

Worcester County Board of License Commissioners
Open Meetings Act Minutes
April 15, 2026

Time: 1:00 P.M

Location: Worcester County Governmental Center, Board Room, Room 1102

Attendance:

License Commissioners

R. Charles Nichols
Marty W. Pusey
William E. Esham, III

Staff:

Hank Fisher, III, Esquire
April R. Payne, Liquor License Administrator
Joseph Pembroke, Liquor License Inspector

I. Call to Order

II. Administrative Matters

The Board of License Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the February 18, 2026, meeting, and a motion was made by Commissioner Esham seconded by Commissioner Pusey and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as submitted.

III. Closed Session - Administrative Matters

April Payne, Liquor License Administrator, presented to the Board a list of licensees who will not be renewing their alcoholic beverages licenses for 2026. She also provided an update on the licenses that remain pending due to outstanding requirements, including Fire Marshal and Health Department inspections, among other items.

Ms. Payne further reported that the fillable online renewal application system is functioning effectively and continues to support the renewal process.

IV. Open Session

No administrative matters were discussed during Open Session.

V. Adjournment

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SURFIN BETTY'S - NEW
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member:		☒				
		William E. Esham, III (RECUSED HIMSELF)						
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney:		☐	
					Name:			
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:05 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: North OC Betty's, Inc			T/A: Surfin Betty's		Address: 12701 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland 21842			
New Application:	☒ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation:	☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Application for Class "B" B/W 7 Day License								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. Clint Dempsey					Mark S. Cropper, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1.					1.			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 – Unit #1 Carry-Out Floor Plan					1.			
2. Applicant's Exhibit #2 – Unit #2 Dine-In Floor Plan					2.			
Hearing Minutes: The applicant Clint Dempsey accompanied by his attorney Mark S. Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for an Application for Class "B" B/W 7 Day License for Surfin Betty's. The applicant was sworn in. Cropper stated Dempsey is 100% shareholder and resident agent of the business. Dempsey confirmed he obtained all required signatures on the application. He testified he has never previously held an alcoholic beverage license and has no prior violations. Dempsey has been employed for the past nine months as a manager at Surfin' Betty's, located at 1501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland. He further testified that he has 15 years of experience serving alcoholic beverages while employed at the Shark Restaurant in Ocean City from 2001 through 2016. Dempsey will manage the property and expects to be on the premises approximately 50 hours per week. He indicated that additional managers will be hired. Dempsey is TIPS/TAMS certified and additional staff will also be certified. The establishment consists of approximately 2,000 square feet of interior space divided into two units. Unit 1 is designated as a carry-out area (Applicant's Exhibit #1), Unit #1 carry-out floor plan, (Applicant's Exhibit #2) and Unit #2 is a dine-in floor plan. There is an interior opening connecting the two units. The bar will contain ten stools, and there will be seating for an additional 32 patrons. The premises will not offer live entertainment, music, DJs, games, or off-sale privileges. The establishment will contain two televisions and three speakers providing background music only. Dempsey stated that the business model has been successful at the 15th Street Surfin Betty's location and that he intends to replicate that success at the proposed 127th Street location. Liquor License Administrator April Payne inquired whether alcoholic beverages would be stored in the carry-out area. Cropper advised the applicant that licensing Unit #1, in addition to Unit #2, would avoid potential violations should a patron from the dine-in area enter the carry-out area with alcohol. Payne stated that a site plan must be submitted showing the doorway connecting the two units. Payne further advised that appropriate signage stating "No Alcohol Beyond This Point" must be posted on the carry-out door if that area remains unlicensed. Dempsey agreed.								

