

**BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND  
MINUTES**

**On July 8, 2015, the Board of License Commissioners met in Room 003/004 of the Carroll County Office Building, 225 North Center Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Board members Roland Meerdter, Chairman, Robert Tabler, and David Brauning were present as well as Assistant County Attorney Timothy Dixon, Counsel to the Board, Jo Vance, Administrative Hearings Coordinator, and Keith Benfer, Liquor Inspector.**

**10:00 a.m.**, the Board addressed the following official business:

1. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5858**, violation – sale to a minor by a Class C – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Gene Brothers, Roger Remaly, and Tom Hayes, for the use of Westminster BPO Elks Club 2277, t/a Westminster BPO Elks Club, 538 Gorsuch Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Testimony was given by Inspector Benfer that alcohol was sold to an underage volunteer by a server who did not request an ID but served based on a member vouching for the volunteer. Jay Nave testified for the establishment that new rules and regulations have been implemented to prevent this from happening again. After testimony, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable in the matter and fined them \$300.00 for the first offense.
2. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5859**, violation – sale to a minor by a Class C – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Joseph Morningstar, Ralph E. Green and Wilfred H. Stickles, for the use of American Legion Hesson-Snyder Post No. 120, t/a American Legion Hesson-Snyder Post No. 120, 9 Broad Street, Taneytown, Maryland 21787. Testimony was given by Inspector Benfer that alcohol was sold to an underage volunteer by a server who did not ask for ID. The server did not have a good reason for the mistake and she had been TAM certified but her certification had expired. Ralph Green testified on behalf of the establishment that management had met with each employee one-on-one about the importance of carding, and that their entire staff will be attending an upcoming TAM certification class. After testimony, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable in the matter and fined them \$300.00 for the first offense.
3. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5860-**, violation – sale to a minor by a Class B – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Jagtar Randhawa, for the use of Spargo's, Inc., t/a Spargo's, 3165 Main Street, Manchester, Maryland 21102. Testimony was given by Inspector Benfer that alcohol was sold to an underage volunteer by a server who did not ask for ID and was not TAM certified. The server testified that she was new to bartending and was very sorry for having made the sale. After testimony, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable in the matter and fined them \$600.00 for the second offense in a year.

**At 11:20 a.m.**, the Board discussed three official business items.

- 1) The notification by The Brick Ridge establishment of their closure from June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup> was approved.
- 2) The notification by the VFW of Mount Airy of their new hours of operation was reviewed and approved by the Board.
- 3) There was some discussion about the legislation that allowed for outdoor events in downtown Hagerstown in a designated entertainment district.

**The Board then adjourned for a lunch break at 11:30 a.m.**

4. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5863**, the application of Gregory Alan Keller and Sergio Meza for a new Class B – Beer, Wine and Liquor license for the use of Los Aztecas, Inc., t/a Los Aztecas, 1213 Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784 in Election District 5. Clark Shaffer, Esq. represented the applicants. Mike Stavlos, the owner of the shopping center that will hold this establishment testified that a liquor license at the location would be beneficial to the citizens in that area of the County. Sergio Meza testified about the type of restaurant it would be and how it would be laid out. He also testified that his other restaurants typically do 70% of their business in food sales and 30% in alcohol sales and it expects this establishment to have the same ratio. Greg Keller testified that he has known Mr. Meza for several months and is impressed with his conscientiousness and character. Mr. Keller has worked for the County for 32 years and has been a Carroll County resident for 35 years. He also testified that he is investing \$5,000.00 (10%) in the establishment. Several character witnesses then testified on behalf of the two applicants. After meeting with counsel, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application pending approval from all other County agencies.
5. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5865**, violation – sale to a minor by a Class BC – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Christopher Richards for the use of Greenmount Station, t/a Greenmount Station, 1631 N. Main Street, Hampstead, Maryland 21074. Testimony was given by Inspector Benfer that alcohol was sold to an underage volunteer by a server who asked for ID and was given a Florida vertical license. The server then asked the volunteer what the capital of Florida was, and upon hearing the correct answer, he served the alcohol. Mr. Richards testified that there was no excuse for the mistake and that the server was TAM certified. He also testified that he is holding an in-house TAM training this month to make sure all of his employees are TAM certified. After testimony, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable in the matter and fined them \$300.00 for the first offense.
6. A hearing was held in the matter of **Case 5866**, violation – sale to a minor by a Class BR – Beer, Wine and Liquor license issued to Mary Jo Rupp-Malone for the use of Dean’s Restaurant, Inc., t/a Dean’s Restaurant, 832 S. Main Street, Hampstead, Maryland 21074. Testimony was given by Inspector Benfer that alcohol was sold to an underage volunteer by a server who asked for ID and was given a Maryland vertical license. The server did not give a reason for the error. Mary Jo Rupp-Malone testified that the server was fired that evening because this was the second time within a calendar year that she had served a minor. She also

testified that it is policy at her establishment that no one with a vertical ID is to be served alcohol, even if they have turned twenty-one. After testimony, the Board voted unanimously to find the establishment culpable in the matter and fined them \$600.00 for the second offense in a year.

**At 2:50 pm**, the Board addressed the following official business:

7. The owners and managers from Stables Restaurant appeared before the Board to report on the outcome of their four Sundays of afternoon/evening outside entertainment. Inspector Benfer attended two of the outdoor events and reported to the Board that everything was done in accordance with the plans that Stables had given to the Board previously. Mr. Brauning also reported that he attended one of the events and found everything to be as stated and he did not see any problems with the event. There was discussion about Stables getting a permit for having the temporary structures and about the fire safety rating of their overhead tarps. They stated that they would be complying by getting the required permit and by getting a fire safety rating on their tarps. Ms. Vance reported that there had been no noise complaints called into the office and that one neighbor that previously complained had called in to say there had been no noise problems since the Board has spoken to Stables about it at the previous meeting. Based on all the testimony and reports, the Board gave approval for Stables to hold these outside events on Sundays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the remainder of the warm weather.
8. The Board briefly discussed an invitation for members and staff to the Maryland Alcohol Forum in Montgomery County coming up on August 11<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that some of the Board members and staff attend this forum. Ms. Vance is to make the reservations.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Jo Vance  
Administrator Hearings Coordinator  
Office of Administrative Hearings