

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC

Form 10-Q

May 10, 2010

[Table of Contents](#)

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

x

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR
15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

OR

o

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR
15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to .

Commission File No. 0-22088

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

88-0300760
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

3800 S. Virginia St.
Reno, Nevada
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

89502
(ZIP Code)

(Former Name, Former Address and Former Fiscal Year, if Changed Since Last Report)

(775) 335-4600

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large Accelerated Filer

Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer

Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

Common stock, \$0.01 par value
Class

16,125,388 shares
Outstanding at May 5, 2010

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page Number
<u>PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u>	3
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at March 31, 2010 (unaudited) and December 31, 2009</u>	4
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 (unaudited)</u>	5
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	6
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	10
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	17
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	17
<u>PART II - OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	18
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	18
<u>Signatures</u>	18

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Revenues		
Casino	\$ 24,154,140	\$ 22,804,499
Food and beverage	9,983,603	9,593,068
Hotel	5,178,067	4,818,839
Other	1,979,694	1,694,353
Gross revenues	41,295,504	38,910,759
Less promotional allowances	(6,943,952)	(6,331,575)
Net revenues	34,351,552	32,579,184
Operating expenses		
Casino	9,328,341	8,952,220
Food and beverage	4,364,454	4,635,397
Hotel	1,433,139	1,573,243
Other	640,111	684,120
Selling, general and administrative	11,058,601	11,619,722
Depreciation and amortization	3,311,336	3,180,955
Total operating expenses	30,135,982	30,645,657
Income from operations	4,215,570	1,933,527
Other expense		
Interest income		35,418
Interest expense	(458,424)	(550,210)
Total other expense	(458,424)	(514,792)
Income before income taxes	3,757,146	1,418,735
Provision for income taxes	(1,315,000)	(496,575)
Net income	\$ 2,442,146	\$ 922,160
Earnings per share of common stock		
Net income		
Basic	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.06
Diluted	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.06
Weighted average number of common shares and potential common shares outstanding		
Basic	16,125,388	16,122,048
Diluted	16,151,408	16,148,037

The Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

	March 31, 2010 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10,539,116	\$ 14,420,323
Receivables, net	3,040,612	2,294,703
Inventories	1,548,243	1,706,867
Prepaid expenses	3,166,543	2,623,650
Deferred income taxes	1,090,063	1,090,063
Total current assets	19,384,577	22,135,606
Property and equipment		
Land	13,172,522	13,172,522
Land improvements	3,511,484	3,511,484
Buildings	140,522,106	140,522,106
Building improvements	10,410,770	10,410,770
Furniture and equipment	109,462,469	107,655,784
Leasehold improvements	1,346,965	1,346,965
	278,426,316	276,619,631
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(116,849,481)	(113,538,145)
Net property and equipment	161,576,835	163,081,486
Other assets, net	505,228	569,622
Total assets	\$ 181,466,640	\$ 185,786,714
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Borrowings under credit facility	\$	\$ 1,000,000
Accounts payable	7,641,845	8,984,010
Accrued expenses	11,627,067	11,056,079
Federal income taxes payable	1,111,546	46,546
Total current liabilities	20,380,458	21,086,635
Long-term debt, less current maturities	41,000,000	47,500,000
Deferred income taxes	4,695,657	4,695,657
Total liabilities	66,076,115	73,282,292
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized; none issued		
Common stock, \$.01 par value, 30,000,000 shares authorized; 19,096,300 shares issued; 16,125,388 outstanding at 3/31/10 and 12/31/09	190,963	190,963
Additional paid-in capital	30,485,040	30,041,083
Treasury stock, 2,970,912 shares at 3/31/10 and 12/31/09, at cost	(48,864,979)	(48,864,979)
Retained earnings	133,579,501	131,137,355
Total stockholders' equity	115,390,525	112,504,422
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 181,466,640	\$ 185,786,714

The Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 2,442,146	\$ 922,160
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,311,336	3,180,955
Amortization of deferred loan costs	64,394	72,446
Share based compensation	443,957	520,305
Provision for bad debts	(82,212)	315,196
Gain on disposal of assets		(63,948)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(663,697)	(459,051)
Inventories	158,624	145,973
Prepaid expenses	(542,893)	(117,152)
Accounts payable	(1,342,165)	(3,895,510)
Accrued expenses	570,988	352,762
Federal income taxes payable	1,065,000	156,575
Net cash provided by operating activities	5,425,478	1,130,711
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from sale of assets		83,425
Acquisition of property and equipment	(1,806,685)	(2,734,136)
Change in construction payable		(3,935,920)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,806,685)	(6,586,631)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Borrowings under credit facility		5,900,000
Loan issuance costs		(772,737)
Principal payments on long-term debt	(7,500,000)	
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(7,500,000)	5,127,263
Net decrease in cash	(3,881,207)	(328,657)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	14,420,323	11,756,900
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 10,539,116	\$ 11,428,243
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 329,021	\$ 560,500
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 250,000	\$ 340,000

The Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (Monarch), a Nevada corporation, was incorporated in 1993. Monarch 's wholly-owned subsidiary, Golden Road Motor Inn, Inc. (Golden Road), operates the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa (the Atlantis), a hotel/casino facility in Reno, Nevada. Monarch 's other wholly owned subsidiaries, High Desert Sunshine, Inc. (High Desert) and Golden North, Inc. (Golden North), each own separate parcels of land located adjacent to the Atlantis. Unless stated otherwise, the Company refers collectively to Monarch and its subsidiaries.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Monarch, Golden Road, High Desert and Golden North. Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated.

Interim Financial Statements:

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management of the Company, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation are included. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2010.

The balance sheet at December 31, 2009 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company 's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value of the Company 's financial instruments has been determined by the Company, using available market information and valuation methodologies. However, considerable judgment is required to develop the estimates of fair value; thus, the estimates provided herein

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that the Company could realize in a current market exchange.

The carrying amounts of cash, receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses approximate fair value because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the consolidated financial statements for prior years have been reclassified to conform to the 2010 presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on the previously reported total revenue or net income. Revenues from the spa operations were classified as hotel revenues in 2009 and have been reclassified to other revenues to conform with the 2010 presentation.

Table of ContentsNOTE 2. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company accounts for its stock-based compensation in accordance with the authoritative guidance requiring the compensation cost relating to share-based payment transactions be recognized in the Company's consolidated statements of income. Reported stock based compensation expense was classified as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Casino	\$ 14,202	\$ 15,303
Food and beverage	13,988	15,186
Hotel	5,424	5,891
Selling, general and administrative	410,343	483,925
Total stock-based compensation, before taxes	443,957	520,305
Tax benefit	(155,385)	(182,107)
Total stock-based compensation, net of tax	\$ 288,572	\$ 338,198

NOTE 3. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing reported net earnings by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflect the additional dilution for all potentially dilutive securities such as stock options. The following is a reconciliation of the number of shares (denominator) used in the basic and diluted earnings per share computations (shares in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2010		2009	
	Shares	Per Share Amount	Shares	Per Share Amount
Basic	16,125	\$ 0.15	16,122	\$ 0.06
Effect of dilutive stock options	26		26	
Diluted	16,151	\$ 0.15	16,148	\$ 0.06

Excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share are options where the exercise prices are greater than the market price as their effects would be anti-dilutive in the computation of diluted earnings per share.

NOTE 4. LONG-TERM DEBT

THE CREDIT FACILITY

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

Until February 20, 2004, the Company had a reducing revolving term loan credit facility with a consortium of banks (the First Credit Facility). On February 20, 2004, the Original Credit Facility was refinanced (the Second Credit Facility) for \$50 million. The maturity date of the Second Credit Facility was to be April 18, 2009; however, on January 20, 2009, the Second Credit Facility was amended and refinanced (the New Facility) for \$60 million. The New Credit Facility may be utilized by the Company for working capital needs, general corporate purposes and for ongoing capital expenditure requirements.

The maturity date of the New Credit Facility is January 20, 2012. Borrowings are secured by liens on substantially all of the real and personal property of the Atlantis and are guaranteed by Monarch.

Table of Contents

The New Credit Facility contains covenants customary and typical for a facility of this nature, including, but not limited to, covenants requiring the preservation and maintenance of Company assets and covenants restricting the Company's ability to merge, transfer ownership of Monarch, incur additional indebtedness, encumber assets and make certain investments. The New Credit Facility contains covenants requiring that the Company maintain certain financial ratios and achieve a minimum level of Earnings-Before-Interest-Taxes-Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) on a two-quarter rolling basis. It also contains provisions that restrict cash transfers between Monarch and its affiliates and contains provisions requiring the achievement of certain financial ratios before the Company can repurchase its common stock or pay dividends. Management does not consider the covenants to restrict normal functioning of day-to-day operations.

As of March 31, 2010, the Company was required to maintain a leverage ratio, defined as consolidated debt divided by EBITDA, of no more than 2.625:1 and a fixed charge coverage ratio (EBITDA divided by fixed charges, as defined) of at least 1.25:1. As of March 31, 2010, the Company's leverage ratio and fixed charge coverage ratios were 1.5:1 and 9.4:1, respectively. As of March 31, 2009, the Company's leverage ratio and fixed charge coverage ratios were 2.1:1 and 13.3:1, respectively.