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Cropper stated the hours of operation would be Summer 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days per week, Winter Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Board tentatively approved the application for a Class "B" B/W 7-Day License for Surfin Betty's, pending all required documentation.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: NO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, NO DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED, NO DANCE FLOOR ALLOWED, NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE, BACKGROUND MUSIC ALLOWED, THREE INSIDE SPEAKERS ALLOWED, TWO TV'S ALLOWED

Time Hearing Ended: 1:19 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB - LICENSE #515
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		X	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	515	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:20 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/L/W		Day:	7 Day License		
For: Farindola OP, LLC		T/A: Ocean Pines Yacht Club		Address: 1 Mumfords Landing Road Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day license request for off sale of liquor in factory sealed containers.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Robert Ciprietti				1. Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
2. Wayne A. Hartman								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Tim Robinson - Ocean Pines Police				1.				
2. John Latham – President of Ocean Pines Assoc.				2.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 - Radius Map				1.				
2. Applicant's Exhibit #2 - Floor Plan				2.				
Hearing Minutes: Licensee Robert Ciprietti and his attorney, Hugh Cropper, Esquire, appeared before the Board to request a modification to their Class "B" B/W/L 7-Day License for off sale of liquor in factory sealed containers. All licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher noted that resident agent Wayne Hartman was running late due to medical issues and approved proceeding with the hearing. Cropper stated that the Ocean Pines Yacht Club serves the boating and recreational community in Ocean Pines. As part of the Yacht Club, a 550-square-foot marina office is used to serve this community. (Applicant's Exhibit #1) - Radius Map was entered, showing no existing off-sale liquor locations in one of the most densely populated areas of the county. Cropper explained that the nearest liquor retailer is located across Maryland Route 589 at a busy intersection, requiring residents and boaters to travel out of their way for beer, wine, or liquor. He described this request as accommodation for local residents and boaters, noting that the marina office currently sells boating supplies and snacks. Cropper emphasized that off-sale liquor would be strictly limited to the 550-square-foot marina office. Cropper submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #2) - Floor Plan. Cropper added that approval would reduce traffic on local roads. Ciprietti testified that he has over 20 years of experience in the bar and restaurant industry, including employment at Touch of Italy in Lewes, DE; Sunset Island in Ocean City; and Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Beach Club, and the Golf Course. He stated he is a 99% owner of Ocean Pines Yacht Club and is TIPS/TAMS certified. Ciprietti noted that the establishment sees few minors but takes all precautions to avoid selling to minors and has had no violations. He testified that residents frequently walk from their homes to the Yacht Club and request off-sale liquor, which the business is currently unable to provide. Most patrons walk rather than drive. John Latham, President of the Ocean Pines Association, testified in full support of the request. Latham stated the relationship with the Ocean Pines Yacht Club, Ciprietti, and Hartman has been strong and positive. Latham testified that the service is necessary for the community. Chairman Nichols asked how many residents are in Ocean Pines. Latham stated there are 8,542 homes in Ocean Pines, with a population around 18,000 in the summer and around 14,000 year-round. Cropper noted Ocean Pines Police Chief Tim Robinson, is present today acknowledging that law enforcement is not allowed to endorse businesses but stated he had no objections to the request. Wayne Hartman arrived and was sworn in. Hartman testified								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR CRAB CAKE FACTORY WEST – LICENSE #943
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		X	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	943	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:35 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/L/W		Day:	7 Day License		
For: RCB Crabcake, LLC		T/A: Crab Cake Factory West		Address: 12445 Ocean Gateway, Units 1 - 4 Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to increase the live entertainment pieces from two pieces to four pieces.								
Applicants: ☐		Licensees: X		Representative:				
1. Ronald C. Brooks (John)								
2. James Cathell								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
Hearing Minutes: Licensees John Brooks and James Cathell appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to change their restrictions from two-pieces to four-pieces and the hours are from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. to 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. Commissioner Nichols requested clarification of the hours. Brooks gave testimony of the hours requested. Brooks stated that, due to the current business climate and increased competition in West Ocean City, expanded entertainment options would provide greater value to their patrons and support their business operations. The Board approved the application for a for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to change their live entertainment restrictions from two pieces to four pieces and the hours from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. to 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.								
Motion:	1st	Mr. Esham	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED INSIDE THREE DAYS PER WEEK WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PIECES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.								
Time Hearing Ended: 1:37 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR CRAB CAKE FACTORY WEST – LICENSE #943
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		X	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	943	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:35 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/L/W		Day:	7 Day License		
For: RCB Crabcake, LLC		T/A: Crab Cake Factory West		Address: 12445 Ocean Gateway, Units 1 - 4 Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to increase the live entertainment pieces from two pieces to four pieces.								
Applicants: ☐		Licensees: X		Representative:				
1. Ronald C. Brooks (John)								
2. James Cathell								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1.				
Hearing Minutes: Licensees John Brooks and James Cathell appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to change their restrictions from two-pieces to four-pieces and the hours are from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. to 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. Commissioner Nichols requested clarification of the hours. Brooks gave testimony of the hours requested. Brooks stated that, due to the current business climate and increased competition in West Ocean City, expanded entertainment options would provide greater value to their patrons and support their business operations. The Board approved the application for a for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to change their live entertainment restrictions from two pieces to four pieces and the hours from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. to 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.								
Motion:	1st	Mr. Esham	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED INSIDE THREE DAYS PER WEEK WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PIECES BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.								
Time Hearing Ended: 1:37 p.m.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR OCEAN PINES YACHT CLUB - LICENSE #515
APRIL 15, 2026

