

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 @ 1:00 PM  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING  
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET  
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650  
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**Present:**

Chairman David Willenborg  
Member Richard Shin  
Member Barbara Hill  
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator  
Chris Beaver, Attorney  
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary  
Kevin Hall, Inspector  
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

**Not Present:**

Vice-Chair Richard Watts  
Member George Anas

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Member Shin moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried. Member Shin moved to amend the agenda to move Southern Trail after Ledo's and removed WJ Dent from the agenda entirely and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Member Shin moved to approve the minutes for August 8 2024 and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Extension of Conditional Approval**

**First Colony Wine and Spirit - Prakashkumar R. Patel and Milton F. Copsy**  
Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Milton Copsy appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Attorney John Quinn and Mr. Copsy were speaking on behalf of Mr. Patel. Attorney Quinn explained that his clients have applied for the permits for the build out. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Ledo Pizza –Timothy M. Farrell** - Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of extension of premise application

Timothy Farrell appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Farrell explained that the County said it should be approved in 30 days, but he is asking for 90 days to be sure. Member Shin moved to approve the 90-day extension and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Premise changes**

**Southern Trail Distillery – Richard Copsey** - Requesting temporary extension of premises and extra serving counter for Bats and Boos event on 10/26/24 from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Richard Copsey and Rachel Copsey appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mrs. Copsey stated they will be fencing in the area and will have 6 security people working. Mrs. Copsey explained that they will be doing what they have done in the past. They have applied for the Special Events Permit from LUGM. Chairman Willenborg moved to approve a 15-day conditional approval pending the Special Events Permit and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

- **Violations**

**Lex Wine and Spirits – Employee** - Alexander Thomas Sheluga was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Alexander Thomas Sheluga appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Sheluga stated that the violation did occur. Member Shin made a motion for a \$250.00 fine and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Lex Wine and Spirits - Licensee(s)** - Roland Mellies and Van Thanh Huynh

1. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County.

Roland Mellies and Van Thanh Huynh appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mr. Mellies stated that the alcohol violation did occur. Member Shin made a motion for a \$1000.00 fine, \$500.00 held in abeyance and RAST training and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

2. Commission of acts on licensed premises contrary to State law in violation of Section 5.04(b) "Acts Contrary to Law" of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County; to wit: Distribution of Tobacco Product or Paraphernalia to Minor in violation of Section 10-107 of the Criminal Law Section of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Mr. Mellies stated that he was found guilty of an underage tobacco sale. Member Shin made a motion for a \$1000.00 fine, \$900.00 held in abeyance. No second was made. Motion failed. Member Hill made a second motion for a \$1000.00 fine, \$750.00 held in abeyance and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

**Bay Mart and Deli – Employee** - Keith O’Bryan Holland Jr. was an employee of a license holder and sold or provided alcoholic beverages to an individual under the age of twenty-one years in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary’s County.

Keith O’Bryan Holland Jr. appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Holland stated that the violation did occur. Member Shin made a motion for a \$150.00 fine and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Bay Mart and Deli - Licensee(s):** Sanjaykumar B. Patel and Joseph M. Ridgell

1. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of §6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and §5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary’s County.

Sanjaykumar B. Patel and Joseph M. Ridgell appeared before the Board and were sworn in. The licensees stated that the violation did occur. Member Shin made a motion for a \$1000.00 fine, \$500.00 held in abeyance; RAST training was already attended and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **Applications**

**Gridiron Grill** - Application of Michael Shane to transfer Gridiron Grill (GLC Capital, LLC) Class B (restaurant)- BWL license from Greg Lee Callaway and t/a Gridiron Grill (GIG Management, LLC), 20855 Callaway Village Wy., Unit 2, Callaway, MD 20620. And permission for extension of premises for outdoor seating.