The maximum principal available under the New Credit Facility is reduced by \$2.5 million per quarter beginning on December 31, 2009. At March 31, 2010, the maximum principal available under the New Credit Facility was \$55.0 million. The Company may permanently reduce the maximum principal available at any time so long as the amount of such reduction is at least \$500 thousand and a multiple of \$50 thousand. Maturities of the Company's borrowings for each of the next five years and thereafter as of March 31, 2010 are as follows (amounts in thousands):

	Total	less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	4 to 5 years	more than 5 years
Maturities of Borrowings Under Credit Facility	\$ 41,000,000		\$ 41,000,000		

The Company may prepay borrowings under the New Credit Facility without penalty (subject to certain charges applicable to the prepayment of LIBOR borrowings prior to the end of the applicable interest period). Amounts prepaid may be reborrowed so long as the total borrowings outstanding do not exceed the maximum principal available.

The Company paid various one-time fees and other loan costs upon the closing of the refinancing of the New Credit Facility that will be amortized over the facility's term using the straight-line method.

At March 31, 2010, the Company had \$41.0 million outstanding under the New Facility. At that time its leverage ratio was such that pricing for borrowings under the New Facility was LIBOR plus 2.875%. At March 31, 2009, the Company had \$55.9 million outstanding under the First Credit Facility. At that time its leverage ratio was such that pricing for borrowings under the First Credit Facility was LIBOR plus 3.25%. At March 31, 2010 the one-month LIBOR interest rate was 0.25% while at March 31, 2009 the one-month LIBOR interest rate was 0.50%. The carrying value of the debt outstanding under the New Facility approximates fair value because the interest fluctuates with the lender's prime rate or other market rates of interest.

NOTE 5: INCOME TAXES

For the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, the Company's effective tax rates was 35.0% and 35.0%, respectively. The effective tax rate for the three months ended March 31, 2010 did not vary from the prior period as the items that impact the effective tax rate are generally consistent from year to year.

Table of Contents

NOTE 6. RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 810 (originally issued as Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 167, Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. (FIN) 46(R)). Among other items, ASC 810 responds to concerns about an enterprise's application of certain key provisions of FIN 46(R), including those regarding the transparency of the enterprise's involvement with variable interest entities. ASC 810 is effective for calendar year end companies beginning on January 1, 2010. The Company adopted the standard for the interim period ended March 31, 2010. There was no impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations, cash flows, or disclosures.

The FASB issued ASU No. 2010-06, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Topic 820): Improving disclosures about Fair Value Measurement. The guidance clarifies and extends the disclosure requirements about recurring and nonrecurring fair value measurements. The Company has adopted ASU No. 2010-06 for the first quarter of 2010. There was no impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations, cash flows, or disclosures.

In April 2010, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued guidance on accruing for jackpot liabilities. The guidance clarifies that an entity should not accrue jackpot liabilities (or a portion thereof) before a jackpot is won if an entity can avoid paying that jackpot. Jackpots should be accrued and charged to revenue when an entity has the obligation to pay the jackpot. This guidance applies to both base jackpot and the incremental portion of the progressive jackpots. The guidance is effective for fiscal years and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2010. This guidance should be applied by recording a cumulative effect adjustment to opening retained earnings in the period of adoption. The Company is currently determining the impact of the guidance on its consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The 18.95-acre shopping center (the Shopping Center) adjacent to the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa is owned by Biggest Little Investments, L.P. (BLI). BLI's general partner is Maxum, L.L.C. (Maxum). John Farahi, Bob Farahi and Ben Farahi each individually own non-controlling interests in BLI and Maxim. John Farahi is Co-Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and a Director of Monarch. Bob Farahi is Co-Chairman of the Board, President, Secretary and a Director of Monarch. Ben Farahi formerly was the Co-Chairman of the Board, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and a Director of Monarch. Monarch's board of directors accepted Ben Farahi's resignation from these positions on May 23, 2006.

The Company currently rents various spaces in the Shopping Center which it uses as office, storage space and guest parking and paid rent of approximately \$13,100 and \$21,800 plus common area expenses during the first three months of 2010 and 2009, respectively.

In addition, a driveway that is being shared between the Atlantis and the Shopping Center was completed on September 30, 2004. As part of this project, in January 2004, the Company leased a 37,368 square-foot corner section of the Shopping Center for a minimum lease term of 15 years at an annual rent of \$300,000, subject to increase every 60 months based on the Consumer Price Index. The Company began paying rent to the Shopping Center on September 30, 2004. The Company also uses part of the common area of the Shopping Center and pays its proportional share of the common area expense of the Shopping Center. The Company has the option to renew the lease for 3 five-year terms, and at the end

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

of the extension periods, the Company has the option to purchase the leased driveway section of the Shopping Center at a price to be determined based on an MAI Appraisal. The leased space is being used by the Company for pedestrian and vehicle access to the Atlantis, and the Company may use a portion of the parking spaces at the Shopping Center. The total cost of the project was \$2.0 million; the Company

Table of Contents

was responsible for two thirds of the total cost, or \$1.35 million. The Company paid \$85,200 and \$75,000 plus common area charges for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, for its leased driveway space at the Shopping Center.

