

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 @ 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, January 9, 2025, 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 and called for a moment of reflection on the passing of the 39<sup>th</sup> President, Jimmy Carter.

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 approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Anas; motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the of the meeting of December 12, 2024. Member Shin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Watts; motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

• **Extension of Conditional Approvals:**

1. **First Colony Wine & Spirit** – Prakashkumar R. Patel & Milton F. Copsey requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mr. Milton F. Copsey and Attorney John Quinn appeared before the Board. Mr. Copsey was sworn in. A letter from Mr. Patel had been submitted requesting Mr. Copsey and Mr. Quinn speak on his behalf. Attorney Quinn explained to the Board that the build-out had been completed, and they were just waiting on the final inspections. Mr. Copsey concurred. Vice Chair Watts made a motion to approve the 90-day extension of the conditional approval, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

2. **Hills Store** – Michael W. Joy requesting 60-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mr. Michael Joy appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Joy explained that the Comptroller's tax hold had still not cleared. The seller had paid in full, but the payment had not yet been processed by the Comptroller's Office. He did not anticipate needing more than 60 days for that to clear. Vice Chair Watts made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Violations:**

1. **Big Dog's Paradise & Bar** – Monica Leann Thompson

The above individual, Monica Leann Thompson, 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 Thompson appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. Thompson admitted that the violation occurred. Ms. Thompson explained that although she did not check this underage person's ID that night, she had on previous occasions and was presented with an ID that stated the person was of age. She later was informed that the ID was that of the underage person's deceased mother. Mrs. Hildebrand verified to the Board that this was Ms. Thompson's second underage sale offense within three years. Vice Chair Watts made a motion for a fine of \$500, seconded by Chairman Willenborg; motion carried 4:1, Vice Chair Watts opposed.

- **Applications:**

1. **twisted bar & grill** - Application for Michael L. Greenlee & Mark W. Aldridge to transfer Last Drop Country Bar (Last Drop, LLC) Class D (tavern) BWL license from William Dane Johnson & t/a twisted bar & grill (twisted, LLC), 23955 Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood, MD 20636. And permission for extension of premise & extra serving counter for outdoor service.

Michael Greenlee and Mark Aldridge appeared before the Board and were sworn in. The applicants presented their application, stating that the layout of the establishment would remain the same, but they were changing the business model to a bar & grill vs. the current nightclub atmosphere. Mrs. Hildebrand informed the Board that the application would be conditional. Vice Chair Watts made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval, pending Comptroller clearance and the business license, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

2. **Angelikas Kitchen** - Application for Angela Gizzi Funya to purchase a Class B (restaurant) BWL license & trade as Angelikas Kitchen (Angelikas Kitchen, Inc.), 47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City, MD 20686. And permission for extension of premises for outdoor seating and off-site catering

Angela Funya and her consultant, Robert Plant, appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Ms. Funya presented her application, explaining that the shops at Historic St. Mary's were being renovated for her to operate a pub. She estimated opening in Spring 2025. She stated that she would be implementing 100% ID checking. Clarification was requested for the basement storage area and Ms. Funya stated that the alcohol storage room was completely enclosed and locked. Mrs. Hildebrand informed the Board that the application was conditional. Member Shin made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval, pending the business license, Health Department approval, Fire Marshal approval and U&O, seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

- **Officer/Member/Trade Name changes:**
  1. **Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar** - Removing Casey R. Amick; adding Kelly Ann Tippett

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

## **BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- **FY26 Budget approval:**

Mrs. Hildebrand presented the FY26 budget proposal to the Board. There being no additions or deletions, Vice Chair Watts made a motion to approve the FY26 budget proposal, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

## **ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

For the month of December, Deputy Myers reported:

- 19 alcohol and tobacco compliance checks – 3 failed, 1 being an alcohol retailer
- 7 DUI arrests by the Sheriff's Office
- 2 stationary surveillance checks – no violations
- Park surveillance – no violations
- 1 summons served
- 1 suspension notice posted
- Sheriff's required training

## **ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

Mr. David Dent thanked the Board for the use of the training room for their meeting with Delegate Crosby about alcohol legislation. He reported that the Governor is no longer putting the grocery store licensing bill as a priority for this legislative session. Although legislative bills have not been dropped yet, they are hearing that there may be proposals to increase the sales tax on alcoholic beverages and decrease the commission on lottery sales, both of which negatively impact retailers.

## **BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT**

For the month of December, Inspector Hall reported:

- 11 inspections
- Updating of RAST program
- Cross training on office procedures to cover Administrative Assistant duties when Administrator is absent or busy

**BOARD MEMBERS TIME**

Member Shin opened the topic of increasing the max time allotment of 90 days for conditional approvals to alleviate the number of times some applicants must return to the Board for extensions of those conditional approvals. The Administrator expressed her concern with doing that, as it could discourage accountability, and there were instances of that, especially during COVID, when the conditional approvals were not held to the 90-days nor had to report to the Board. Ultimately the Board is accountable for keeping up with the progress of a conditionally approved application.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Anas made a motion to adjourn at 2:13 pm, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tamara Hildebrand, Recording Secretary

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David Willenborg, Chairman