Michael Shane appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Member Shin made a motion to approve a 90-day conditional approval pending the Fire Marshal and the Use and Occupancy and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Hills Store** - Application of Michael Wayne Joy to transfer Hill’s Store (DM Williams Holdings, LLC) Class D-BWL license from David E. Williams and Joan Melissa Williams and t/a Hills Store (Hills Store, LLC), 29933 Point Lookout Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659. And permission for extension of premises and extra serving counter for games and Veterans Day.

Michael Wayne Joy appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Member Shin made a motion to approve a 90-day conditional approval pending the Fire Marshal and the release of the tax hold from the current owner from the Comptroller of Maryland and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Tia's Cantina** - Application for Meredith Wagner, Jessica Hernandez and DeWayne Swann to purchase a Class B(restaurant)-BWL license and t/a Tia's Cantina (Tia's Cantina, LLC), 23415 Three Notch Road # 2060, California, MD 20619. And permission for extension of premises for outdoor seating on patio.

Meredith Wagner, Jessica Hernandez and DeWayne Swann appeared before the Board and were sworn in. The Chairman found a discrepancy in the application and questioned the applicants about this matter. The applicants admitted to an oversight and asked if they could amend the application. Since they were under oath, Attorney Beaver allowed this amendment. Member Shin made a motion to approve a 90-day conditional approval pending the Fire Marshal, Health Department, Use and Occupancy and Business license and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **Officer/Member changes**

**ABC Liquors and Lounge, LLC** - Deleting Nicholas Ford

Member Shin made a motion to approve the deletion of Nicholas Ford and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

**Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar** - Deleting Bonnie K. Phillips; adding Casey R. Amick

Member Shin made a motion to approve the deletion of Bonnie Phillips and add Casey Amick and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- **Other Business**

**Legislative Proposals**

**Licensed Beverage Association**

Amending §28-1601 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article to lower the number of Class A liquor stores in the eighth election district.

David Dent explained to the Board that the SMLBA is proposing legislation to lower the Class A liquor store licenses to 1:4000 which would restrict the 10 available licenses in District 8. The SMLBA believes that the Rt. 235 corridor has an over saturation of Class A liquor stores and would like to see this area kept at the number of stores that they currently have. Mr. Dent stated he would like to have the support of the Board on this matter.

Chairman Willenborg stated he would like to have the full Board review these proposals in November before any formal decision is made.

**Department of Economic Development**

Amending §28-1606 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article to include a multiple licensing plan for holders of Class B restaurant licenses.

John Houser from the County attorney's office and Kelly Hinkle from the DED explained that they were asked by the Board of County Commissioners to seek guidance from the

Alcohol Beverage Board's thought on this issue. Mr. Houser explained that the legislation will be following Charles County's legislation changes they previously had made. Ms. Hinkle stated that she has been approached by several restaurant owners in St. Marys' County's who would like to have ownership in more than one Class B liquor license.

Chairman Willenborg felt that the Board would have to see the final language of the proposal before they could make any formal decision. Attorney Houser stated they would bring that to the Board in November.

#### **BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Hildebrand stated that Suzi Dean will be retiring at the end of November. Chairman Willenborg and Member Hill will be assisting Mrs. Hildebrand in the process of hiring her replacement. Mrs. Hildebrand also explained that she will be out of work for 6 weeks for hip surgery in March. Mrs. Hildebrand explained that if they did not have someone hired by the time she went out on sick leave, Mrs. Dean offered to fill in part time to help out. Mrs. Hildebrand commented on Mr. Holland's (Bay Mart's clerk) participation in RAST class and how he engaged during the class.

#### **ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

For the month of September, Deputy Myers reported:

- 18 Alcohol Compliance checks –no violations
- 8 DUI's- Sheriff
- 2 Stationary Surveillance – no violations
- 5 State Park surveillance - no violations
- RAST, St. Mary's County Fair, Firearms training

#### **BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT**

For the month of September, Inspector Hall reported:

- 25 inspections, 12 follow-ups
- Taught RAST
- MALA Conference call

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Hill made a motion to adjourn at 3:47 pm and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

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David Willenborg, Chair