The Company occasionally leases billboard advertising space from affiliates of its controlling stockholders and paid \$51,400 and \$10,500 for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

On December 24, 2007, the Company entered into a lease with Triple J Plus, LLC (Triple J) for the use of a facility on 2.3 acres of land (jointly the Property) across Virginia Street from the Atlantis that the Company plans to utilize for administrative staff offices. The managing partner of Triple J is a first-cousin of John and Bob Farahi, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and President, respectively. The term of the lease was two years requiring monthly rental payments of \$20,256. Commensurate with execution of the lease, the Company entered into an agreement that provides the Company with a purchase option on the Property at the expiration of the lease period while also providing Triple J with a put option to cause the Company to purchase the Property during the lease period. The purchase price of the Property was established by a third party appraisal company. Lastly, as a condition of the lease and purchase option, the Company entered into a promissory note (the Note) with Triple J whereby the Company advanced a \$2.7 million loan to Triple J. The Note required interest only payments at 5.25% and matured on the earlier of i) the date the Company acquires the Property or ii) January 1, 2010. In November 2009, Triple J exercised its put option causing the Company to complete the purchase transaction on November 12, 2009 in accordance with the terms described above.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc., through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Golden Road Motor Inn, Inc. (Golden Road), owns and operates the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, a hotel/casino facility in Reno, Nevada (the Atlantis). Monarch's other wholly owned subsidiaries, High Desert Sunshine, Inc. (High Desert) and Golden North, Inc. (Golden North), each own a parcel of land located adjacent to the Atlantis. Monarch was incorporated in 1993 under Nevada law for the purpose of acquiring all of the stock of Golden Road. The principal asset of Monarch is the stock of Golden Road, which holds all of the assets of the Atlantis.

Our sole operating asset, the Atlantis, is a hotel/casino resort located in Reno, Nevada. Our business strategy is to maximize the Atlantis revenues, operating income and cash flow primarily through our casino, food and beverage and hotel operations. We capitalize on the Atlantis location for tour and travel visitors, conventioners and local residents by offering exceptional service, quality and value to our guests. Our hands-on management style focuses on customer service and cost efficiencies.

Unless otherwise indicated, Monarch, Company, we, our and us refer to Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. and its Golden Road, High Desert and Golden North subsidiaries.

OPERATING RESULTS SUMMARY

Below is a summary of our first quarter results for 2010 and 2009:

Table of Contents*Amounts in millions, except per share amounts*

		Three Months Ended March 31,		Percentage Increase/(Decrease)
	2010	2009		10 vs 09
Casino revenues	\$ 24.2	\$ 22.8		6.1
Food and beverage revenues	10.0	9.6		4.2
Hotel revenues	5.2	4.8		8.3
Other revenues	2.0	1.7		17.6
Net revenues	34.4	32.6		5.5
Sales, general and administrative expense	11.1	11.6		(4.3)
Income from operations	4.2	1.9		121.1
Net Income	2.4	0.9		166.7
Earnings per share - diluted	0.15	0.06		150.0
Operating margin	12.3%	5.9%		6.4 points

The increase in net revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2010 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2009 is the first increase in net revenue for a quarter compared to the same quarter of a prior year since our third quarter of 2007. Our financial results subsequent to the third quarter of 2007 reflect the effects of a very challenging operating environment that began in the fourth quarter of 2007. As in many other areas around the country, the economic slowdown in Reno in the fourth quarter of 2007 deepened throughout 2008 and 2009. Aggressive marketing programs by our competitors also had a negative financial impact on us during that time period. Furthermore, based on statistics released by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, the Reno gaming market has shrunk in the aggregate. Despite the fact that those negative factors continued into this first quarter of 2010, revenue in each of our operating departments increased compared to the same quarter of 2009. In addition to the increase in revenue, we reduced sales, general and administrative expense. We believe two of the primary factors that drove the net revenue increase include:

- Contribution from our completed expansion, remodel and Atlantis Convention Center Skybridge capital projects (see CAPITAL SPENDING AND DEVELOPMENT below). We believe these and other improvements have increased the quality of our facility relative to that of many of our competitors who have not upgraded their facilities.
- We also believe that we are delivering superior service to our guests while employee layoffs by many of our competitors have negatively impacted the quality of service they are able to deliver to their guests.

We believe that these factors were the primary drivers of:

- Increases of 6.1%, 4.2%, 8.3% and 17.6% in our casino, food and beverage, hotel and other revenues, respectively, resulting in a net revenue increase of 5.5%;

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

- An increase in income from operations and diluted earnings per share of 121.1% and 150.0%, respectively;

- An increase in our operating margin by 6.4 points or 108.5%.

