

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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, November 13, 2025, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

**Present:**

Chairman David Willenborg  
Vice-Chair Richard Watts  
Member George Anas  
Member Richard Shin  
Member Barbara Hill  
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator  
Chris Beaver, Attorney  
Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary  
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

**Not Present:**

Kevin Hall, Inspector

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Member Hill made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – October 9, 2025**

Member Anas made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 9, 2025, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Extension of Conditional Approvals:**

- 1 **The Creek** – Arthur C. Brinkley & Celeste C. Baird

- Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mr. Arthur Brinkley and Ms. Celeste Baird appeared before the board and were sworn in. Ms. Baird stated that they received the approval and green sticker for the inside plumbing and gas. She stated that the Health Department wanted them to receive approval for the

inside plumbing and gas before they moved outdoors to work on the outdoor grease trap and final for the building. Once that is approved, they can get their U&O. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

1 **McKays grapes, grains, & gatherings** – Thomas F. McKay

- Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mr. Thomas McKay appeared before the board and was sworn in. Mr. McKay stated that he is not certain this will be the last 90-day extension he asks for as the landlord still has some work to do inside the building. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

1 **Smash House** - Jonathan Arakelian

- Requesting 90-day extension of conditional approval of license application

Mr. Jonathan Arakelian appeared before the board and was sworn in. Mr. Arakelian stated that he applied for an SBA loan which was approved last week. He received the money and ordered the equipment, but it will be 3-4 weeks before the equipment arrives, and they can get Health Department approval and all the inspections done. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Violations:**

1 **Tia's Cantina**

- **Employee:** Savanna Paige Nelson
  - a. The above individual, Savanna Paige Nelson, 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.

Ms. Savanna Nelson appeared before the board and was sworn in. Ms. Nelson admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Ms. Nelson stated that it was the start of her shift, she was given two tables, and she was trying to tend to them both in a timely manner. Ms. Nelson stated she is TIPS certified and the business has a 100% ID check policy. She stated it was an honest mistake, and she just wasn't thinking at that moment. After the incident occurred she was suspended for the rest of the week and had to sign a paper stating she will do 100% ID Checks. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion for a fine of \$100, seconded by Member Anas; 4:1 motion carried, Member Shin opposed.

- **Applications:**

- 1 The Front Porch**

- Application of Gautam Manubhai Patel & Shailesh Girdhardas Patel to transfer The Front Porch (TFP, LLC) Class B (restaurant) BWL license from Jeffrey P. Lewis & Jordan Walker & t/a The Front Porch (MJP23, Inc.), 22770 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650. And permission for extension of premises for outdoor seating on porch & lawn.

Mr. Gautam Patel and Shailesh Patel appeared before the board and were sworn in. They were accompanied by their Attorney David Weigel. Mr. Shailesh Patel stated that the business currently has 100% ID checks and that they are going to keep that policy in place. They will be keeping the same managers and will have employees sign a paper stating they will do 100% ID Checks. Attorney Weigel stated that closing is currently slated for December 12<sup>th</sup>, however, it may need to be pushed back due to the SBA Loan approval which got delayed due to the Government shut down. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval pending the approval for the business license, U&O, new lease and closing, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

- 2 LUX Sports Bar & Grill**

- Application for Leatrice Dawkins to purchase a Class B (restaurant) BWL license & t/a LUX Sports Bar & Grill (LUX Brands, LLC), 22576 MacArthur Blvd., Ste. 314, California, MD 20619.

Ms. Leatrice Dawkins appeared before the board and was sworn in. She was accompanied by her Attorney John Pleisse. Attorney Pleisse stated he had been assisting Ms. Dawkins with her application. Attorney Pleisse spoke about Ms. Dawkin's history and states Ms. Dawkin's is aware of the very strict situation involving alcohol and that she must do ID Checks on everyone. Ms. Dawkin's acknowledged that she must be very careful that there is no underage consumption of alcohol. Ms. Dawkins stated six employees have already taken the Serv-Safe training, and they have signed up for RAST class in January. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval pending the approval of Fire Marshal, U&O, Health Department, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

- 3 Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille**

- Application for Jamil Jamaldinian, Mynor Hernandez & Lucy Stillwell to purchase a Class B (restaurant) BWL license & t/a Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille (Rucci's Leonardtown, LLC), 22685 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650. And permission for outdoor seating.

Mr. Jamil Jamaldinian, Mr. Mynor Hernandez and Ms. Lucy Stillwell appeared before the board and were sworn in. Mr. Jamaldinian stated Rucci's in Leonardtown will be their second Rucci's location as they have another location in White Plains. Mr. Jamaldinian and Mr. Hernandez sent in a letter to have their Off-Sale privilege removed from the Greene Turtle that they also own, so they can have On/Off sale at the new business. Mr. Jamaldinian stated they will have all managers' TIPS certified, and they have a class

especially about ID and signs of intoxication that is a part of their training manuals. They have owned Greene Turtle for five years now and have had no violations and many passes. They will have six tables outside and will have a camera and signs stating you can't remove the alcohol from the table. Management will also oversee the outdoor area. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion of a 90-day conditional approval pending the approval of Business License, Health Department, Fire Marshal and U&O, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- **Officer/Member changes:**

- 1 Old Line Restaurant and Pub**

- Removing Michael Venendaal; adding Timothy Brian Grube

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to delete Michael Venendaal and add Timothy Brian Grube and was seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- 1 LongHorn Steakhouse**

- Removing Lyndon E. Carter; adding Paula Butler

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to delete Lyndon E. Carter and add Paula Butler and was seconded by Member Anas; motion carried.

## **BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

In response to the Boards interest in putting in legislation for an alternate Board Member, Mrs. Hildebrand gave each Board Member copies of the statutes in counties with Governor appointed boards that have alternates. She also stated that it is budget time and she will be asking for increases in the budget, as costs in general have gone up. And many of those accounts have never been increased since she has been working here. She will also be asking for an increase for the attorney, who is now with another law firm, and with the increase in violation hearings, the attorney hours for litigation have increased.

## **ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

For the month of October, Deputy Myers reported:

- 0 Violations
- 15 DUI arrest by the Sheriff's Office
- 9 DUI arrest by the Maryland State Police
- 2 stationary surveillance checks at Leonardtown Wine and Spirits and Lex Liquors— no violations
- Park surveillance – no violations
- 0 summonses served
- Sheriff's office required training and RAST training

## **BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT**

Inspector Kevin Hall was not present.

**ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Guy Combs was not present.

**BOARD MEMBERS TIME**

Vice-Chair Watts stated he will be supporting a major event next month so he will not be present at the next Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to adjourn at 2:12 pm; seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary

---

David Willenborg, Chair