelle@tvsd.org; jhorrocks@tvsd.org; dmetcalfe@tvsd.org; atrego@tvsd.org; Sam Rohrer; astyer@caernarvon.org; wntwp@ptd.et; supervisors@honeybrooktp.com; cmulhall@hbboro.net; ceasterday@robersontownship.com; dwight@elversonboro.org; Lloyd, Linda (PGCB); thennes@pahousegop.com; Eaton Hopkins; Carol quaintance; Ron Southwick; glenton@readingeagle.com; amaykuth@phillynews.com; irene.snyder@wfmz.com; tom.rader@wfmz.com
Subject: [External] Re: School Board duty to inquire into the impact of a casino in our rural school district

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Twin Valley School Board members:

I am writing to request follow up from the Twin Valley School Board on the email I submitted over a week ago and any subsequent activity related to this matter from tonight's school board meeting. Where is the best place to find previous school board meeting minutes to review?

Due to prior commitments on Monday nights, I have been unable and am still unable to attend the school board meetings for the foreseeable future. I am attempting to do my best to stay informed through other means.

Kindest regards,
Shelly King

On Sat, Apr 6, 2019 at 11:51 AM Shelly King <thekingsmountain@gmail.com> wrote:
To the TVSD Board,

It is my understanding that you've been presented with this specific request along with supporting articles & information from Paul Shenk on multiple occasions:

A full impartial impact study, based on the below *quoted/italicized information, be requested of the Caernarvon Township, Berks County board of supervisors by the school board on behalf of the student body & the families it represents.

I have read both his request & supporting information specifically concerning casino impacts on schools. It appears that to date no action has been taken by the school board to request said impact study.

I am writing today to ask two questions:

1-has the board discussed this matter internally at all to date? Why or why not?

2-what action do you need from the TVSD community in order for you to take immediate prompt action? It is my understanding that "a school board transcends the legal limits of its discretion when it makes a decision in ignorance due to lack of inquiry into facts necessary to form an intelligent judgement." Your inaction is seen as a decision on this matter as well, and does not appear to be proper execution of the duty you were elected to perform.

I would like it put on record our insistence that you take action immediately to request a completely impartial and full impact study beyond the scope of the solely economic impact study presented by PNG on a proposed casino in our community. I believe Paul Shenk has shared exactly what that study should include, and that is the type of impact study I am writing to request be done immediately. And if a study of this magnitude can not be completed in a timely manner, that you petition the state to put a stay on ANY future decisions on granting licenses/approvals until such a study can be completed & reviewed by the school board, it's district municipalities and the PA gaming commission board.

Any continued inaction moving forward will be seen as a disregard for the best interests of the community you serve. I will await acknowledgement of this email and any reply from the board members.

Sincerely,
Michele & Leon King
Honey Brook Township

**"School board members have a duty to make sure that a good faith, careful, reasonable , impartial, searching , detailed, systematic, examinative, investigative, and probing inquiry or study has been conducted, without any self dealing , prior to the exercise of their discretion .*

A school board transcends the legal limits of its discretion when it makes a decision in ignorance due to lack of inquiry into facts necessary to form an intelligent judgment.

See short article post @ <http://thelegalstudypost.com/2019/04/05/school-board-member-duty-to-inquire/> "

Of note: this letter is being submitted to the municipalities that comprise the Twin Valley School district as a matter of record. A hard copy will be mailed to Christopher Weber, president of the New Morgan Borough Council, as contact information for that borough is limited on their very out of date website. As well as others deemed important to be informed of actions requested within our community & governing bodies. Hard copies will also be mailed to Rep Gillen, Rep Zimmerman, Sen Muth & Sen Swank.

Sent from my iPad

April 17, 2019

PGCB Hearings & Appeals Office
303 Walnut St.
2nd floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PA Gaming Control Board:

This letter is in reference to the Mountain View-Penn National Category 4 license for the proposed mini-casino in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. I ask again that you deny this license.