as the resident agent that off-sale availability in factory-sealed containers is necessary for the public due to limited availability in this highly populated area.

The Board approved the application for modification of the Class “B” B/W/L 7-Day License to permit the Off-Sale of Beer, Wine, and Liquor in factory-sealed containers from dock office only.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Esham	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: OFF SALE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR IN FACTORY SEALED CONTAINERS ALLOWED FROM DOCK OFFICE ONLY

Time Hearing Ended: 1:34 p.m.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 7-11 OCEAN PINES – LICENSE #250
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			☐
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter			X
License #:	250	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:39 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W		Day:	7 Day		
For: J.T.H., LLC		T/A: 7-11 Ocean Pines		Address: 11055 Racetrack Road Berlin, Maryland 21811				
New Application:	X Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes		Violation: X Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "A" B/W 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor).								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. James T Hughes, Jr.				1. Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
2. Sue A. Lund				2.				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Patrick Spicer				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman				
2. Aaron Debaca				2. Cadet Shubert				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Tobacco & Alcohol Compliance Program - Be A Responsible Seller (BARS) Certificates				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated March 5, 2026, Compliance Check History, Violation Report, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #26-0000181				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Aaron Debaca TIPS/TAMS Certificate				2.				
3. Licensee's Exhibit #3 – Sue Lund TIPS/TAMS Certificate				3.				
4. Licensee's Exhibit #4 – Patrick Spicer TIPS/TAMS Certificate				4.				
Hearing Minutes: The licensees James Hughes, Jr., Sue Lund and witnesses Aaron Debaca, and Patrick Spicer, along with their attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "A" B/W 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher submitted the following into evidence as (Board's Exhibit #1): Board Investigation Report dated March 5, 2026, license and compliance check history, Worcester County Sheriff's Office Incident Case Report #26-0000181. Cropper provided background regarding employee Aaron Debaca, who conducted the sale in question. Cropper stated that Debaca around 25 years of experience in the alcohol sales industry, has been TIPS/TAMS certified around 30 times, and previously worked for 7-11 for 14 years. Debaca also has experience with Royal Farms and completed the Tobacco & Alcohol Compliance Program. Cropper submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #1) Tobacco & Alcohol Compliance Program - Be A Responsible Seller (BARS) Certificates. Cropper noted that Debaca had only one prior violation during his first tenure with 7-11 many years ago and is widely regarded as an excellent employee. Additional exhibits submitted included: (Applicant's Exhibit #2) Aaron Debaca TIPS/TAMS Certificate (Applicant's Exhibit #3) Sue Lund TIPS/TAMS Certificate (Applicant's Exhibit #4) Patrick Spicer TIPS/TAMS Certificate. Cropper stated that all employees are TIPS/TAMS certified and receive training through 7-11 corporation. The company also utilizes internal mystery shoppers and requires employees to sign a policy acknowledging that selling to a minor result in immediate termination. Debaca was terminated immediately following the incident. After this violation, the store implemented a mandatory ID scanning								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 7-11 OCEAN PINES – LICENSE #250
APRIL 15, 2026

