

**MINUTES OF THE
CECIL COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of License Commissioners of Cecil County met in a regular session at the County Administrative Building, Conference Room, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elk Room, Elkton, MD on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014** at 9:15 A.M.

PRESENT: Tim Snelling, Chairman
Herrel "Cuz" Curry, Commissioner
H. Norman Wilson, Jr., Esquire
Earl R. Bradford, Chief Alcohol Beverage Inspector
Robin Coyle, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Snelling called the meeting to order; he stated Commissioner Eller is excused and if anyone wished to have a full Board to hear their business they may do so, please let them know.

9:15 AM

UPDATE

Kulpin Singh Shergill, President/Secretary/Treasurer; Katie Marie Kosinski, Resident Agent; Shergill Brothers, Inc., T/A Bayview Liquors, 3135 Joseph Biggs Highway, Suite 3, North East, Maryland 21901

Kulpin Shergill appeared before the Board; he stated they are waiting for a few last inspections and is requesting an extension to issue the license. Commissioner Curry made a motion to approve a 30-day extension; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board unanimously approved the 30-day extension to issue the license.

APPLICATIONS

RECLASSIFICATION

Application received from Hudson Benson, Karen Aspinwall, Benson Restaurants, LLC, T/A Port House Grill, 15 North Main Street, North East, MD 21901 for reclassification of Class "B" Beer and Light Wine Alcoholic Beverage License No. B-154 to Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverage License.

Hudson Benson and Karen Aspinwall appeared before the Board. The applicants were duly sworn by the Clerk; Mr. Wilson read the legal notice which appeared on dates of November 26 and December 2, 2014. The fully executed application packet with proper fees included: signatures of 10 registered voters and property owners in District 5. Ms. Coyle stated Mr. Benson would like to include tables outdoors to the premises. Mr. Benson stated they would provide everything outside that they have inside; he asked about setting up a bar outside. Chief

Bradford asked about outdoor music; Mr. Benson stated they use Pandora and may have quiet music. He stated they close at 8:00 PM during the week and 9:00 on the weekends. This would begin in April/May time frame. Mr. Benson stated they held an anniversary event and had a tent, with permission out back and that event went well. Commissioner Curry made a motion to approve the reclassification; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board unanimously voted to approve the reclassification. Commissioner Curry then made a motion to approve the outdoor sales with a 30 day trial; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board unanimously approved the outdoor sales.

LICENSE TRANSFER

Application received from Christopher Hahn, T/A The Anchorage, 5667 Augustine Herman Highway, Earleville, MD 21919 for transfer of Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverage License No. B-2 from Patricia Bailey, President; James J. Ladwig, Vice President; Garret H. Bell, Secretary; Anchorage Bed and Breakfast of Cecil County, LLC, T/A The Anchorage, 5667 Augustine Herman Highway, Earleville, MD 21919

Christopher Hahn appeared before the Board; he was duly sworn by the Clerk. Mr. Wilson read the legal notice which appeared on dates of November 26 and December 2, 2014. The fully executed application packet with proper fees included signatures of 10 registered voters and property owners in District 1; Affidavit of Transferor signed by Joseph and JoAnn Thomson; the Certification Form stated 'B&B, events, weddings, corporate meetings, birthday parties.' Chairman Snelling asked how Mr. Hahn planned to run the business; Mr. Hahn stated he basically bought the property for the farm, but would like to utilize the building to hold events, weddings, wine tastings, meetings, etc. Chairman Snelling asked if the Board received everything that is required; Ms. Coyle stated yes. Commissioner Curry made a motion to approve the transfer of the license; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board unanimously voted to approve the transfer.

Application received from Michael James Downes, Sassafras Inn, Inc. T/A Sassafras Inn, 2 Sassafras Road, Warwick, MD 21912 for transfer of Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverage License No. B-18 from Kyle Rollins; Alibi Inn, LLC, T/A Alibi Inn, 2 Sassafras Road, Warwick, MD 21912

Michael Downes appeared before the Board with attorney, Robert Jones. He was duly sworn by the Clerk; Mr. Wilson read the legal notice which appeared on dates of November 26 and December 2, 2014. The fully executed application packet with proper fees included signatures of 10 registered voters and property owners in District 1; Affidavit of Transferor signed by Kyle Rollins; the Certification form stated 2,300 sq. ft. building on 0.5 acres. Chairman Snelling asked Mr. Downes how he planned to run the business; Mr. Downes stated he would like to clean it up, run it like it was with a package store, but more family oriented. Mr. Jones stated there is

an outside bar area with tables and he is requesting permission for use of that area. Chairman Snelling asked Ms. Coyle if the Board has received everything that is required; Ms. Coyle stated there is a tax issue; the transfer would be conditioned upon settlement; he needs an Occupancy Permit and he must be open April 1st to meet the 30 day requirement since the business was closed prior to renewal 2014. Commissioner Curry made a motion to approve the transfer conditioned upon settlement; the taxes being paid; receiving a copy of the Occupancy Permit and the business being open April 1st; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board approved the transfer with the conditions listed above. Commissioner Curry then made a motion to approve the outdoor sales with a 30 day trial period; Chairman Snelling seconded that motion and the Board approved the outdoor sales with a 30 day trial period.

General Business

- **Approve Minutes**
The minutes from the September meeting were approved.
- **Specials**

New Business

Old Business

- **Trade Name Change** – Uncle Willy’s has requested a change of Trade Name to Bottom of the Hill Bar & Grill - approved
- **Change of Officers** – Hurricane Grill & Wings – approved
- **Lease Management** – Black Pearl – approved
- **Expansion of premises** – Walt’s Tavern
- **Quota Change**
Chief Bradford informed the Board that while he has been out in the field doing inspections many of the licensees have indicated their desire to limit the number of new licenses issued in the County; that times remain tough and the increase in the sales tax on alcohol made things even more difficult and every new license takes another slice of the pie from them. Chief Bradford continued that most of the licensees with these concerns are the same ones who made a presentation to the Board several years ago regarding this issue and pretty much the same group who have protested the issuance of several Class “A” licenses recently. Chief Bradford told the Board he had heard from support staff from the local delegation regarding legislation that would further reduce the number of licenses available and possibly not allowing any new license within a two mile radius of any existing license. Chief Bradford suggested the Board discuss this matter and take a vote in support or against any legislation that may limit the number of licenses allowed or issued in the County. After a lengthy discussion between Chairman Snelling, Commissioner Curry and Mr. Wilson, Chairman Snelling stated the Board was not ready to take vote on the matter; he wanted

to wait and discuss this more at the next meeting when Commissioner Eller could be present. Chairman Snelling asked Mr. Wilson about the possibility of addressing this matter in our local rules and regulations or perhaps establishing guidelines to further define Article 2B Section 10-202 when determining when to approve or disapprove an application for a license. Mr. Wilson stated he would research this matter and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

BY:

Tim Snelling, Chairman

ATTEST:

Robin S. Coyle, Administrative Assistant