I found some interesting facts concerning HB 271 that I want to share with you. If my understanding is correct, this is the legislation that allows for the category 4 gaming licenses, among other things. Local state representatives spoke with their votes in October 2017 regarding HB 271. Rep. Mark Gillen, who represents Caernarvon Township, in addition to other municipalities, voted no. Rep. Dave Zimmerman, who represents neighboring municipalities in Lancaster County, voted no. Rep. Tim Hennessey, who represents neighboring municipalities in Chester County, voted yes on the legislation, but spoke at the March 4 hearing saying that "if it were to be built, it could conflict with the cultures and conservative tradition of this region in the Commonwealth."

https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/files/meetings/Meeting_Comments_20190304_received_at_March_4_public_hearing.pdf

https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/RC/Public/rc_view_action2.cfm?sess_yr=2017&sess_ind=0&rc_body=H&rc_nbr=819

Local state senators also spoke with their votes in October 2017. Sen. Judith Schwank, who represents Caernarvon Township, in addition to other municipalities, voted no. Sen. Ryan Aument, who represents nearby Lancaster County municipalities, voted no. Sen. John Rafferty (who, from what I read, has since been replaced with Sen. Katie Muth), formerly representing nearby Chester County municipalities, voted no.

https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/RC/Public/rc_view_action2.cfm?sess_yr=2017&sess_ind=0&rc_body=S&rc_nbr=328

It is interesting to note two specific municipalities that opted out. One is Mount Wolf Borough, Gov. Wolf's hometown. The other is Wyomissing Borough, home of Penn National Gaming.

https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/files/legislation/cat4_opt-out_municipality.pdf

Thank you for your time.


Lisa Joye

CC: Rep. Mark Gillen

CC: Sen. Judith Schwank

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Lisa Joye <storelady93@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)
Cc: Mark Gillen
Subject: [External] Penn National license, Caernarvon Township, Berks County

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PA Gaming Control Board:

I am writing again about the Mountain View-Penn National Category 4 license for the proposed mini-casino in Caernarvon Township, Berks County. Again, I ask that you deny this license.

The Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors is quick to point out in local media outlets that many of the individual speakers at the hearing opposed to the casino are not township residents. However, this same board is not quick to point out that several groups & individuals who spoke in favor of the casino are also not located here in Caernarvon Township. The following groups or individuals spoke in favor of granting a license to Penn National Gaming at the March 4 public hearing in Caernarvon Township, Berks County:

- *Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (located in Reading, not Caernarvon Township)
- *Building & Construction Trades of Reading & Vicinity (located in Reading, not Caernarvon Township)
- *Insulators Local 23 (headquartered in Middletown, PA, not Caernarvon Township)
- *Commissioner Barnhardt (located in Reading, not Caernarvon Township)

It is worth noting that none of these groups are located in Caernarvon Township and would not be directly affected by local problems arising from the casino.

The chairman of the Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors frequently mentions that only 6 Caernarvon residents at the hearing spoke against the casino. I asked the Caernarvon Township Board of Supervisors how many Caernarvon residents at the hearing spoke in favor of the casino. The chairman responded, "I don't know." According to some recent data I've read, only 3 Caernarvon residents spoke in favor of the casino.

I know you have much to consider. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lisa Joye

CC: Rep. Mark Gillen
CC: Sen. Judith Schwank

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Donna Moyer <dsmoyer79@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:46 AM
To: GB, PGCB; GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] Support for Proposed Mini-Casino in Morgantown

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Greetings:

My name is Donna Moyer and I am writing to you to show my support for the building of the mini-casino in Morgantown.

My partner and I are heavily invested in what some have come to call the Twin Valley area. We own a home in Robeson Township just off of Route 10 which means that we travel past the proposed site for the casino on a regular basis.

We also own an investment property in Elverson Borough, the next town to the east of Morgantown. That property was used as a residence before we purchased it, but it is zoned commercially. We have invested heavily to improve it so that it can house businesses. And we have been able to grow our businesses there due to the excellent regional location and access to major roadways.

However, not everyone sees the potential that the area has to offer and it has been difficult for us to attract other businesses to the area to lease any of the space we have made available.

We still believe in the great potential of the area, but we also know that it will take a destination business to draw in other investors.

If you had asked me what I would like to see as a destination business, a casino would not have been my first choice. Since we are so heavily invested in the area, I wanted to be sure that whatever destination business we had, it would have the right impact on our area.

However, I do have great respect for Penn National Gaming as a company. And as I heard about the tax benefits to the host community, investment that Penn National Gaming would provide to the community at large, how the gaming industry is regulated and the security around the site itself, I was able to see the advantages that a casino could bring to our area over other businesses that would occupy the proposed site. This led to my decision to support the casino.

I am also very much in favor of the proposed location. Locating the casino along Route 10 in New Morgan would not be something that I would be in favor of due to the potential traffic congestion it could cause. The location at the intersection of 3 major roadways is ideal for the community.