We anticipate that the economic slowdown, combined with the aggressive marketing programs of our competitors will continue to apply downward pressure on revenue. Despite the fact that we overcame those negative factors in the first quarter of 2010 to grow revenues over the same period in 2009, there is no assurance that we will be able to increase revenues in future periods, particularly if the negative macroeconomic factors persist.

Table of Contents

CAPITAL SPENDING AND DEVELOPMENT

We seek to continuously upgrade and maintain the Atlantis facility in order to present a fresh, high quality product to our guests.

In June 2007, we broke ground on an expansion project, several phases of which we completed and opened in the second half of 2008. New space was added to the first floor casino level, the second and third floors and the basement level totaling approximately 116,000 square feet. The existing casino floor was expanded by over 10,000 square feet, or approximately 20%. The first floor casino expansion includes a redesigned, updated and expanded race and sports book of approximately 4,000 square feet and an enlarged poker room. The expansion also included the new Manhattan deli, a New York deli-style restaurant. The second floor expansion created additional ballroom and convention space of approximately 27,000 square feet, doubling the existing facilities. We constructed and opened a pedestrian skywalk over Peckham Lane that connects the Reno-Sparks Convention Center directly to the Atlantis. In January 2009, we opened the final phase of the expansion project, the new Spa Atlantis featuring an atmosphere, amenities and treatments that are unique from any other offering in our market. Additionally, many of the pre-expansion areas of the Atlantis were remodeled to be consistent with the upgraded look and feel of the new facilities. The total cost of these projects (the Capital Projects) was approximately \$80.0 million.

With the opening of the new skywalk, the Atlantis became the only hotel-casino to be physically connected to the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The Reno-Sparks Convention Center offers approximately 500,000 square feet of leasable exhibition, meeting room, ballroom and lobby space.

Capital expenditures at the Atlantis totaled approximately \$1.8 million and \$2.7 million during the first three months of 2010 and 2009, respectively. During the three month period ended March 31, 2010, our capital expenditures consisted primarily of costs related to the renovation of our Atlantis Steakhouse restaurant and rest rooms, the acquisition of gaming equipment to upgrade and replace existing equipment and other general upgrades to the Atlantis facility. During the three month periods ended March 31, 2009, our capital expenditures consisted primarily of construction costs associated with the Capital Projects, the acquisition of gaming equipment to upgrade and replace existing equipment and continued renovation and other general upgrades to the Atlantis facility.

In addition to the capital expenditures incurred during the first quarter of 2010, we anticipate spending approximately \$6 to \$8 million in 2010 to upgrade and replace equipment and to complete general upgrades to the Atlantis facility. The timing of these capital expenditures may accelerate or be deferred altogether based on our ongoing assessment of operating cash flow, available borrowing capacity under our Credit Facility (see THE CREDIT FACILITY below) and the competitive environment in our market, among other factors.

STATEMENT ON FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

When used in this report and elsewhere by management from time to time, the words believes, anticipates and expects and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and our business including our expansion, development activities, legal proceedings and employee matters. Certain important factors, including but not limited to, competition from other gaming operations, factors affecting our ability to compete, acquisitions of gaming properties, leverage, construction risks, the inherent uncertainty and costs associated with litigation and governmental and regulatory investigations, and licensing and other regulatory risks, could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Further information on potential

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

factors which could affect our financial condition, results of operations and business including, without limitation, our expansion, development activities, legal proceedings and employee matters are included in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements,

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

which speak only as of the date thereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to such forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Comparison of Operating Results for the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2010 and 2009

For the three months ended March 31, 2010, our net income was \$2.4 million, or \$0.15 per diluted share, on net revenues of \$34.4 million, an increase from net income of \$922 thousand, or \$0.06 per diluted share, on net revenues of \$32.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. Income from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010 totaled \$4.2 million, a 121.1% increase when compared to \$1.9 million for the same period in 2009. Net revenues and net income increased 5.5% and 166.7%, respectively, when compared to last year's first quarter.

Casino revenues totaled \$24.2 million in the first quarter of 2010, a 6.1% increase from \$22.8 million in the first quarter of 2009, which was primarily due to increased slot revenues. Casino operating expenses amounted to 38.6% of casino revenues in the first quarter of 2010, compared to 39.3% in the first quarter of 2009. The decrease was primarily due to the increase in casino revenue partially offset by the cost of increased complimentary food, beverages and other services provided to casino patrons.

Food and beverage revenues totaled \$10.0 million in the first quarter of 2010, a 4.2% increase from \$9.6 million in the first quarter of 2009, due primarily to a 1.1% increase in the average revenue per food cover combined with a 4.2% increase in the number of covers served. Food and beverage operating expenses decreased to 43.7% of food and beverage revenues during the first quarter of 2010 as compared to 48.3% for the first quarter of 2009 primarily due to lower payroll and benefits expense combined with lower food commodity costs.

