

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, December 12, 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

Vice Chair Richard Watts

Member George Anas

Member Richard Shin

Member Barbara Hill

Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator

Chris Beaver, Attorney

Kevin Hall, Inspector

Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion to alter the agenda, moving applications first, followed by violations, officer/member changes, and special privilege applications.

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes mentioned by the Chair, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the of the meeting of November 14, 2024. Member Shin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Applications:**

- 1 **Asahi Japanese Steak and Seafood** - Application of Miok Sun Lee & Woo Sung Lee to transfer Asahi Japanese Steak & Seafood House (DSK Investment, Inc.) Class B (Restaurant) BWL license from Daniel S. Kim & t/a Asahi Japanese Steak and Seafood (AMW Incorporated), 22576 MacArthur Blvd., #302, California, MD 20619.

Applicants Miok Sun Lee and Woo Sung Lee appeared before the Board and were sworn in. The applicants presented their application. Member Shin made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- 2 The Newtowne Players** - Application for Robin Finnacom, Shawn Davidson, & Stacey Park to purchase a Class NPT- BW license & t/a The Newtowne Players (The Newtowne Players, Inc.), 21744 S. Coral Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Applicants Robin Finnacom, Shawn Davidson, Stacey Park and Front of House Chairperson, Kenneth Faison appeared before the Board and were sworn in. The applicants presented their application, explaining that the license they are applying for is a new class of license for which they had submitted legislation for last year. Previously, they could only apply for per diem licenses, but this annual Nonprofit Performing Arts Theater license would not only save them time, but also money and improve operations. Changes have been made in anticipation of reopening the original entrance to the building, including a new bar area with locked storage for the inventory. Clarification was made that the entire theater is licensed. Member Anas made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Vice-Chair Watts; motion carried.

- 3 T&J's Cove** - Application for Latessa Daugherty to purchase a Class B (Restaurant) BWL license & t/a T&J's Cove, (T&J's Cove, LLC), 41565 Park Ave., Leonardtown, MD 20650. And permission for extension of premises for outdoor seating, a 10' x 12' storage shed, & 6'x6' cold box.

Applicant Latessa Daugherty appeared before the Board and was sworn in. The applicant presented her application. Mrs. Hildebrand informed the Board that the application would be conditional. Member Shin made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval pending final Use & Occupancy, Heath Permit, Fire Marshal, and Business License, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- **Violations:**

- 1 Big Dog's Paradise & Bar**

- **Employee:** Monica Leann Adkins
  - a. The above individual, Monica Leann Adkins, 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.

Monica Adkins was not present due to a conflict with another court date.

- **Licensee(s):** Brian Adkins
  - a. Sale of alcoholic beverages through a drive-through window in violation of Section 28-1603 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland on June 19, 2024.
  - b. Sale of alcoholic beverages through a drive-through window in violation of Section 28-1603 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland on March 24, 2023 at 00:53.

- c. Sale of alcoholic beverages through a drive-through window in violation of Section 28-1603 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland on March 24, 2023 at 01:14.
- d. Sale of alcoholic beverages through a drive-through window in violation of Section 28-1603 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland on March 24, 2023 at 01:23.
- e. Sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one (21) in violation of Section 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and in violation of Section 5.04(j) of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County on March 24, 2023.

Brian Adkins appeared before the Board and was sworn in. The Chair read each violation individually to Mr. Adkins. Mr. Adkins admitted each violation occurred, but with an explanation for the violation of the sale of alcoholic beverages to a person under the age of twenty-one on March 24, 2023.

Attorney Beaver read the facts for the record of each violation. Vice Chair Watts inquired if the licensee had any violations in the past three years. Mrs. Hildebrand stated that there were two violations within the past three years, both for underage sales.

Mr. Adkins expressed his shock at the facts read regarding the actions of the security personnel failing to check the ID of the underage person. He stated they are trained and do a lot of high-end work in Annapolis. He was informed by family members and friends of the underage person that she had been using her deceased mother's ID to get into bars in St. Mary's County. Mr. Adkins stated that he had asked the head security person to appear to testify today or provide an affidavit, but now understood why he failed to do so.

Chairman Willenborg clarified to Mr. Adkins that the violation was not the failure to check the ID, but to serve the underage person. Mr. Adkins stated he understood that, but the purpose of having three security personnel on busy nights was to check the ID and if over 21 place a bracelet on their wrist so the bartender would know they were of age to be served. He stated that the bartender could have double checked if she thought the patron was underage. He stated that, that was part of his defense, that the ID was checked by security, but apparently it was not.

Vice Chair Watts made a motion based on the facts presented and the testimony received, for revocation of the license 31 calendar days from today and a 30-day suspension of the license to be effective today, seconded by Member Anas. The Chair opened for discussion. Vice Chair Watts stated his decision for the revocation was due to this being the third time the licensee had been before the Board for an underage sale, and he had lost all confidence that the licensee could follow the rules and regulations. The sales through the drive through window were a flagrant ignoring of the provisions of their license. Chairman Willenborg inquired of Deputy Myers what type of criminal investigation occurred that resulted in his viewing of the videos which showed these violations. Deputy Myers responded that it was a homicide investigation.

Mr. Adkins stated that he had decided to vacate the business. There being no other discussion, the Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Officer/Member Changes:**

- 1 **American Legion Post 221** - Removing David Abell; adding Glenn A. Thompson

Member Watts made a motion to approve the officer/member change, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

- **Special Privilege Applications:**

- 1 **New Years Eve Permit requests**

Mrs. Hildebrand informed the Board that only one licensee had applied: OCI/Pizza King in Piney Point. Member Shin approved the New Years Eve Permit request, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

## **BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Hildebrand informed the Board of the passing of Judy Hagner, who had been the Alcohol Board Administrator for Anne Arundel County for 48 years, expressing condolences to all who had the privilege of working with her.

- **FY26 Budget Review**

Mrs. Hildebrand presented the Board with a draft of the FY26 budget, stating that she did not ask for any increases in funding. The Board, having no additions or changes, would vote on the final submission at the next meeting.

Mrs. Hildebrand also informed the Board since a replacement for Mrs. Dean was still pending, Mrs. Dean would return temporarily to assist during the renewal process and cover the office while Mrs. Hildebrand was out for surgery.

## **BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT**

For the month of November, Inspector Hall reported:

- 20 inspections, 5 follow-ups
- Assisting in covering the office

## **ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

For the month of November, Deputy Myers reported:

- 18 alcohol and tobacco compliance checks – 4 businesses failed, 1 being an alcohol retailer
- 10 DUI arrests by the Sheriff's Office
- 2 stationary surveillance checks – no violations
- park surveillance – no violations
- 3 summonses served
- Sheriffs required training
- Veterans Day parade
- Leonardtown tree lighting

**ST MARY’S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

Mr. David Dent reported that the Governor has requested that a bill allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine be proposed. The Beverage Association is concerned on the impact this will have on small business alcohol retailers.

**BOARD MEMBERS TIME**

The Board wished all a Merry Christmas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Anas made a motion to adjourn at 2:05 pm, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tamara Hildebrand, Recording Secretary

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David Willenborg, Chairman