system that no longer allows manual overrides. Debaca testified regarding the event of March 5, 2026. He stated that he had thoroughly reviewed and understood the company's policies. He explained that on the day of the violation he was distracted while waiting to speak with the General Manager who had recently returned from vacation and was going to discuss an upcoming salaried manager position. Debaca stated he did not look closely at the customer and believed he was ringing up an energy drink. Approximately five minutes later, law enforcement arrived, and he realized the mistake. He immediately contacted the manager and understood the consequences. Cropper questioned Debaca about the company's policies, and Debaca confirmed he was fully aware of the importance of age verification and the consequences of failing to follow procedures. Chairman Nichols asked Debaca about overriding the system. Debaca confirmed that long-term employees had previously been able to override ID entry requirements, but younger/new employees could not. James Hughes, Jr., stated that the override function has now been removed for all employees, and customers must present a driver's license to complete alcohol purchases. Passports are no longer accepted. Cropper questioned salaried manager Patrick Spicer, who testified that he strictly enforces underage alcohol policies and ensures all employees ID customers purchasing alcohol. Cropper also noted that the business is family operated and that Lund's daughter is expected to eventually take over operations at this location. Chairman Nichols entered into the record this establishment has passed 19 compliance checks and has had four violations at this property. Board Attorney Hank Fisher., noted that the next page of the report reflected five additional "no sale" checks. Sgt. Bissman stated that body camera footage corroborated Debaca's account and that Debaca was fully cooperative.

Chairman Nichols requested the Board will go into closed session. The Board is acting in its Quasi-Judicial capacity and is not subject to the Open Meeting Act pursuant to Section 3-103 of the General Provisions Articles of the annotated Code of Maryland. The Board reconvened and the following motion was made.

The Board found that the violation did occur on March 5, 2026, a \$2,000 fine was imposed, with payment due by Friday, April 17, 2026, by 12 p.m., failure to pay by the deadline would result in suspension of the license until payment was made. The fine was paid in full on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Esham	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:03 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWARK STATION – LICENSE #394
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:	R. Charles Nichols, Chairman	X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
	Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III	X				
Staff Present:	April Payne, Administrator	X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
	Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney	X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			
	Stacey Odell, Administrative	X	Court Reporter, Kathy Zeve			X
License #:	394	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026	Hearing Start Time:	2:05 p.m.	
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W	Day:	7 Day License	
For:	Dunya, Inc.	T/A:	Newark Station	Address:	7167 Worcester Highway Newark, Maryland 21841	
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting:	☐ Yes	Violation: ☒ Yes

Items to be discussed: Class "A" B/W 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor).

Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X	Representative:	
1. Sultan Mahmood				1. David Moore, Esquire	
Witnesses:				Protestants:	
1. Zeeshan Siddique				1. Sgt. Paul Bissman	
2. Arthar Warraich – Store Manager				2. Cadet B. Sisson	
Exhibits:				Exhibits:	
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Zeeshan Siddique TIPS/TAMS Certificate				1. Board's Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated March 5, 2026, Compliance Check History Report, Violation Report and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Report #26-0000186.	