Hotel revenues were \$5.2 million for the first quarter of 2010, an increase of 8.3% from the \$4.8 million reported in the 2009 first quarter. This increase was the result of higher hotel occupancy, an increase in the average daily room rate (ADR) and a \$10 per day resort fee, paid by our hotel guests, which we implemented on June 1, 2009. Hotel revenues in the first quarter of 2009 included a \$3 per occupied room energy surcharge. During the first quarter of 2010, the Atlantis experienced a 78.4% occupancy rate, as compared to 76.9% during the same period in 2009. The Atlantis ADR was \$69.08 in the first quarter of 2010 compared to \$66.89 in the first quarter of 2009. Hotel operating expenses as a percent of hotel revenues decreased to 27.7% for the first quarter of 2010 from 32.6% for the first quarter of 2009 due to the increased hotel revenue combined with a decrease in hotel operating expense of \$140 thousand due to various miscellaneous expense reductions.

Promotional allowances increased to \$6.9 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 compared to \$6.3 million for the same period of the prior year. Promotional allowances as a percentage of gross revenues increased to 16.8% during the first quarter of 2010 as compared to 16.3% in the first quarter of 2009. These increases are attributable to continued promotional efforts to attract guests and generate revenues.

Other revenues increased to \$2.0 million in the 2010 first quarter from \$1.7 million for the first quarter of 2009 primarily due to increased revenue in our spa and salon.

Depreciation and amortization expense remained relatively flat at \$3.3 million in the first quarter of 2010 as compared to \$3.2 million in the first quarter of 2009.

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses were \$11.1 million in the first quarter of 2010, a 4.3% decrease from \$11.6 million in the first quarter of 2009. The decrease was primarily due to reductions in bad debt expense of \$400 thousand, legal expense of \$200 thousand, electricity expense of \$195 thousand partially offset by increased marketing expense of \$185 thousand and miscellaneous expense of \$60 thousand. As a percentage of net revenue, SG&A expenses decreased to 32.2% in the

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

Table of Contents

first quarter of 2010 from 35.7% in the same period in 2009 due to the effect of the increase in net revenue combined with the lower SG&A expense.

Interest expense decreased from \$550 thousand in the first quarter of 2009 to \$458 thousand in the first quarter of 2010. This decrease was due to lower average balances outstanding under our credit facility (see the CREDIT FACILITY section below).

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

For the three months ended March 31, 2010, net cash provided by operating activities totaled \$5.4 million, an increase of \$4.3 million or 390.9% compared to the same period last year. This increase was primarily related to greater net income and the timing of the payment of accounts payable during the first quarter of 2010.

Net cash used in investing activities totaled \$1.8 million and \$6.6 million in the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. During the three month period ended March 31, 2010, net cash used in investing activities consisted primarily of costs related to the renovation of our Atlantis Steakhouse restaurant and rest rooms, the acquisition of gaming equipment to upgrade and replace existing equipment and other general upgrades to the Atlantis facility. During the three month periods ended March 31, 2009, net cash used in investing activities consisted primarily of construction costs associated with the Capital Projects, the acquisition of gaming equipment to upgrade and replace existing equipment and continued renovation and other general upgrades to the Atlantis facility.

We used \$7.5 million of cash in financing activities during the three months ended March 31, 2010 to repay borrowings under our Credit Facility (see THE CREDIT FACILITY below). During the three months ended March 31, 2009, \$5.1 million of net cash was provided by financing activities primarily related to borrowings under our Credit Facility.

We believe that our existing cash balances, cash flow from operations and borrowings available under the Credit Facility will provide us with sufficient resources to fund our operations, meet our debt obligations, and fulfill our capital expenditure plans; however, our operations are subject to financial, economic, competitive, regulatory, and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow, we could be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as reducing, delaying or eliminating planned capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring debt or obtaining additional equity capital.

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

A driveway was completed and opened on September 30, 2004 that is being shared between the Atlantis and a shopping center (the Shopping Center) directly adjacent to the Atlantis. The Shopping Center is controlled by an entity whose owners include our controlling stockholders. As part of this project, in January 2004, we leased a 37,368 square-foot corner section of the Shopping Center for a minimum lease term of 15 years at an annual rent of \$300,000, subject to increase every 60 months based on the Consumer Price Index. We also use part of the common area of the Shopping Center and pay our proportional share of the common area expense of the Shopping Center. We have the option to renew the lease for three five-year terms, and at the end of the extension periods, we have the option to purchase the leased section of the Shopping Center at a

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

price to be determined based on an MAI Appraisal. The leased space is being used by us for pedestrian and vehicle access to the Atlantis, and we may use a portion of the parking spaces at the Shopping Center. The total cost of the project was \$2.0 million; we were responsible for two thirds of the total cost, or \$1.35 million. The cost of the new driveway is being depreciated over the initial 15-year lease term. Some components of the new driveway are being depreciated over a shorter period of time. We paid \$85,200 in lease payments for the leased driveway space at the Shopping Center during the three months ended March 31, 2010.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies

A description of our critical accounting policies and estimates can be found in Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (2009 Form 10-K). For a more extensive discussion of our accounting policies, see Note 1, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2009 Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2010.

