

TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of Public Meeting
February 12, 2024

The meeting of the Talbot County Board of Liquor License Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024. Present were Chairman Jack M. Gottschalk, Commissioner Edward M. Bridges, Jr., Commissioner David A. Fike and Board Secretary Victoria E. Bradley.

OLD BUSINESS

- Upon motion by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 2023, were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Granddpioggia23, LLC – Application for transfer of a Class F-A liquor license (hotels/restaurants – on-sale, beer, wine and liquor)

All those in attendance to testify in the matter were sworn in, (Rebecca Miles and Anthony Guessregan).

The Board noted that Attachment #3 was submitted. The Board asked the applicant to correct the address that was listed on Attachment #1 for the record.

Mr. Guessregan gave opening statements with regard to the application. Mr. Guessregan testified that he currently leases the property for his new business and they are transferring the license from Far Horizons LLC.

The Chairman testified that the Board requires a Bulk Transfer Permit to complete the transfer. Ms. Miles testified that she has submitted the application, and it will take the Comptrollers office a few weeks to finalize.

The Chairman asked for the applicant to discuss the business plan. Mr. Guesseregan testified this is an Italian restaurant, serving lunch and dinner and they will be open seven days a week.

The Chairman asked for an explanation regarding the hold letter from the Comptroller's office. Mr. Guessregan testified that the hold from that office is regarding Far Horizons LLC and that Mr. Clear, the seller is currently working with the Comptrollers office to resolve this issue.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

- Motion made by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Fike that the Board approve the application for transfer of a Class F-A liquor license provided the applicant provide the Bulk Transfer Permit and a release letter from the Maryland Comptroller's Office. Motion passed unanimously.

St. Michaels Pub, LLC – Application for a Class F-A liquor license
(hotels/restaurants – on-sale, beer, wine and liquor)

All those in attendance to testify in the matter were sworn in, (Brian Richards and his Attorney Joseph McQueeney).

Mr. McQueeney and Mr. Richards gave opening statements with regard to the application. The applicant wants to bring a new business and hopefully more people to the area. Mr. Richards further testified that the restaurant style will be traditional American and elevated pub food.

The Chairman asked what time frame the restaurant plans to operate. Mr. Richards testified that they plan to open 11 am to midnight serving lunch and dinner.

Commissioner Bridges asked if the applicant had received the Health Department and Fire Marshalls approval. Mr. McQueeney testified that the final inspections are scheduled for February 20, 2024, and the certificates are pending. The Chairman asked if there are any renovations taking place. Mr. Richards testified that they are renovating the kitchen and many other parts of the building.

The Chairman asked if the applicant was new to the restaurant industry. Mr. Richards testified that he has been in the industry for 26 years. The Chairman further asked if the applicant has managed a bar or restaurant that serves alcohol. Mr. Richards testified that he has.

The Chairman stated the importance of the TIPS certifications. Mr. McQueeney testified that everyone in the business will be TIPS certified to make sure there will be no issues or problems. The Chairman asked if the applicant has a process for keeping track of the employees TIPS certifications. Mr. Richards testified that they have a system in place and keep copies of all certifications on file.

The Chairman asked if the applicant will have regular staff meetings to keep track of TIPS certification as well as the ID checking process. Mr. Richards testified that they will have regular staff meetings and use the resources the TIPS class provided. Mr. McQueeney testified that the

business POS system has a checkpoint question the server needs to complete before they can complete the sale of alcohol. Mr. Richards further testified that they will have an age calendar at the registers.

The Chairman asked for an explanation regarding the hold letter from the Comptroller's office. Mr. McQueeney testified that they are aware of the issue and are working with the Comptroller's Office to resolve the clerical issue.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

- Motion made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges to approve the application for a Class F-A liquor license provided the applicant provides the Health Department Certificate, Fire Marshalls Inspection and a release letter form the Maryland Comptroller's Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Liquor Inspector's Report

Inspector Gottschalk briefed the Board as to ongoing County liquor inspections. The Inspector testified that he has upcoming TIPS courses and there are some internal issues with the TIPS program with respect to getting the TIPS cards out.

Inspector Gottschalk testified that there is one outstanding violation that he will bring to the Boards attention as soon as he is able, he is currently waiting for more information from the State Tropper involved before he can move forward.

Inspector Gottschalk further testified that the compliance check done by the Maryland State Police was good overall, they checked 14 businesses in Talbot County and only hade 1 violation. The Chairman asked if the Inspector could prepare a short report with more information on the compliance check and show the statistics for the State of Maryland.

Old Business

There being no further business to discuss, the Board moved to adjourn.

- Upon motion by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, there being no further business to discuss, the Board voted unanimously to close the meeting at 10:46 a.m.