Additionally, the tax benefit to New Morgan would really not benefit the community at large. Caernarvon Township is central to the Twin Valley region. Using the taxes to add police officers and improve the roads as that township proposes would be a benefit to all of us who travel through Caernarvon on a daily basis. And finally having a business at the proposed location would also increase security for all of us.

I know that there has been a great deal of fear mongering throughout the community at large, leading to a very vocal group who are against the casino. I am writing to speak for myself and others who see the benefit that jobs and a destination business can bring to this community.

I am hopeful that by writing to you, I can add my voice to those who are in favor of this proposed casino and help you to decide to approve it.

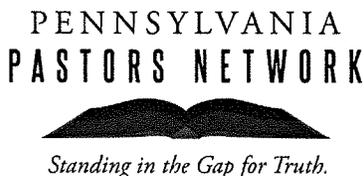
Sincerely,

Donna Moyer

Lloyd, Linda (PGCB)

From: Amy Baisley <amy@americanpastors.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:28 AM
To: GB, PGCB; GB, Board Clerk
Subject: [External] From Hon. Sam Rohrer RE: Proposed Morgantown Casino

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Linda Lloyd

Director of Hearings and Appeal

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

Harrisburg, PA

Dear Ms. Lloyd,

I would respectfully request that you and the Commissioners accept this addendum to my verbal and written copy testimony of March 4, 2019 before the Gaming Control Board in Caernarvon Township (Berks). In the genuine interest in assisting the Commissioners to fulfill their administrative duties regarding the Class 4 licenses and particularly the Morgantown application, I am submitting this letter. I know that the Commissioners are obligated to fulfill two primary duties. One is to ensure that the financial interests of the Commonwealth are achieved and that licensees can in fact produce the amount of revenue that is expected or

promised. Second, to consider the impact to the community directly affected by the placement of a casino. For this addendum, I would like to submit considerations that speak to the matter of revenue reliability.

Governor Wolf has indicated that his goal for gaming expansion is for it to create new revenue, not simply move funds from “one bucket called gambling to another.” If this is what the Legislature and Executive Branches of the Commonwealth of PA expect from the gambling expansion bill, then Morgantown as a location for a new Class 4 casino raises significant and serious doubts as to its ability to meet those expectations.

Penn National is assuming that if they open a casino at the Morgantown exchange of the PA Turnpike that a new clientele from the western Philadelphia suburbs will be enticed to drive west on the Turnpike to this new facility. At best, this projection is a ‘hope’ unsubstantiated by prior similar experiences elsewhere and further complicated by the fact that a pre-existing Penn National casino sits a mere 2 miles inside the minimum legal distance of 25 miles and located just 3 exits to the East in Valley Forge. Thus far, ‘compelling’ or convincing financial data has not reasonably been presented to prove that the Governor’s warning of not simply moving funds from ‘one bucket to another’ will not occur. The previous cited concern is further complicated by the fact that the two Turnpike Exchanges to the East of Morgantown, (Downingtown and Malvern) are already geographically closer to Valley Forge than to Morgantown. Penn National has thus far not made a convincing case as to why Morgantown, located further from Valley Forge and with absolutely nothing other expansive amounts of acreage in Farmland Preserve, low population count and Amish populations in the midst of counter culture demographics, would present any superior reason to Valley Forge with its shopping, restaurants, denser population and established casino.

In addition, the only other access route to Morgantown would be via I -176 north to Allentown – an approximately 1-hour (50 mile) ride. There is simply no convincing argument that traffic will flow from Allentown to Morgantown – a dead end location, when a nearly exact time and distance exists between Allentown and Valley Forge or Allentown to Philadelphia with unlimited other activities.

Perhaps contributing to the more unconvincing data regarding the financial credibility of a new Morgantown Casino are the words of Penn National Gaming itself in a quote by Eric Shippers, Senior VP for Public Affairs and Government Relations, in a Dec 2017 quote as recorded on Play Pennsylvania.com. *“This (vote of the legislature to expand the mini casino licenses and online gambling) was a money grab, plain and simple. .. So, they’ve done it in a way that will result in significant cannibalization...”* The financial concern raised by Penn National in regard to the fear of ‘cannibalism’ is real, and legitimate enough to be seriously considered by the Gaming Control Board in the Morgantown license application. This comment by PNG’s Eric Shippers is further bolstered by the fact that PNG was also in a legal challenge with the Commonwealth to stop the implementation of a mini-casino so as to employ both defensive and offensive strategy. According to a quote by Eric Shippers in Jan 2018 in 3 CBS Philly, *“And so we have bid (Morgantown) in a way that we think maximizes the opportunity to play defense with one eye towards offense.”* The other comment of significance that adds further doubt to the financial ability of a casino in Morgantown to accomplish its revenue goals was

made by Control Board spokesman Doug Harbach in January 2018 as well, who said, “...southeastern Pennsylvania is not likely to host a mini-casino, because of the concentration of existing casinos and the new law’s provisions that protect them.” Taken together, these statements add validity to unconvincing data being presented to support credible tax revenue estimates to the Commonwealth or to the Morgantown community.