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING CURRENT AND FUTURE RESULTS

The economy in northern Nevada and our feeder markets, like many other areas around the country, are experiencing the effects of several negative macroeconomic trends, including a broad economic recession, higher home mortgage defaults and declining residential real estate values. These negative trends could adversely impact discretionary incomes of our target customers, which, in turn could adversely impact our business. We believe that as recessionary pressures increase or continue for an extended period of time, target customers may further curtail discretionary spending for leisure activities and businesses may reduce spending for conventions and meetings, both of which would adversely impact our business. Management continues to monitor these trends and intends, as appropriate, to adopt operating strategies to attempt to mitigate the effects of such adverse conditions. We can make no assurances that such strategies will be effective.

The constitutional amendment approved by California voters in 1999 allowing the expansion of Native American casinos in California has had an impact on casino revenues in Nevada in general, and many analysts have continued to predict the impact will be more significant on the Reno-Lake Tahoe market. If other Reno-area casinos continue to suffer business losses due to increased pressure from California Native American casinos, such casinos may intensify their marketing efforts to northern Nevada residents as well, greatly increasing competitive activities for our local customers.

Higher fuel costs may deter California and other drive-in customers from coming to the Atlantis.

We also believe that unlimited land-based casino gaming in or near any major metropolitan area in the Atlantis key feeder market areas, such as San Francisco or Sacramento, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Other factors that may impact current and future results are set forth in detail in Part II - Item 1A Risk Factors of this Form 10-Q and in Item 1A Risk Factors of our 2009 Form 10-K.

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Our contractual cash obligations as of March 31, 2010 and the next five years and thereafter are as follow:

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

Contractual Cash Obligations	Total	Payments Due by Period (4)			
		less than 1 year	1 to 3 years	4 to 5 years	more than 5 years
Operating Leases(1)	\$ 3,515,000	\$ 370,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 1,665,000
Current Maturities of Borrowings Under Credit Facility (2)	41,000,000		41,000,000		
Purchase Obligations(3)	2,755,000	2,755,000			
Total Contractual Cash Obligations	\$ 47,270,000	\$ 3,125,000	\$ 41,740,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 1,665,000

Table of Contents

(1) Operating leases include \$370,000 per year in lease and common area expense payments to the shopping center adjacent to the Atlantis.

(2) The amount represents outstanding draws against our Credit Facility (see THE CREDIT FACILITY below) as of March 31, 2010.

(3) Purchase obligations represent approximately \$830 thousand of commitments related to capital projects and approximately \$1.9 million of materials and supplies used in the normal operation of our business. Of the total purchase order and construction commitments, approximately \$1.9 million are cancelable by us upon providing a 30-day notice.

(4) Because interest payments under our Credit Facility are subject to factors that in our judgment vary materially, the amount of future interest payments is not presently determinable. These factors include: 1) future short-term interest rates; 2) our future leverage ratio which varies with EBITDA and our borrowing levels and 3) the speed with which we deploy capital and other spending which in turn impacts the level of future borrowings. The interest rate under our Credit Facility is LIBOR, or a base rate (as defined in the Credit Facility agreement), plus an interest rate margin ranging from 2.00% to 3.375% depending on our leverage ratio. The interest rate is adjusted quarterly based on our leverage ratio which is calculated using operating results over the previous four quarters and borrowings at the end of the most recent quarter. At March 31, 2010 our leverage ratio was such that pricing for borrowings was LIBOR plus 2.875%. At March 31, 2010, the one-month LIBOR rate was 0.25%.

THE CREDIT FACILITY

Until February 20, 2004, we had a reducing revolving term loan credit facility with a consortium of banks (the First Credit Facility). On February 20, 2004, the Original Credit Facility was refinanced (the Second Credit Facility) for \$50 million. The maturity date of the Second Credit Facility was to be April 18, 2009; however, on January 20, 2009, the Second Credit Facility was amended and refinanced (the New Credit Facility) for \$60 million. The New Credit Facility may be utilized by us for working capital needs, general corporate purposes and for ongoing capital expenditure requirements.

The maturity date of the New Credit Facility is January 20, 2012. Borrowings are secured by liens on substantially all of the real and personal property of the Atlantis and are guaranteed by Monarch.