Hearing Minutes: The witnesses Zeeshan Siddique and Arthar Warraich along with their attorney David Moore, Esquire, appeared before the Board for a Class "A" B/W 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-304 (Sale to a Minor). The witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher., submitted (Board's Exhibit #1) Board Investigation Report dated March 5, 2026, and Compliance Check History report, violation report, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Incident Report #26-0000186. Moore stated to the Board that employee Zeeshan Siddique has worked for the business for a little over a year and had previously taken TIPS/TAMS training upon hire and again after the incident. Moore expressed that the business operates seven days a week, thirteen hours per day, and emphasized a desire for the business to remain compliant and operational. Commissioner Esham questioned Siddique about his TIPS/TAMS training history. Siddique stated he had taken the training twice, with the most recent occurring after the incident. Chairman Nichols noted the investigation report indicated Siddique was not certified at the time of the violation. Arthar Warraich, store manager stated Siddique was certified at the time of the incident. Chairman Nichols reiterated that the documentation did not support this. The Board requested verification. Moore requested a quick recess to discuss privately with Siddique and Warraich. Commissioner Esham stated this Board requires documented proof of training. Moore returned and stated to the Board after discussion with Siddique he acknowledged he did not have TIPS/TAMS training prior to being hired and was not certified at the time of the incident. Moore introduced (Licensee's Exhibit #1) – Zeeshan Siddique TIPS/TAMS certificate dated March 30, 2026. Chairman Nichols emphasis honesty under oath, stating the Board would not tolerate false testimony. Board attorney Hank Fisher had Siddique identify himself as the individual on the certificate, and Siddique spelled his full name for the record. Administrator, April Payne confirmed Siddique's address. Chairman Nichols stated to Warraich under oath you were not on the property and Siddique was not TIPS/TAMS certified at the time of the incident. Warraich agreed, under oath, that he recognized the seriousness of the situation.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NEWARK STATION – LICENSE #394
APRIL 15, 2026

Chairman Nichols highlighted the responsibility that rests with the manager. Warraich stated he has upgraded the system so that all IDs must be scanned for alcohol purchases. Moore added that Warraich has twenty years of experience selling alcohol, six of them at this location. Sgt. Paul Bissman gave testimony that he had reviewed body-camera footage confirming Siddique did not request identification, no age inquiry was made, and Siddique stated on camera that he was not TIPS/TAMS trained. Cadet Sisson also heard Siddique state he was not trained. Commissioner Pusey asked whether ID scanners were available; Warraich confirmed they were. Moore stated the system was in place, but the system was not being used properly. Chairman Nichols inquired about the address of Warraich; at that time Sultan Mahmood was recognized as the licensee of the property. Mahmood was sworn in and acknowledged he was the owner and license holder for this property. Chairman Nichols asked Mahmood how much time he spent at the license property. Mahmood stated he is onsite sometimes during weekends, and Warraich is there most hours of operation. Chairman Nichols asked Mahmood where his resident agent Debra Wells is today. Mahmood stated she was absent today due to an important prior commitment.

Chairman Nichols requested the Board will go into closed session. The Board is acting in its Quasi-Judicial capacity and is not subject to the Open Meeting Act pursuant to Section 3-103 of the General Provisions Articles of the annotated Code of Maryland. The Board reconvened and the following motion was made.

The Board found that a violation did occur and suspended the license for 30 days to begin at 5 p.m. on April 15th, 2026, and imposed a fine in the amount of \$1,000 to be paid by the end of the suspension (Friday, May 15, 2026) and if not paid the suspension will remain in effect.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Esham	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	☐	YES	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:34 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR SHORE LIQUOR – LICENSE #912
APRIL 15, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III (RECUSED HIMSELF)		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			☐
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter			X
License #:	912	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:35 p.m.		
Class:	"A"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Manalis, Corp.		T/A: Shore Liquor		Address: 122 Newtowne Boulevard Pocomoke, Maryland 21851				
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☐ Yes		Violation: X Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-311 (Purchases from other than a MD Wholesaler).								
Applicants: ☐		Licensees: X		Representative:				
1. Parth D. Patel		1. Mark S. Cropper, Esquire						
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Vinod Patel				1. Agent Rodger Bennett - ATCC				
2. Alkaben Patel				2.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1.				1. Board's Collective Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated March 17, 2026, ATCC Report # 26-ATCC-0074, Photos, Notice of Seizure Receipt.				
Hearing Minutes: The licensee Parth Patel and witnesses Vinod Patel, Alkaben Patel along with their Mark S. Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "A" B/W/L 7 Day License violation of Alcoholic Beverages Article, Section 6-311 (Purchases from other than a MD Wholesaler). The licensees and witnesses were sworn in. Hank Fisher, Board Attorney submitted (Board's Collective Exhibit #1) Board's Investigation Report dated March 17, 2026, ATCC Report #26-ATCC-0074, photos, notice of seizure receipt. Board attorney Hank Fisher request Agent Bennett to give testimony with his findings. Agent Bennett stated that on March 10, 2026, he was conducting surveillance in Pocomoke, Maryland, Worcester County. While observing the establishment known as Shore Liquor, he noticed unusual activity: a minivan with Maryland registration plates parked near the rear delivery door with its hatch open. Bennett noted that it is not common to see items being removed from the delivery door area, especially using a minivan. Bennett parked nearby and observed a male later identified as Vinod Patel exiting the store carrying a liquor box, place it into the back of the minivan, close the hatch, and drive away. Agent Bennett followed Vinod Patel to a liquor store in Somerset County, a business owned by Vinod Patel. After waiting several minutes, Bennett observed Patel exit the vehicle, enter the store without the box, then return to the vehicle, retrieve the liquor box, and bring it inside. When Bennett entered the store, Patel was coming from the back room. Bennett identified himself; Patel was familiar with him from prior inspections. Bennett asked Patel what was in the box. After initial hesitation, Patel stated it contained liquor he had placed in the storage room. Patel identified the box as New Amsterdam Vodka (375ml) and acknowledged that the liquor came from Shore Liquor. Bennett inspected the cardboard box, which bore distributor stickers matching Shore Liquor inventory. Patel explained that a customer had purchased several bottles, and he believed he did not have enough stock to meet demand until his next shipment. The box contained 10 bottles. At Bennett's direction, Patel called Shore Liquor. Bennett then spoke with a female employee, later identified as Alkaben Patel, though communication which was difficult due to a language barrier.								

