



CT Lottery

MEETING TRANSCRIPTION Legislative & Games Committee Special Meeting

June 4, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
via teleconference

Committee Members: Margaret Morton, Chair of the Legislative & Games Committee; Wilfred Blanchette, Jr.; Meghan Culmo; John Flores; Manny Langella; and James Heckman (all via teleconference).

Board Members: Robert Simmelkjaer, Board Chair

Staff Members Present: Greg Smith, President & CEO; Matthew Stone; Andrew Walter; and Annmarie Daigle.

I. Welcome:

(M. Morton): Welcome everyone to our Special Meeting of the Legislative & Games Committee on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. I'd like to start by asking Matt to give us the meeting procedures.

(M. Stone): Thank you. This is Matt Stone, General Counsel for the Lottery. Just a reminder that we are operating under Governor Lamont's Executive Order regarding public access to meetings. We have the public on a different phone line listening in, and that phone line will be taken out of the room if there is an Executive Session, which I don't see on the agenda but you never know. That line will be kept open and active and then brought back into the room after Executive Session. A reminder that speakers should identify themselves by name each time they speak, this is particularly important for Board members when making motions, seconding motions, voting no or abstaining from a vote, so that we have the record clearly reflect who took what actions the public knows who is speaking. And finally, this meeting is being recorded, audio only, as there is no in person attendance. We will post the recording transcript on our website after the meeting, which will serve as the minutes of the meeting. That is all I have, thank you.

II. Approval of the April 7, 2020 Legislative & Games Committee Meeting Minutes:

(M. Morton): Thank you Matt. Our first order of business on the agenda is the approval of our April 7, 2020 Legislative & Games Committee Special Meeting Minutes. May I have a motion to approve?

(J. Flores): John Flores, so moved.

(W. Blanchette): Will Blanchette, second.

(M. Morton): Any issues, questions? Hearing none, all those in favor?

(All): Aye.

(M. Morton): Opposed? Anyone abstaining? Ok, thank you, the minutes from April 7th are approved.

III. Review and Possible Action Re: Mega Millions and Powerball Game Rules:

(M. Morton): Next we are going to review and approve the Mega Millions and the Powerball game rules changes. I think we've discussed this at other meetings but there have been some additional changes. Andrew, can you walk us through these changes?

(A. Walter): Yes, this is Andrew Walter, I'm happy to take you through this. I believe you have received in your electronic packet that Annmarie sent out a word document, a note regarding the changes that Greg and I put together because the best word to describe it a little bit convoluted so I will summarize what I wrote in my note and then if Greg would like he could fill in anything I left out. Back in February the Board approved Powerball and Mega Millions rules that addressed two promotions that the Connecticut Lottery decided not to offer, those being Double Play and Just the Jackpot. We still needed to adopt these rules to continue to sell the game. Those changes were going to be effective April 22nd and April 21st. After the Board adopted those, COVID happened and the Powerball and Mega Millions groups took what I'll call immediate action to deal with the fact that the games could not sustain the jackpot increase amounts and the minimum starting jackpots. Those groups took immediate action and then our Board met again on April 9th and approved changes to Powerball that were effective immediately and the Mega Millions rules were not ready at that point and the Board has taken no further action on Mega Millions. Everything that the Board approved only got us through April 22nd meaning that the current rules that we do have do not incorporate the new about the lower starting jackpot and the smaller increases between jackpot draws. What is front of you right now are very minor changes, they speak to the current situation that we are in with respect to not being able to have the guaranteed increases between the draws and the smaller starting jackpot. Greg, do you want to chime in?

(G. Smith): Without restating what Andrew said, this is one of those that you will probably never see in your life at the lottery where you're approving the same change two times because we had a future rule change that got interrupted by the pandemic. We've already approved both of these changes but we need to do it again so that they hit the rules that were in existence at that moment in time and the rules that are now in place based on that Double Play and Just the Jackpot features. Just simply an oddity in the mechanics of the rules.

(M. Morton): Thank you. Are there any questions for Greg or Andrew about these rules changes?

(G. Smith): This is Greg, one last comment is that the Department of Consumer Protection is aware of these changes and they know that as soon as the Committee recommends them and the Board approves them we will be bringing these changes forward to them for that formal approval and ultimately updated the website for the public to see.

(M. Morton): Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the new rules for the Mega Millions and Powerball games?

(G. Smith): Chair Morton, this is Greg one more time. We have a resolution for each game to reflect the motions. I can read each of them.

(M. Morton): That would be helpful.

(G. Smith): Resolved, that, after review and due consideration, the Legislative and Games Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that the Board of Directors approve the Powerball game rules changes as presented.

(M. Langella): Manny Langella, motion to approve.

(W. Blanchette): Will Blanchette, second.

(M. Morton): Thank you. All those in favor?

(All): Aye.

(M. Morton): Abstentions? Hearing none. Ok. Thank you. Shall we do the second one.

(G. Smith): Ok, this is Greg. Resolved, that, after review and due consideration, the Legislative and Games Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that the Board of Directors approve the Mega Millions game rules changes as presented.

(M. Morton): Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the resolution?

(M. Langella): Manny Langella, motion to approve.

(J. Heckman): Second. Jim Heckman.

(M. Morton): Thank you. All those in favor of the Mega Millions rules?

(All): Aye.

(M. Morton): Opposed? Abstentions? Hearing none. Ok. Thank you, they pass and we'll be presenting this to the Board.

IV. Adjournment:

(M. Morton): That is the end of our agenda, except for adjournment. Thank you everyone for getting together on the phone and thank you Andrew and Greg for walking us through. I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

(W. Blanchette): Will Blanchette, so moved.

(J. Flores): Second. John Flores.

(M. Morton): All in favor?

(All): Aye.

(M. Morton): Thank you everyone, we are adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stone
Corporation Secretary
Connecticut Lottery Corporation