The New Credit Facility contains covenants customary and typical for a facility of this nature, including, but not limited to, covenants requiring the preservation and maintenance of our assets and covenants restricting our ability to merge, transfer ownership of Monarch, incur additional indebtedness, encumber assets and make certain investments. The New Credit Facility contains covenants requiring that we maintain certain financial ratios and achieve a minimum level of Earnings-Before-Interest-Taxes-Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) on a two-quarter rolling basis. It also contains provisions that restrict cash transfers between Monarch and its affiliates and contains provisions requiring the achievement of certain financial ratios before we can repurchase our common stock or pay dividends. Management does not consider the covenants to restrict normal functioning of day-to-day operations.

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

The maximum principal available under the New Credit Facility is reduced by \$2.5 million per quarter beginning on December 31, 2009. At March 31, 2010, the maximum principal available was \$55 million. We may permanently reduce the maximum principal available at any time so long as the amount of such reduction is at least \$500,000 and a multiple of \$50,000.

We may prepay borrowings under the New Credit Facility without penalty (subject to certain charges applicable to the prepayment of LIBOR borrowings prior to the end of the applicable interest period).

Table of Contents

Amounts prepaid may be reborrowed so long as the total borrowings outstanding do not exceed the maximum principal available.

We paid various one-time fees and other loan costs upon the closing of the refinancing of the New Credit Facility that will be amortized over the facility's term using the straight-line method.

At March 31, 2010, we had \$41 million outstanding under the New Credit Facility, none of which was classified as short-term debt. Short term debt represents the mandatory principal reductions over the upcoming year, based on the amount outstanding under the New Credit Facility at March 31, 2010 compared to the maximum principal available at March 31, 2011. The maximum principal available under the New Credit Facility on March 31, 2011 is \$45 million. The interest rate under our Credit Facility is LIBOR, or a base rate (as defined in the Credit Facility agreement), plus an interest rate margin ranging from 2.00% to 3.375% depending on our leverage ratio. The interest rate is adjusted quarterly based on our leverage ratio calculated using operating results over the previous four quarters and borrowings at the end of the most recent quarter. At March 31, 2010 our leverage ratio was such that pricing for borrowings was LIBOR plus 2.875%. At March 31, 2010, the one-month LIBOR rate was 0.25%.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market risks and prices, such as interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and commodity prices. We do not have any cash or cash equivalents as of March 31, 2010 that are subject to market risk. As of March 31, 2010 we had \$41 million of outstanding debt under our New Credit Facility that was subject to credit risk. A 1% increase in the interest rate on the balance outstanding under the New Credit Facility at March 31, 2010 would result in a change in our annual interest cost of approximately \$410,000.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, (the Evaluation Date), an evaluation was carried out by our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined by Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based upon the evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting during our most recently completed fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

As previously disclosed, litigation was filed against Monarch on January 27, 2006, by Kerzner International Limited (Kerzner) owner of the Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas in the United States District Court, District of Nevada. The case number assigned to the matter is 3:06-cv-00232-ECR (RAM). The complaint seeks declaratory judgment prohibiting Monarch from using the name Atlantis in connection with offering casino services other than at Monarch s Atlantis Casino Resort Spa located in Reno, Nevada, and particularly prohibiting Monarch from using the Atlantis name in connection with offering casino services in Las Vegas, Nevada; injunctive relief enforcing the same; unspecified compensatory and punitive damages; and other relief. Monarch believes Kerzner s claims to be entirely

Table of Contents

without merit and is defending vigorously against the suit. Further, Monarch has filed a counterclaim against Kerzner seeking to cancel Kerzner's registration of the Atlantis mark for casino services and to obtain declaratory relief on these issues. Upon conclusion of discovery, various motions were filed by the parties. On December 14, 2009, the court ruled on the pending motions, significantly narrowing the issues for trial. Kerzner next filed a Request for Certification of Interlocutory Appeal as to the court's December 14, 2009 Orders. Kerzner's Request was rejected by the court in its Order issued February 25, 2010, and the parties are proceeding with pre-trial preparation. No trial date has been set as of this filing.

We are party to other claims that arise in the normal course of business. Management believes that the outcomes of such claims will not have a material adverse impact on our financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

A description of our risk factors can be found in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009. There were no material changes to those risk factors during the three months ended March 31, 2010.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

(a) Exhibits

Exhibit No	Description
31.1	Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
31.2	Certifications pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
32.1	Certification of John Farahi, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
32.2	Certification of Ronald Rowan, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*

* Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Edgar Filing: MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC - Form 10-Q

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.
(Registrant)

Date: May 10, 2010

By: */s/ RONALD ROWAN*
Ronald Rowan, Chief Financial Officer
and Treasurer (Principal Financial
Officer and Duly Authorized Officer)