

**Queen Anne's County  
Board of License Commissioners  
Minutes of Meeting**

**October 5, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq. Those present were: Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq., Chairman; Thomas E. Beery, Vice Chairman; John T. McQueeney, Timothy G. Hibbard and Charles W. Ferrar, Members; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board; Jeffrey E. Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Amy Moredock, Planning Director; and Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator.

The September 7, 2021 Minutes were approved.

**SPECIAL/TEMPORARY LICENSES:**

The following Special/Temporary Licenses were approved:

Animal Welfare League of QAC – Date of event – October 16 – Family Fun Day

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center – Date of event – October 29 – Haunted Bingo

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Board held a public hearing **for** Walter Petrie, for the Benefit of Bay Bridge Marina Waterfront Restaurant, LLC, trading as Hemingways, to expand the licensed premises for a Class "B-D" Beer, Wine & Liquor license located at 357 Pier One Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666. Mr. Petrie and his Attorney, Justin Hoyt, Esq. appeared before the Board. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mr. Petrie wishes to expand the licensed premises beyond just the restaurant. The property is 43 acres which encompasses Hemingways Restaurant, a tiki bar and pool. Also included is a gas dock where he hopes to sell beer to go. The tiki bar and pool are constructed and are on the same parcel as the restaurant, the tiki bar is located in one of the four office buildings contiguous to the pool area. The tiki bar and pool are fenced in. They are indicated in grey and circled in red on the submitted plat. Mr. Petrie would like to sell alcohol in the fenced in area. No alcohol would be allowed outside the fenced in pool area. Mr. Petrie said there is a desire among his guests for the sale of alcohol at the tiki bar. Mr. Hoyt said the B-D license allows the sale of beer, wine and liquor for on-premises consumption. Mr. Petrie plans to start selling alcohol at the tiki bar and pool in the spring of 2022. There is an existing ship store located on the gas dock. The ship store and gas dock are indicated in grey on the submitted plat. Mr. Petrie plans to sell beer to go at the ship store. The B-D license allows for the sale of beer only for off premises consumption, not wine or liquor. He said the beer will be sold to people who have boats there. He did a survey and that is what they all asked for. There are 12 slips at the dock that are adjacent to the restaurant and are designated for Hemingways customers. He plans to begin sale of beer at the gas dock in the spring of 2022. Mr. Petrie only plans to sell alcohol at the three designated areas: the

restaurant, tiki bar and pool and the ship store on the dock. He will not allow customers to carry open beverages from one location to the other. Mr. Thompson said all the documents were in order. He said this is a little different as typically the licensed premises has been a contiguous area on a single premises. Mr. Ransom said this is actually better because the Board is restricting the alcohol in those areas and people are not allowed to walk back and forth. Mr. Beery advised Mr. Petrie that no one can bring their own alcohol or sell alcohol on any of the licensed premises. Mr. Hoyt said Mr. Petrie would prefer all the alcohol is purchased from him. Mr. Thompson said when doing expansions, the Board should be sure that the Health Dept. and Planning & Zoning weigh in. Ms. Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator, has approved the expansion per email dated 9/27/21. The submitted plat was entered as Applicant's Exhibit No. 1 and the other submitted documents, application, etc. were entered as Applicant's Exhibit No. 2. Mr. Ransom reviewed § 4-210 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code, approval or denial of license application and said Mr. Petrie has met the requirements. He said he does not see any negative effect on nearby license holders and this is a very unique request for an amendment. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to approve the requested expansion. All members voted in favor.

