

Meeting Minutes

Board of License Commissioners

Caroline County, Maryland

Date: April 6, 2023

Place: Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Health & Public Services Building
403 South 7th Street, Room 111
Denton, MD 21629

Board Members: Greg Eigenbrode, Chair
Glen Plutschak, Member
Michael Mann, Alternate

Staff Present: Crystal Dadds, Assistant Director of Codes
Catherine McCulley, Board Administrative Assistant

Chairman Eigenbrode called to order the meeting of the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners at 9:30 AM.

New Business

Greensboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. – Truck and Tractor Pull – May 6, 2023

Ms. Dadds explained to the Board that Greensboro Volunteer Fire Company (GVFC) currently holds a multi-event Temporary License where all events are held indoors. Mr. Kevin Parks came before the Board to request an outdoor event, the Truck and Tractor Pull, on May 6, 2023.

Chairman Eigenbrode administered the oath to Mr. Parks (12781 Greensboro Road, Greensboro, MD).

Mr. Parks told the Board the grounds would be fenced off to ensure spectators paid the admission fee at the entry gate. Referring to a site plan, Mr. Parks indicated the fence would be placed from the rear southeast corner of the hall, and it will extend to the ditch on the south side and back toward the wooded property line. Another fence will run from the northeast corner of the hall, and will extend north to the entrance road to the wastewater treatment plant and back toward the wooded property line along the rear. They will try to keep all of the alcohol on the fire hall side of the track. The goal is to keep spectators out of the pits. The set up should keep spectators between the bleachers.

Ms. Dadds projected an aerial view of the grounds. Mr. Parks showed the entry point, the fencing, the location of the beer truck, and the hedgerow on the eastern side.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if there would be wrist bands [for those drinking]. He added that the biggest struggle will be with the alcohol people bring into the event with them which is not permitted.

Ms. Dadds confirmed with Mr. Parks that all spectators will have to pass through a single-entry point. Mr. Parks told the Board they've talked about having one arm band for admission and a second arm band for alcohol that will be different colors.

Mr. Plutschak asked if the beer truck was going to card people. Mr. Parks responded that GVFC was going to man the beer truck. Mr. Plutschak asked if they were TIPS certified. Mr. Parks said they had several members who were TIPS certified, about 12 or 13.

Mr. Eigenbrode questioned if this counted as one of their events for their multi-event license and how many they did have. Ms. Dadds responded that they used to do 30 events. Mr. Parks said that ever since they raised the hall rental price, it "slowed it down some." They will be having a rodeo in July and another Shriner event. Mr. Eigenbrode asked if they would be serving beer at the Shriner event. Mr. Parks said they were talking about it.

He explained they are considering serving beer at all events because the Tractor Pull does not make a lot of money. They are also talking with the Queen Anne's County FFA about doing a fundraiser for their alumni, possibly a Dirt Drag in June, and they are considering selling beer. Mr. Parks said the GVFC had invested a lot into the track and bleachers and had to keep events going. He noted that Tractor Pull costs about \$15,000. to put on that event. Ms. Dadds asked if they would be serving only beer. Mr. Parks responded that it would be only beer from the beer truck. The bar inside the fire hall would be closed.

Mr. Mann confirmed that the fencing would run from the track to fence but shut off at the pits. Mr. Parks said they would try to keep spectators out of the pits, which would be at the northern end. The Pull will be from the south to the north, meaning from the bottom to the top [referring to the aerial photo].

Mr. Mann confirmed with Mr. Parks that they would be heading to the pits at the final end of the track.

Mr. Eigenbrode wondered if the spectators mostly stayed on the Hall side of the track where most of the food is.

Mr. Parks said the spectators sometimes do get closer to the pits on the back side of the track.

Ms. Dadds asked if people park at the neighboring church. Mr. Parks said people park "everywhere."

Mr. Mann said the north side of the hall, the grass area, is all parking, and there is parking around the hall. Mr. Parks confirmed this. Mr. Mann asked if, for this event, there would be parking on the south side of the hall in the grassy area. Mr. Parks said yes, there would be parking there near the road.

Mr. Eigenbrode recalled when he had been there, coming from Greensboro Road, you take a right into the grass field. Mr. Parks showed on the aerial map where the trucks and tractors would be parked, to the right and south of the hall.

Mr. Parks repeated that there would be only one entrance, unless they jump the fence, which they do often. He added that it is hard to police it, especially when they are short-handed. Mr. Eigenbrode commented that he was aware of some places that do both a wristband and a stamp in the event they try to tamper with one, they would still have to have both. Mr. Mann asked if they would be carding at the entrance or at the beer truck. Mr. Parks confirmed that they will card at the beer truck and will receive a wristband. They will try the two wrist band tactic this time to see if it works.

Motion: Mr. Mann made a motion to approve Greensboro Fire Company's temporary one day expansion of the license premise area to go from the fence area by the hall to the pits.

Second: Mr. Plutschak seconded the motion.

Ms. Dadds asked if there were any conditions: wrist bands or fencing?

Mr. Mann responded that he mentioned the fence.

Ms. Dadds asked if the fence was a condition of approval.

Mr. Mann answered yes, but there would be fencing any way to make sure people pay the entry fee. And after being carded, they should have a wristband to show that the person is eligible to have alcohol.

Mr. Plutschak seconded the motion.

Chairman Eigenbrode restated the motion: It has been moved and seconded to approve the one-day license expansion for Greensboro Volunteer Fire Company on May 6, 2023 and called for a vote.

Vote: All members voted in favor (3:0).