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Bennett seized the liquor, photographed Patel's driver's license, and proceeded to Shore Liquor. At Shore Liquor, Bennett interviewed, Alkabab Patel photographed her identification and the store liquor license, and documented the shelf space where the liquor had been stored. Alkabab stated that Vinod had come in earlier, said he needed the liquor, retrieved it from behind the counter, and left. She confirmed this happened just before Bennett observed him. Chairman Nichols asked if both parties had been cooperative; Bennett confirmed they were. Commissioner Pusey asked whether they understood that transferring liquor between commercial establishments is prohibited. Vinod stated he did not know. Cropper provided the following information: Parth Patel is the licensee holder and 100% stockholder of Shore Liquor, Vinod (Parth's uncle) often assists at the store, so his presence there is not unusual, Alkabab, is Vinod's wife, works for Parth and was present during the incident, Parth was not present at the time and had no prior knowledge that Vinod was taking liquor to Somerset County. Cropper stated that Parth is aware that liquor cannot be transferred between establishments. If Parth had known, he would have stopped Vinod from doing so. Cropper affirmed that Vinod now understands the violation. Cropper also noted that Parth, Vinod, and Alkabab are all TIPS/TAMS certified, and that Vinod is Parth's landlord. Cropper asked everyone to confirm the accuracy of his statements; all responded "Yes." Cropper also stated that Parth plans to sell his interest in Shore Liquor soon. Administrator Payne asked what percentage of ownership would be transferred; noting that if 100%, a Board Hearing will be required. Under oath, Chairman Nichols asked Vinod had he done this before stressing he is under oath. Vinod replied that this was his first time, he acted alone, no one instructed or authorized him to take the liquor, he accepts full responsibility. Cropper stated that he would like to add he found it unusual that Agent Bennett happened to be at the Shore Liquor location at that time by coincidence and he had no prior knowledge or suspicion that this was occurring or had occurred previously.

Chairman Nichols requested the Board will go into closed session. The Board is acting in its Quasi-Judicial capacity and is not subject to the Open Meeting Act pursuant to Section 3-103 of the General Provisions Articles of the annotated Code of Maryland. The Board reconvened and the following motion was made.

