

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
16 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Liquor Control Board for Harford County was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goddard. The meeting was held at the Bel Air Town Hall Rotunda, 39 N. Hickory Avenue, due to the large number of anticipated attendees. In attendance were Commissioners Sines, Walters, and Miller, General Manager Crabbs and Board Counsel Finneran. Vice Chair Majewski was excused.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded to pay the following bills; the vote was unanimous.

U.S. Treasurer	Withholding	3327.45
State Comptroller	Withholding	930.01
ConnectPay	Accounting	115.00
Payroll	Payroll	7790.67
State Retirement	Retirement	670.97
T-Mobile	Telephone	148.85
Comcast	Telephone	274.67
Kelly & Associates	Insurance	2210.06
BG&E	Utilities	225.19
Malissa Roche	Maintenance	80.00
Maryland State Retirement	Administration fee	140.92
Modus Solutions	Office	19.11
The Shred Mill	Maintenance	47.50

FIRST TIME APPLICANTS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR

1) Two First Time Applicants – North Harford Boosters Club – Per Diem B&W - 10/06

Tiffany Wendland and Jason Staiger appeared as two first time applicants on behalf of North Harford Boosters Club in connection with a Per Diem B&W application for a crab feast being held at Jarrettsville Gardens on 10/06. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) Two First Time Applicants – Northeastern MD Technology Council – Per Diem BWL – 10/03

Michael Geppi and Rachel Farbman appeared as two first time applicants on behalf of Northeastern MD Technology Council in connection with a Per Diem BWL application for their “World of Wine” tasting event being held at Rockfield Manor on 10/03. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

PER DIEM LICENSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD

1) Kutcher Foundation/Joshua Hamer Legacy Foundation – 2nd Annual Lot Party: Cruisin for a Cause – B&W – 09/28

Application submitted by Jennifer Hamer and Brittany Russin-Smith on behalf of Kutcher Foundation/Joshua Hamer Legacy Foundation for their 2nd Annual Lot Party: Cruisin for a Cause fundraiser to be held outdoors on 09/28 at 626 Towne Center Drive, Joppatowne. Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) Harford Land Trust – “Party to Preserve” – 10/05 – BWL

Application submitted by Kristin Kirkwood and Benjamin Lloyd on behalf of Harford Land Trust for their “Party to Preserve” fundraiser being held outdoors at Swansbury Farm, 111 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen on 10/05. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

3) Kohler Food & Beverage, Inc. T/A Pairings Bistro – Outside Event Application

Kohler Food & Beverage, Inc. T/A Pairings Bistro has submitted an Outside Event Application to be used outdoors at Camp Ramblewood, 2564 Silver Road, Darlington, on October 11, 12, and 13 for “The Ramble Festival”. Brandon “Brick” Lohr, organizer of The Ramble Festival, appeared to answer any questions. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1) Financial Audit

Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the draft audit for FY 2023-2024; the vote was unanimous.

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR

1) Harford Spirits, L.L.C., T/A North Harford Liquors – Transfer

Sagar Ghimire, Member, Kusum Bhandari, Member, North Harford Spirits, L.L.C., T/A North Harford Liquors, 1120 Baldwin Mill Road (Unit C), Jarrettsville, appeared along with their attorney, Carolyn M. Evans, in connection with a Transfer Application of this Class A1-BWL-Off Sale Only License transferring from Richard McGarry, President/Treasurer, RJM Liquors, Inc. T/A North Harford Liquors. Sagar Ghimire holds 25 % interest in the L.L.C. and Kusum Bhandari holds 75% interest. Both applicants have passed the licensee test, and Mr. Ghimire will serve as the Responsible Operator. Applicants have also submitted a properly executed Retail Delivery Application. Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and was seconded to approve the Transfer Application; the vote was unanimous. Following settlement, Ms. Evans will provide properly executed settlement documents.

2) RS Concession, L.L.C., T/A RS Concession – Supplemental

Jack Graham, Member, Ellen Ripken, Member, RS Concession, L.L.C. T/A RS Concession, 873 Long Drive, Aberdeen, appeared in proper person in connection with a Supplemental Application for the Class Stadium-BWL License. The purpose of the application is to add Mr. Graham to the license. Membership in the L.L.C. will be held as follows: Mr. Graham, 10%; Ms. Ripken, 90%. Mr. Graham has passed the licensee test and will serve at the Responsible Operator. Motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

3) Veer, L.L.C., T/A Harford Liquors – New License (PROTESTED)

Nitinkumar Patel, Member, Veer, L.L.C., T/A Harford Liquors, 804 Conowingo Road, Suite 8, Bel Air appeared along with their attorney, Tyler J. Nowicki, in connection with an Application for a new Class A1-BWL-Off Sale Only License. Mr. Patel holds 100% interest in the L.L.C. and he has passed the licensee test and will serve as the Responsible Operator. One witness, applicant’s nephew Hardwick Patel, testified for the applicant.

David F. Mister represents the protestants. Testimony opposed to the application was heard from Eric Wong, resident of Town of Bel Air; Peter LaClair, license holder at The Liquor Stop; Bipin Patel,

license holder at Moores Mill Convenience and Liquor; Charles Larry Dean, license holder at Bel Air Liquors, director of Harford County Licensed Beverage Association, and Harford County director at Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association; and Erin Dean, employee at Bel Air Liquors.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to convene to executive session per MD Code, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; the vote was unanimous. The meeting was closed to the public because public discussion of legal strategies can compromise the attorney-client privilege and inhibit the ability of the public body to receive candid and uninhibited legal advice.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sines and was seconded to close the executive session and return to open session; the vote was unanimous.

The Board's decision and analysis in determining whether or not to grant a license is governed by various provisions in the Maryland Code, Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis Article. The Board is required to consider several factors including the public need and desire for the license, the number of existing licenses and the locations, the potential effect on existing licenses, the potential commonality or uniqueness of the services and products, and the impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the community, as well as any other factors the Board considers necessary.

After consideration of all the testimony and evidence presented by the applicant and those opposed to the license, the Board determined that there was not a public need and desire for the License and therefore the issuance of the License was not necessary to accommodate the public. Motion was made by Commissioner Sines to deny the Application for a New License and was seconded; the vote was unanimous. Roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner Sines	Yea
Commissioner Walters	Yea
Commissioner Miller	Yea
Chair Goddard	Yea

Therefore, the application submitted by VEER, L.L.C., is DENIED.

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Walters and was seconded to adjourn the meeting; the vote was unanimous.



Wayne S. Goddard, Chair



Mary Sporre, Secretary