

Regular Minutes  
Liquor Board  
September 18, 2017

The Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners met on August 21, 2017, in Room 110 of the Dorchester County Office Building with the following members present: Chairwoman Patti Tieder; Councilman Ricky Travers; Councilman Tom Bradshaw; Shirley Satterfield; Patrick Thomas Attorney for the Board and Roger Short Liquor Board Inspector. Dwight Cromwell was not present.

The Board of License Commissioners convened in Open Session with Chairwoman Patti Tieder presiding.

Chairwoman Patti Tieder requested that the Board go into closed session to obtain legal advice. A motion was made by Councilman Bradshaw to go into closed session and was seconded by Councilman Travers. A vote was called for and was approved by all present members.

Closed Session Summary:

The Board convened in Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article for the Maryland Annotated Code pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Board discussed the licensed premises of Sailwinds A.L. to make sure that special licenses and the beer and wine festival could take place on the grounds. The Board also discussed what Shahzad Azam owner of Zip Mart would need as far as inspections and/or information to reinstate his license.

The purpose of the Closed Session is also set forth in the Written Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act, which will be provided upon request.

Regular Session

The Board approved the Regular Minutes from the July 17, 2017 meeting.

The Board approved the Regular Minutes from the August 21, 2017 meeting.

George Williams attended the meeting to discuss the license at Sailwinds American Legion. George Williams was sworn in by Attorney for the Board Patrick Thomas. Chairwoman Patti Tieder explained to Mr. Williams that the Board would like to discuss the Legions license. Patrick Thomas asked Mr. Williams what part of the premise is covered under the license. Mr. Williams stated that he believes the lounge, hall and the grounds outside. Councilman Travers explained to Mr. Williams that Inspector Roger Short had explained to them that the Legion had concerns over the special licenses at the hall and the Legion not making any money from the events. Mr. Williams explained that there is always a concern of money but they would like both entities to profit from the events at the hall. He also stated that sometimes there are special events

that the legion cannot supply specialty alcohol because they do not stock it. Councilman Travers then asked Mr. Williams if the American Legion had a problem with organizations having events at the hall and using their own Special License. Mr. Williams stated that organizations have always pulled licenses for the events at Sailwinds in the past before they took over and they have no problem continuing to do it that way for special events. Councilman Travers then asked how the Legion was handling the Crabtoberfest event. Mr. Williams advised the board that the Legion was going to order the beer but they do not carry German beer and the organization has a license for the event. Mr. Williams also added that the Legion will be open for the event. Councilman Travers then asked how the Legion was going to handle the Beer and Wine Festival. Mr. Williams stated that the Legion does not carry the wine that will be served. Councilman Travers then explained to Mr. Williams that it has been found in the code that the Beer and Wine Festival cannot be at a location that is already licensed. Chairwoman Tieder then asked Inspector Roger Short what was described in the application for the premise. Inspector Short retrieved the file and stated that the description in the application was 14,000 sq. ft. hall on 3 ½ acres. Chairwoman Tieder then added that the Legion doesn't use the large grassy area that's part of the property but not under the licensed premise. Mr. Williams added that is where the Festival took place last year. The Board and Mr. Williams agreed that the Legion license is for use of the Building and that the Festival is outside on the grassy area not under the licensed premise. Patrick Thomas stated that the event licenses need to spell out what premise these licenses are going to cover. Councilman Travers also added that if the Legion is going to service the alcohol for the lounge and hall than their license would cover it. If he does not service the alcohol to the hall than the organization would need to get the license. The Board thanked Mr. Williams for coming to the meeting and is glad everyone is on the same page.

A Beer and Wine Festival application was submitted by Randy decker on behalf of The Wine Bar. Ed Johnson attended the meeting representing The Wine Bar. Ed Johnson was sworn in by Attorney Patrick Thomas. The Board reviewed the application and asked Mr. Johnson what dates he was looking to do the festival. Mr. Johnson requested the dates of May 25 and 26 of 2018. Chairwoman Tieder then asked Inspector Roger Short if the application was complete. Inspector Short stated that the application was complete. Chairwoman Tieder then asked Mr. Johnson if he supply the Board with a drawing of the layout of the festival. Mr. Johnson replied that he has to do one for the City of Cambridge so he could make a copy for the Board. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Travers and it was seconded by Councilman Bradshaw. A vote was called for and it was unanimous by all Board members.

