

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL RIVERBOAT COMMISSION**

**January 19, 2016 at 4:45P.M.  
Reding & Santiago, PLC offices  
FORT MADISON, IOWA**

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Steve Staebell

Commissioners Present:

Steve Link (FM), via proxy, a copy of which is enclosed with these minutes, Dave Walker (Br), Terry Johnson (Br), Dave Schwarz (KK), Kirk Brandenberger (KK) and Joe Steil (KK)

Guests:

Rob Higgins – General Manager of Catfish Bend Casinos

Reporters from the Daily Democrat and The Hawkeye were present of the meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2015 MEETING:**

Terry Johnson made a motion to approve the October 20, 2015 minutes, Dave Walker seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- A. October Financial Report
  - a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the October financial report, said motion was seconded by Joe Steil
  - b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.
- B. November Financial Report
  - a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the November financial report, said motion was seconded by Kirk Brandenberger
  - b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.
- C. December Financial Report

## **Minutes of Meeting of Southeast Iowa Riverboat Commission – January 19, 2016**

- a. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the October financial report, said motion was seconded by Terry Johnson
- b. Report passed on unanimous voice vote.

### **CATFISH BEND CASINOS L.C. REPORT:**

Rob Higgins provided the Commissioners a couple of brochures showing up and coming events and promotions at the casino.

Higgins reported an 11% increase of revenue for October-December 2015 compared to the same time period in 2014.

Higgins informed the Commission that the casino was doing very well compared to other facilities throughout the state. Most other facilities saw either flat growth or negative revenue numbers. While the casino saw an increase of 25%. He attributes this increased revenue to projects in the area that brought in additional workers/employees (i.e. IFC, Menards and Silgan), good weather and low gas prices.

Higgins indicated that they are constantly changing the casino floor to make it one of the premier casino floors in the state. Catfish has recently added 20-30 machines.

Higgins indicated that the casino would be participating in the upcoming 'Gaming Day' in Des Moines. At this event, the different casino operators would get to meet with elected officials to discuss issues/topics related to gaming in Iowa.

Higgins indicated that January has started out pretty well for the casino. He also indicated that they are currently undergoing renovations to the hotel at the Pzazz complex.

### **MEETING WITH IRGC – TERRY JOHNSON**

Commissioner Terry Johnson gave a report regarding the Commission's meeting with representative from IRGC. The other commissioners who participated include Dave Walker and Steve Staebell. One of the main topics discussed was term limits for Commissioners. Terry indicated to the IRGC that the SIRRC is different compared to other non-profit partners because of the requirements that each community (Fort Madison, Burlington And Keokuk) require representation on the commission. She also indicated how it is often difficult to find commissioners to serve. SIRRC requested a carve out for this proposed requirement. Dave walker prepared a letter and sent it to IRGC to summarize the commissions position with regards to term limits.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION FEES – DCI.** STAEBELL indicated that the cost of background checks would likely decrease from \$4500 to \$500.

### **FORT MADISON COMMISSIONER OPENINGS**

**Minutes of Meeting of Southeast Iowa Riverboat Commission – January 19, 2016**

The commission discussed that the two Fort Madison commissioner openings would be filled with Justin Pieper and Chuck Kempker. These two openings were to fill the positions made vacant by James Platt and Sharon Scholl-Nabulsi

**LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT**

Letters of appointment have been received from all communities.

**2015 AUDIT**

Copies of the 2015 accounting audit were provided to the commissioners.

Dave Walker made a motion to accept the audit, said motion was seconded by Joe Steil.

Said motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

The following slate of candidates was nominated by Dave Walker and seconded by Terry Johnson:

Steve Staebell, president

Dave Schwarz, vice-president

Dave Walker, treasurer

Terry Johnson, secretary.

The slate of candidates passed by unanimous voice vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

NONE

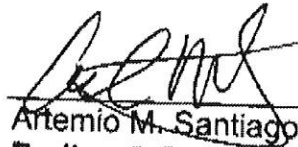
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Joe Steil made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Commission, Terry Johnson seconded said motion.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 5: 28pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Artemio M. Santiago  
**Reding & Santiago, PLC**

711 Ave G

Fort Madison, IA 52627

(319) 372-7774

mio@fortmadisonlaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR COMMISSION