## IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2004

PRESENT: RICK MODESITT, PRESIDENT
K.D. MERRITT, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT K. TEBAY, COMMISSIONER

At 3:30 P.M., the County Commission held a Special Meeting to discuss the ordinance for locating video lottery establishments.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Robert K. Tebay, seconded by K.D. Merritt and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby ACCEPTED, and consequently placed in the record, the statement of protest against the proposed ordinance affecting limited video lottery establishments read by Dr. Mike Shramowiat. A copy of the statement is attached to these minutes. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Robert K. Tebay and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby ORDER the ADOPTION of the following clarifications presented by Angela Ramsey, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, in regard to the LAND USE ORDINANCE FOR LOCATING VIDEO LOTTERY ESTABLISHMENTS 2004. The aforementioned clarifications were made in regard to the LAND USE ORDINANCE FOR LOCATING VIDEO LOTTERY ESTABLISHMENTS 2004 following the Public Hearing held by the County Commission of Wood County on May 4, 2004.

- 1. Licensing Fee in the amount of two thousand dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$2,000.00) has been removed.
- 2. A residence owned by a licensee has been excluded from the one thousand feet (1000') requirement.
- 3. An application fee of one hundred dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$100.00)

has been included in the new Ordinance.

4. An appeal process has been included in the new Ordinance.

An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Robert K. Tebay and made unanimous by Rick Modesitt, did hereby ORDER the ADOPTION OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE FOR LOCATING VIDEO LOTTERY ESTABLISHMENTS 2004. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

Having no further business to attend to, the County Commission adjourned. A copy of those in attendance is attached to these minutes. There is nothing on the tape that was used for this hearing.

APPROVED:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY

Rick Modesitt, President

K.D. Merritt, Commissioner

Robert K. Tebay, Commissioner

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I am here today to protest against the proposed zoning ordinances affecting limited video lottery establishments. First of all, let me say that the whole premise for which the proposed zoning ordinance is being done is false. In the proposal released by the County Commission, the County Commissioner's feel that the reason this is being done is to protect the public from danger and also to protect property values in the community. Where are the specific examples or statistics to back up these claims? Otherwise, I defy anyone to give me specific examples of how the presence of a limited video lottery establishment in any way endangers or harms the public. If indeed the County Commission does feel that the presence of a limited video lottery establishment puts its employees at risk for harm, or in any way places the public at risk for harm, I am extremely disappointed that the County Commission would rather choose to punish the business community rather than to target the criminal. If you want to change the law then do so to ensure that there is a strong deterrent for criminal activity. The business community contributes not only tax dollars but also provides jobs to the citizens of Wood County. As a windfall of the limited video lottery establishments, the County also reaps a significant profit on a monthly basis. The County Commission also appears to be representing the needs of a few fringe groups who disagree with the existing laws and specifically want to change the laws to suit these individuals rather than taking into consideration the needs of the business community and the citizens of Wood County at large. The citizens of Wood County are not stupid. They can certainly make their own decision in whether or not they want to patronize a particular establishment. We do not need further restrictions imposed by the Wood County Commission, nor do we need to have a particular religious organization's brand of morality forced upon us.

I urge the citizens of Wood County to contact the Commissioners if they do not want to have their freedom to engage in business activity and their freedom to patronize business establishments infringed upon. In America, we are fortunate to enjoy the freedom to worship as we please, and we are also free to engage in business and patronize whichever business we choose. Our existing laws work as they are drafted. The real protection that we need is from individuals who would choose to restrict our freedom and choice in doing business.

Our Constitution declares that there be a separation of Church and state. I ask that our Constitution be upheld. Representatives of churches should not be allowed to infringe upon the rights and freedoms of the business community. We do not infringe on their right to worship in freedom.

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