

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : October 10, 2017

TO : Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM : Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT : Wasserman – Potawatomi Agreement

Information Requested

Supervisor Wasserman requested information as to whether the County can re-negotiate the existing agreement with Potawatomi and also when the agreement ends.


Background/Analysis

In 1992, the state of Wisconsin entered into a gaming compact with the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe. In 1999 the agreement was amended to allow additional slot machines and blackjack tables provided local approval with the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County was reached. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved file number 99-119 which executes an Intergovernmental Agreement that results in an annual payment of 1.5% of the Class III Net Win or \$3.24 million dollars whichever is greater to Milwaukee County.

The gaming compact may only be negotiated by the State of Wisconsin with the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe. The current agreement may only be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties or by the revocation of Class III gaming upon tribal lands. Changes to the agreement between the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe & Milwaukee County will change under the following circumstances:

- Milwaukee County revenue will terminate if authority were granted by either the County or City to an entity other than the Wisconsin Lottery to operate Class III gaming
- Milwaukee County minimum guarantee will expire if the Wisconsin Lottery expands Class III gaming within Milwaukee County beyond what is currently authorized and operated
- Milwaukee County and the Forest County Potawatomi would renegotiate the terms of the agreement if the State of Wisconsin grants Class III gaming without approval of the County & City.

Barring any of the aforementioned scenarios, the Class III net win contribution from the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe will continue indefinitely.



Teig Whaley-Smith
Director, Dept. Admin. Services

Cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director