

MINUTES

The Garrett County Board of License Commissioners / Liquor Control Board held their monthly meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 9:00 AM. Due the COVID-19 State of Emergency and the limited access to the Garrett County Courthouse, the meeting was conducted by teleconference. Present on the call was Chairperson Lisa Herman, Commissioner Mike Fratz, Commissioner David Moe, Administrator to the Board Deborah Owston and Attorney to the Board M. Elizabeth Georg.

Chairperson Herman called the meeting to order. There were no mileage sheets to be signed by the Board since the meeting was a teleconference.

The Board approved the October 5, 2020 Minutes. Commissioner Moe made the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was second by Commissioner Fratz and unanimously approved by Chairperson Herman.

No hearings were conducted. There was general discussion. Ms. Owston updated the Board on the 20-21 alcoholic beverage license renewals. She said there are still a few approved renewals pending payment and issuance. Ms. Owston called those businesses about the renewal fees and the EO to extend licenses and permits. Several renewal licenses that were mailed September 11, 2020 arrived the end of the October 16, 2020 week. The 2021 legislation list and statewide alcoholic beverage bills were discussed. The 2021 General Assembly session is to be scaled way back. A "drinks to-go" legislative request is expected to be drafted and presented by the MSLBA and Restaurant Association of Maryland. Due to the increased COVID-19 numbers in Garrett County and the State of Emergency, the Board will not be extending on-premise sales on New Year's Eve. A discussion took place about Home Town Pizzeria advertising the Travis Minnick Band and their limited occupancy capacity approved by the Health Department and Fire Marshal. The Board advised Ms. Owston to contact the business. They also stated that if the Health Department determines any business has violated a health restriction that they we will use that decision and schedule an administrative hearing. It was determined that due to COVID-19 crisis, licensed establishments must seek approval and guidance from the Health Department for private parties and entertainment like the required approval and guidance for non-profit events during the State of Emergency. It was decided that a statement should be sent out regarding New Year's Eve and holiday parties advising establishments that they run the risk of jeopardizing their license. Ms. Owston said she will follow up with the Health Department to see if the Holiday Guidance sheets from MDH that are supposed to be coming out are available. The Secret Shopper campaign conducted by Health Department campaign to reduce underage alcohol sales through ID checking was completed the end of October. Twenty establishments were checked. Only one establishment failed to ask for an ID, three establishments identified the secret shopper and received a gift card. Ms. Owston then said that the Secret Shopper program is a lead into compliance checks. Compliance checks are scheduled to begin after the Secret Shopper program and continue until June 30, 2020. Ms. Owston will email MSP and ask for detailed information on the compliance reports. On the Edge Marina, LLC dba Spillway Kitchen & Bar is changing the trade name to Firewater Kitchen & Bar. The license issuance will be pending that all documents, licenses and permits be consistent with the new trade name. They anticipate opening the second weekend of December. The license will be issued early for ordering

purposes only until they have an approved U&O Permit. Applications from Exit 4 Ventures, LLC dba Friendsville Public House, Sweitzer's BBQ, LakeStar Lodge and The Shack Stimulator were not received. Gerry Minogue of BJ's Store submitted a letter stating that they were closing and returned her license. Winner's Circle inquired about the BWL Tasting Option. Currently on-premise consumption is prohibited, however the Town of Mt. Lake Park recently approved tastings. They are expected to apply and are aware that they would need to pay their renewal fees as well as the license upgrade fees. Ms. Owston said across the State, salespeople have stopped tastings. She suggested approval and guidance from the Health Department be advised. Commissioner Moe moved to approve Winner Circle's tasting application provided all fees are paid. The motion was second by Commissioner Fratz and unanimously approved by Chairperson Herman. The Manor Steakhouse appears to be closed indefinitely and is listed for sale. A brief discussion took place about the potential sale of the business, license transfer and renewal hold by the State. Chris Watson of Shrimp on The Barbie is working on replacing Autumn Newcomb-Shay as the qualifying US citizen on the license. Ms. Newcomb-Shay had questions about being removed from the license as well. The Grantsville Lions Club Per Diem license administrative hearing was conducted on October 7, 2020 for the October 17, 2020 Oktoberfest event. Ms. Owston noted that she received a report from Mark Baxter of SureScan and that the ID app was not used very much. This most likely was due to the limited wi-fi connection. She also mentioned Mark Baxter sent a report for the Oakland Golf Club Oktoberfest event. The report showed around 300 ID's were scanned. Mr. Watson said they used five hundred wristbands throughout the event. The Board discussed the possibility of a lobby bar in the lower level of Silver Tree Suites. The issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for the proposed area would require special exception zoning approval. COVID-19 complaints of staff not wearing masks were discussed. The Health Department issued an Order for Immediate Compliance letter to Midway Discount Liquors. On the follow up inspection the business was complying. Ms. Owston said there were a couple customers who came in without a face covering and they were asked if they had one to put them on. Mt. State Brewing Co. inquired about getting a manufactures license for the McHenry property. They were advised to contact the Comptroller's Office. Backbone Tavern temporarily closed due to COVID-19 contact tracing and employee testing positive. The OVFD Fall Cash Bash that was scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2020 will be a virtual event due to the expanded restrictions put in place on November 11, 2020. A brief discussion took place about renewal fees for non-profits as well as licensed establishments.

The next regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Moe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fratz second the motion and Chairperson Herman unanimously agreed.

Lisa Herman
Chairperson

December 17, 2020
Date