The Board held a public hearing for an Amendment to Board of License Commissioners' Rules and Regulations for the Adoption of Roberts Rule of Law. No one appeared to testify on this Amendment. Mr. Ransom said the Board recently held a public hearing where there was some confusion about the Rules and Regulations and the Board had misinterpreted the State law. He said if the Board had Roberts Rules in place, they could have simply made a motion for reconsideration. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to adopt Roberts Rule of Law into the Board's Rules and Regulations effective this date. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Warren Wright, Drug Free Coalition, appeared before the Board. He thanked the Board for opting out of the "to go cup" legislation effective October 1, 2021. He said the big news in the County is the drug court that is coming, it is an 18-month program and is very well done. He said about 10 years ago several got trained in how to do a drug court but didn't have much backing from the leadership. The Co. Commissioners and Health Dept. have now chipped in with resources. The Circuit Court Judge's background is perfect for this. He said the marijuana survey is complete and the results will be forthcoming. Overdose numbers for the County have dropped. He said it is his opinion that alcohol and drug related accidents are skyrocketing. He would like to put the statistics on the public signs. Funds are available for alcohol and tobacco compliance checks but the Health Dept. is having a hard time finding volunteers.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

The Board followed up on a discussion from the September 7, 2021 meeting regarding Cult Classic Brewing in Stevensville, MD and alcohol being sold by another company in to go bottles at the farmer's market. The farmer's market location in the parking lot is now in the licensed premises. Mr. Ransom said it was his understanding that the statute passed in Annapolis for

farmer's markets was very broad and gave them the ability to do this for off-premises consumption. Mr. Ransom said unless a problem arises, he feels this is permitted.

The Board discussed Kent Island Yacht Club who appeared before the Board at the September 5, 2021 meeting regarding one of their providers who caters events on the premises and provides alcohol. Mr. Ransom said the Yacht Club does intend to work under that State caterer's license for the contracted weddings they have already scheduled in November. Mr. Jeff Kelly at the Comptroller's Office will be responsible for those licensing and regulation. Moving forward, before the Yacht Club books any more weddings after November, they are going to have the person they decide to contract with added to their liquor license and in the future, the liquor will be ordered through the Yacht Club and this Board will be regulating it.

**LICENSE FEE REFUND REQUESTS:**

The Board discussed requests for refunds/waivers of license fees for businesses who have suffered financial hardship due to Covid. § 27-1406 of the Alcohol Beverages Code allows for refunds in this situation. Also the County Commissioners gave this Board the authority to allow refunds on a case-by-case basis. The following four businesses sent requests to the Board: Big Owl LLC, t/a Big Owl; KI Rib Co., Inc., t/a Adams Grille; Beam, Inc., t/a El Jefe Mexican Kitchen; and MH Investment, Inc., t/a Squisitos. Mr. McQueeney said he has spoken with each business and they have all suffered financial hardship. Mr. Ransom said all four of these businesses had to shut down for a large period of time and also lost a large amount of seating due to Covid. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to refund these four establishments their full license fees for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22. All members voted in favor.

**REVIEW FOR ADVERTISING:**

Transfer of a Class "A" Beer, Wine & Liquor license from Edward C. Draper to Paige Barton Evans, for the benefit of Jeta E, LLC, trading as Draper Brothers, permitting the sale of the aforesaid beverages on the premises located at 2615 Centreville Rd., Centreville, MD 21617. Mr. Thompson recused himself as he has represented the applicant in the past. Joseph McQueeney, Esq. filed the application for Ms. Evans but was not in attendance. Mr. Ransom reviewed the submitted documents and said they were in order. Mr. Ransom said this application will be advertised at the applicant's risk and all members agreed. Mr. Thompson will have to recuse himself at the public hearing on November 2, 2021 but the Board agreed to proceed without Mr. Thompson participating in the hearing and will not require a replacement.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:35 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, to go into Executive Session under Section 3-305(b) (1) of the General Prevision Article "Personnel" to conduct interviews for Liquor Inspector. All members voted in favor. Those in attendance with the Board Members were Ms. Beverly Churchill, Director of Human Resources, Ms. Amy Moredock, Director of Planning Zoning; and Ms. Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator. The Board exited the Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. During the Executive Session, the Liquor Board decided to

make an offer to one of the applicants interviewed during the Executive Session. No other decisions were made.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed unanimously. The Board will meet again on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Maxwell*  
Clerk

/s/ Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq.  
Chairman