Idelwer Fuentes (owner of La Casa Del Patron) attended the meeting to discuss an issue about the hours of operation, which was brought to the Board by Inspector Roger Short. Chairwoman Patti Tieder asked Mr. Fuentes to explain what his business is doing and what plan he has for moving forward. Mr. Fuentes explained that when he first opened the doors of his establishment, he was open five days a week, but over time the business has started losing sales and now only opens Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights around 5p.m. for entertaining. Chairwoman Tieder asked Mr. Fuentes if he was serving dinner on the evenings he is open. Mr. Fuentes explained he was only serving bar food such as wings and burgers. Mr. Fuentes added that his customers weren't eating full course meals at his establishment. Mr. Fuentes explained to the Board that he currently working with Don Chuy to try and have more entertainment and events to bring more business to the area. Councilman Travers asked Mr. Fuentes if he was trying to more events like the one he had a few weeks prior to the meeting. Mr. Fuentes stated he would like to do more events in the future. Councilman Travers added that the last event was run very professionally. Councilman Travers asked Mr. Fuentes if the three nights he is now opened if they are good nights for the business. Mr. Fuentes explained that Thursday is ok just a few people who come in to have drink but Friday and Saturday are a little better for business. Chairwoman asked Mr. Fuentes if he understood what the problem is with the hours of his business. Mr. Fuentes explained that Inspector short had explained it to him. Chairwoman Tieder advised Mr. Fuentes that there is two options for his business. Option one is for Mr. Fuentes to open the establishment so that he can serve two full course meals daily. Mr. Fuentes asked how many days would he have to open. Inspector Short and Attorney Patrick Thomas looked at the code which states to serve two full course meals daily. Councilman Travers stated that if he opened for those meals he was ok but Mr. Fuentes is not serving full course meals so that might not be an option for Mr. Fuentes. Chairwoman Tieder stated that option two is to apply to change to a Class D license which doesn't require food but the issue is that no one under the age of 21 is allowed in or on the premises including customers, staff and or entertainment. Mr. Fuentes explained that he would like to keep the license he has now, if he could open for the three days for lunch and dinner. Chairwoman Tieder and Councilman Travers asked Mr. Fuentes if he could work out the food issue and get it approved with the health dept. Chairwoman Tieder explained to Mr. Fuentes to get in touch with the health department, get a menu approved through them and return to the next meeting October 16, 2017. Mr. Fuentes agreed that he could get those requirements completed. The Board explained that they want to see him succeed and that is why they called him into the meeting.

Shahzad Azam (owner of Zip Mart) attended the meeting to discuss getting his license back that was renewed in April but never picked the license up due to the store being closed for repairs the last 5 months. Chairwoman Tieder asked Mr. Azam what his plan for the business is. Mr. Azam stated that he has had difficulty with staff in the past so he is going to try and run the store himself. He also added that he may want to upgrade to beer and wine in the future. Chairwoman Tieder asked Mr. Aza what his current address is at this time. Mr. Azam stated that he is currently at 203 Choptank Ave but is looking for another residence because he just sold the address he is at now. Chairwoman Tieder then asked if Mr. Azam had a Fire Marshal inspection scheduled. Mr. Azam stated that he is schedule for the inspection on Wednesday this week. Chairwoman Tieder asked Mr. Azam if he had contacted the Health Department. Mr. Azam stated that he had talked to Gail who is an inspector for the health department. Chairwoman Tieder asked if all taxes with the state and county had been paid. Mr. Azam stated that he had gotten thing straight with the state in order to get his traders license. Chairwoman Tieder then asked Inspector Short if he had any questions. Inspector Short asked Mr. Azam if he had already spoken with the health dept. Mr. Azam stated that he has been in contact and they are supposed to be coming to inspect soon. Councilman Travers asked Mr. Azam if the building was in the corporation's name. Mr. Azam stated that it was in his brothers and his name. Councilman Travers asked about the property taxes that are owed on the property. Mr. Azam stated that there are some still owing but he has paid half of them. Mr. Azam also stated that he has to pay the other half before October 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairwoman Tieder asked Mr. Azam if he thought he could have everything done by the October meeting. Chairwoman Tieder explained what is needed to reinstate the license. Attorney Patrick Thomas stated that the Board needs the Fire Marshal Inspection, Property taxes paid, Health Department approval, name of the business and the address of Mr. Azam's residence. Mr. Azam agreed to the terms that the Board has requested.

The Board reviewed three legislative proposal prepared by Attorney Patrick Thomas. Attorney Patrick Thomas explained the changes in each code to the board.

1. Adding Hurlock to the exempt list for distance from a place of worship or school.
2. Extending the amount of Beer and Wine Festivals for Dorchester County.
3. Adding the language to the Per Diem license that must be "conducted by a club".

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Travers and was seconded by Councilman Tom Bradshaw. A vote was called for and was unanimous by all Board members.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2017.

With no further business to discuss, the Board of License Commissioners was adjourned from Open Session.

ATTEST:

  
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Roger Short, Inspector

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

  
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Patti C. Tieder, Chairwoman

  
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Councilman Ricky Travers, Vice-Chairman

  
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Councilman Tom Bradshaw

  
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Dwight Cromwell

  
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Shirley Satterfield

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.