



- ☒ Servers
- ☒ Networking
- ☒ Consulting
- ☒ Computers
- ☒ Backup/Recovery
- ☒ IP Phones & Cameras

Local skills games operator says LB685 likely death blow for such devices



Gering resident Jerry Gealy, a business owner who operates skills games, discusses LB685 and its impact with Scotts Bluff Co. Commissioners (Miller/KNEB/RRN)

February 13th, 2023 | Scott Miller

An owner and operator of skills games in Scotts Bluff County says it would be likely one of his businesses, and others like it, would be forced to close if Nebraska lawmakers pass LB685 this year.

The County Board last week discussed a possible occupation tax on skills games, with many Commissioners thinking a \$50 per machine annual fee might be in order.

During an exchange with Chair Ken Meyer, Jerry Gealy of Gering explained the measure, which has a hearing before the General Affairs committee Monday, would be a dramatic shift from current regulations, starting with an annual fee of \$1,000 per machine per year.

"Are they going, kind of, on the coat-tails of the gambling, you know, the casinos and race track stuff," asked Meyer. Gealy replied, "Sure, they're trying to move it to like a casino game, but they don't give us casino games when they do it. And they want to move it (regulation) from the Department of Revenue to the racetrack-type of committee (Gaming and Racing Commission) that runs it. And that wouldn't be good for us either."

Gealy said the bill would also shift the age to play skills games to 21, and as originally written, the measure would impose the same regulations on all cash devices and mechanical amusement devices. The latter category includes things such as dart boards, pinball machines and pool tables, but an amendment has already been filed to exclude such games if they are not deemed cash devices.

He continued that he thought it was an attempt by casino operators and their supporters to remove what they may see as competition. While the annual per-machine fee would be retained by the state, Gealy said the bill would also tax the gross revenues of each machine at twenty percent, with 25 percent of that money remitted to the county in which the machine was located. Those funds would all go to the county if located in an unincorporated area, or be split evenly between the county and community where the games are played.

The Legislature's General Affairs committee was scheduled to take testimony on LB685 Monday afternoon.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, February 6, 2023
GENERAL MEETING CONVENES AT 4:30 P.M.
Comments from the public may be received after each agenda item

Call to Order

For public information, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the back of this meeting room on the east wall

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda/Consider Modification

The Board reserves the right to enter into closed session if deemed necessary.

Consent Agenda: Minutes; Remittances; Correspondence; Claims – Receive County Clerk's January, 2023 Marriage License & Misc Fees collected reports;

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – 4:30 P.M.

Heather Hauschild, Treasurer

Angela Dillman, Assessor

Consider approval of motor vehicle exemptions for one (1) Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff –

Discuss and consider interest and fees refund for Joseph Willingham parcel #010359052-
Heather Hauschild, County Treasurer

Receive tax list corrections –

Discuss and consider real and personal property exemptions for Panhandle Health Properties –

Discuss and consider real property exemption for Church of God –

Discuss and consider real property exemption for Turning Point Apostolic Church –

Discuss and consider real property exemption for Vetter Senior Living –

Discuss and consider real and personal property exemptions for Scotts Bluff County –

Discuss and consider approval of Pritchard and Abbott Appraisal contract –

Discuss and consider dates for Protest Hearings –
Kelly Sides, County Clerk; Angela Dillman, Assessor; The Board

GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS

Discuss and consider establishing a Capital Expenditure Fund (2201) for Public Transit –
Curt Richter, Public Transit Manager; Heather Hauschild, County Treasurer

Receive Tourism update –
Brenda Leisy, Tourism Director

Discuss and consider authorization to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for architectural services to assist with the development of a juvenile detention facility –
Sheriff Mark Overman

Continue discussion and consider the sale of obsolete public safety radio equipment –
Tyler Rexus, 911 Coordinator; Troy Brown, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Receive Scotts Bluff County Extension Annual Report –

Discuss and Consider Amendment to Keno Operating Agreement –
Ryan Keller and Lisa Rien, Management Accountant/HR Director

Discuss and Consider Lease Agreement for Frontside Bar and Grill – 1001 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE-
Ryan Keller and Lisa Rien, Management Accountant/HR Director

Discuss Occupation Tax for Amusement Devices- Lisa Rien, Management Accountant/HR Director

Discuss and consider approval of recommended Personnel Policy updates approved by Personnel Board-
Lisa Rien, Management Accountant/HR Director

Discuss and consider purchase for County parcel #010304193
-Phil Kelly, Attorney at Law

Discuss and consider county owned parcels throughout the county-
Ken Meyer, Chairman of the Board: Lisa Rein, Management Accountant/HR Director

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss and consider offers or updates on 1600 10th Street Building

Public comments: The Board of Commissioners will receive public comments on items discussed at this meeting or suggestions for items of discussion at a future Board meeting. The Board will not take action on comments presented this date

Board & Staff Reports with discussion
Legislation

Executive Session- for purposes of addressing personnel issue