2023-2024 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals

The Chairman began the review of the 2023-2024 Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals. Ms. Dadds informed the Commissioners that everyone made the March 31st renewal application deadline. None of the establishments were listed on the MD Comptroller's Office sales tax delinquent list, and there are just a few whose business entities are not in good standing.

Mr. Eigenbrode asked what this meant. Ms. Dadds replied that this meant that their corporation or LLC is not in compliance with Maryland laws usually because they had not filed some required paperwork, for taxes, generally. A business will go into “not in good standing” before the business entity is forfeited. Any business not in good standing must present a Certificate of Good Standing before receiving their renewal license. Ms. Dadds reported that in the past, the requirements for License Renewal did not include submitting a Certificate of Good Standing. She felt this requirement has streamlined the renewal process.

Ms. Dadds explained that this was the first year that renewal licenses were sent to establishments without their current information filled in. In past years, the licenses were sometimes sent to the wrong address due to the license holder not reporting changes to the Board. Sending out the blank form was partially successful. Some filled them out; some dropped them off not filled out. She will make sure applications are all complete before they receive their license. The MD Business License renewals have only begun to be mailed, so most businesses do not have them yet. Only one of applicants has received their Business License.

Ms. Dadds presented the license renewals to the Board for their signatures and stated what each establishment needed to complete the renewal.

While reviewing and signing licenses, the Board discussed some issues related to licensing. Mr. Plutschak asked how long the businesses had to turn in the required documents; Ms. Dadds replied that they have until April 28th. She will send notices on Monday (4/10) to notify applicants of what is still needed for their application.

Since Earth Tones Café will be moving to the former Harry’s location, they will need information to complete for that transition. Mr. Mann commented that since that restaurant had been vacant for some time, there will be much for them to do in order to bring everything up to code with the Health Department.

Ms. Dadds remarked that there were few restaurants serving alcohol locally. Mr. Eigenbrode added that if the pending legislation [to change the requirement from having a county resident on the establishment license to having only a Maryland resident on the license] may add more corporate businesses. The requirement of having a Caroline County resident on the license has restricted many. Mr. Mann concurred and said that change could bring more corporate businesses to the area. If approved by the Governor, the legislation would mean one person on the license must be a state resident, and they would no longer need a petition. Ms. Dadds recalled a business who tried to move here, Turnbridge Point, which wanted a license but did not want to include someone they didn’t know well as part owner of their business. This resulted in them having to wait two years to get a license until such time they met the residency requirement. Ms. Dadds noted there was no opposition in the legislature, and it could become effective in either July or October.

Ms. Dadds summarized that the license renewals had been fairly successful this year compared to previous years. There were not many issues. Everyone's application was submitted, and there were no sales tax delinquencies, only a few businesses "Not in Good Standing." Businesses are supposed to pick up their licenses from the Planning and Codes office by April 28th. Mr. Plutschak stated that Ms. Dadds will know a lot about the applicants' submission of required materials by the Board's April 26th meeting. Mr. Plutschak commented that getting updates at that meeting would be good. Ms. Dadds affirmed that would be done. Mr. Plutschak added that Ms. Dadds had done a very nice job on the license renewals. She thanked him.

Establishment	2023 MD Business License	Certificate of Worker's Comp. Ins.	Alcohol Awareness Certification	Other
AMERICAN LEGION CAROLINE POST #29	x	x		
BARGAIN BEVERAGE	x	x		
BULLOCK'S DELI	x	x	x	
CAROLINE'S	x			
CHOPTANK RIVER YACHT CLUB	x			
COHEE'S 404 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE	x		x	
COVEY'S	x			
D & B TAVERN	x	x		License Holder Signatures
DENTON DINER	x			Property Owner Signature
DENTON GOOSE CREEK	x			
DENTON LIQUOR OUTLET	x			Property owner's & License holder signatures
DENTON SHELL	x	x	x	License fee
EARTH TONES CAFÉ	x			
FOSTER'S MINI MART	x			
GREENSBORO QUICK SHOP	x	x		
LUCKY CORNER FRESH DELI & GROCERIES	x		x	
MARKET STREET PUBLIC HOUSE	x			
MIKE'S CORNER				
PRESTON SUPER SODA	x			
RED LIGHT LIQUORS	x	x		License Fee

Establishment	2023 MD Business License	Certificate of Worker's Comp. Ins.	Alcohol Awareness Certification	Other
RIDGELY EXXON	x	x	x	
ROADHOUSE 313	x	x	x	License fee
SHORE COUNTRY STORE <i>Note: Dropping wine sales so license will go from Class A-Beer & Wine to Class A-Beer</i>	x			Certificate of Good Standing
SHORE STOP #240	x			
STAR GAS & DIESEL	x			Certificate of Good Standing
STATE LINE STORE	x	x		
SUPER SODA CENTER—FEDERALSBURG	x	x	x	
THE GREENSBORO DELI	x			
TIGERMART	x			
TRI-ME WAREHOUSE FOOD	x	x		Certificate of Good Standing
U-5 FOODS	x			
U-5 FOODS BETHLEHEM	x			
VFW POST #5246	x	x		
WALKER'S GROCERY STORE	x			
WETCHER WHISTLE	x	x	x	


Adjournment

- Motion:** Mr. Plutschak made the motion to end the meeting.
Second: Mr. Mann seconded.
Vote: The members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Eigenbrode adjourned the Board of Licensed Commissioners meeting for Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 10:46 am.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Greg Eigenbrode, Chairman



Greg Eigenbrode, Chairman

Minutes prepared by:
Catherine McCulley, Boards Administrative Assistant