Yet, there is another looming and inevitable factor that contributes to the lack of confidence in Penn Gaming’s claim that the Turnpike location at Morgantown will be the key to assured casino traffic. That is the very real financial condition of the PA Turnpike Commission and its guarantees of dramatically escalating Turnpike tolls over the foreseeable future through 2044! Since most Philly suburbs can access Valley Forge without using the Turnpike and in a shorter amount of time, it will be difficult at best for Penn National to persuade potential patrons to come to Morgantown either in the short-term and increasingly in the long-term.

From a historical perspective, the proposed casino in Morgantown is similar to the one that Penn National built in Perryville, Maryland several years ago. Perryville is only about an hour’s drive south of Morgantown. While it is a rural community, Perryville is located directly off of I-95. Initially the casino did fine, but after larger casinos opened up in Baltimore, its revenue sank. People simply weren’t willing to make the drive up I-95. The casino has had to remove a total of 650 slot machines due to lack of demand. The town of Perryville and the state of Maryland have not received nearly as much money as Penn National told them to expect when the casino opened.

In addition, Penn National recently announced the closure of their Resorts Casino in Tunica, Mississippi. Gaming expansion was passed in nearby Arkansas, and the competition drew business away from Tunica. The closure will not have a big effect on Penn National’s revenue, but the town of Tunica is struggling. They are collecting far less tax money from casinos than they once were, and they are having a hard time making up the difference.

Similarly, if Penn National invests in a casino in Morgantown and it fails, while Penn National could afford to take the hit, Morgantown couldn’t. Thus far, Penn National has resisted calls to provide Morgantown with a backup plan. They have given Caernarvon Berks an estimate of how much tax revenue the casino may generate, but no guarantee that the township will receive anywhere near that much money. If the township budgets according to Penn National’s estimate, but does not receive that amount of money, the community will assuredly be negatively impacted.

Penn National’s strategy is comparable to the business plan that Crossroads Gaming’s submitted in their 2006 application for a Category 2 casino in Gettysburg. When that application was denied, the Board noted that Gettysburg alone could not sustain a casino. Crossroads’ plan hinged on attracting patrons from Baltimore and Washington D.C., but a Gettysburg casino would have been no closer to these areas than the existing casino in Charlestown, West Virginia. A

February 2007 PGCB report states that “...the Board was not presented with any credible evidence to demonstrate how much of the Charlestown business could be expected to leave that facility and travel north to Gettysburg.”

What credible evidence does Penn National have that casino goers in southeastern PA will be willing to leave Valley Forge and come to Morgantown? Additionally, when gambling becomes available online and at gas stations, this fact may well further discourage people from driving out of their way to go to a casino.

Based on just the questionable revenue projection from Penn National Gaming to the Commonwealth for Category 4 casino application and the risk to Caernarvon Township/Berks in Morgantown, I would request that Board Members of the Gaming Control Board reject the application on these grounds and look for a more predictable location elsewhere in the Commonwealth. If Penn National fails to achieve the revenue estimates it has set, the casino would become a burden on the Morgantown area. This would negatively affect not just the community in Caernarvon Berks, but also the surrounding townships in 3 different Counties.

For these financial and revenue reasons – not even to mention the incongruous nature of locating a casino in Morgantown – the Gateway to the historic Amish communities, I would ask that the PA Gaming Control Board accept this further consideration as an addendum to my submitted testimony to the Board during the March 4 public hearing in Morgantown.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hon. Sam Rohrer, President

Pennsylvania Pastors Network

Former member, PA House representing Morgantown and surrounding areas

cc:

David Barasch, Chairman

Obra S. Kernodle IV

Sean Logan, Commissioner

Kathy M. Manderino, Commissioner

T. Mark Mustio, Commissioner

Merritt C. Reitzel, Commissioner

Dante Santoni, Jr.

SER:ab

Amy Baisley

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