The Board found that the violation did occur on March 17, 2026, and imposed a fine in the amount of \$500 to be paid by Friday, April 17, 2026, by 12 noon and if not paid the license will be suspended until paid. The fine was paid in full on April 17, 2026.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Nichols	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 3:01 p.m.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR CARUSO PIZZA & WILD BILL'S – LICENSE #816
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Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	☐
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		X				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		X	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Kathy Zeve, Court Reporter		X	
License #:	816	Hearing Date:	April 15, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	3:02 p.m.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/L/W		Day:	7 Day License		
For: OC Taco Truck, Inc.		T/A: Caruso Pizza & Wild Bill's		Address: 15 Somerset Street & Boardwalk Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Md. Code, Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Article 4-406.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. William H. Purnell, III				1. Ashley Bosche, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 - Plat of licensed property				1. Board's Collective Exhibit #1 – Aerial photo of exterior of property, Site plan, Interior layout of Caruso Pizza & Wild Bill's, 2026 Renewal Application, Executed lease.				

Hearing Minutes: The licensee William Purnell III along with his attorney Ashley Bosche, Esquire appeared before the Board for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Md. Code, Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Article 4-406. The licensee was sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher states this is a renewal hearing due to some questions about the perimeter of the licensed premises and the site plans of the licensed premises. Board attorney Fisher enters (Board's Exhibit #1) aerial photo of exterior of property, site plan, interior layout of Caruso Pizza & Wild Bill's, 2026 renewal application, and executed lease. Bosche asked Purnell to review and explain to the Board the licensed premises using the submitted site plan. Purnell explained the following: noting the highlighted map; 400 South Atlantic Avenue; is the hotel, Wild Bill's is located at 403 and Caruso Pizza at 420, the hotel is highlighted because several other businesses operate underneath it; however, those stores are not included in the licensed premises. The decks of the hotel serve as roofs for the stores, the large gray area shown is the parking lot, the space between 400 and 403 represents the swimming pool, remaining storefronts are leased to unrelated tenants. Bosche clarified that the licensed premises would include Caruso Pizza, Wild Bill's, the parking lot, and the hotel. Purnell stated "Yes". Board Attorney Fisher asked for clarification that the Board had previously received the floor plan for Wild Bill's, and that the floor plan for Caruso Pizza was newly submitted. Fisher asked whether the Board had any questions. Chairman Nichols noted that the Board typically receives more formal plans, Purnell stated that he attempted to photograph the blueprints, but they were bolted down, preventing a complete picture. Bosche asked whether anything essential from the blueprints was missing. Chairman Nichols responded that nothing appeared missing; the Board simply prefers highly accurate plans such as surveys or as-built drawings. Bosche commented that Purnell has been licensed for a long time, and that newly opened bars over the years may complicate the clarity of his site plans. Board Attorney Fisher noted that the existing plan on file for Caruso Pizza depicted an unenclosed Boardwalk storefront. Board Attorney Hank Fisher submitted (Licensee's Exhibit #1) Plat of Licensed Property, which now shows Caruso Pizza as enclosed. Chairman Nichols stated the purpose was to ensure the Board's records are accurate. Commissioner Esham asked whether the lease covered both restaurants. Purnell replied that each restaurant has its own

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separate lease. Board Attorney Fisher confirmed the leases are in proper order. Commissioner Esham asked about service to the pool area, Purnell stated there is a carry-out service window at the pool. Board Attorney Fisher noted that the site plan indicates the hotel is part of the licensed premises. Commissioner Esham asked about transporting alcoholic beverages across the parking lot, Board Attorney Fisher clarified this is not allowed and explained that licensing the parking lot helps establish who is responsible for any violations occurring in that area. Commissioner Esham added that special events would still require a separate application, Board Attorney Fisher agreed. Commissioner Pusey asked whether Wild Bill's is connected to Caruso Pizza and whether patrons may walk between them with alcoholic beverages, Purnell stated that the two establishments are not connected, patrons must walk around to the back on the Boardwalk to enter through a side door, and that alcoholic beverages may not be carried between the two. Board Attorney Fisher asked whether Caruso Pizza is connected to the hotel and Purnell replied, "No." Board Attorney Fisher confirmed that customers cannot carry alcoholic beverages out of Caruso Pizza to the hotel or Wild Bill's because they would need to walk through the pool area and then to the sidewalk, and Purnell stated they do not allow this. Administrator Payne asked which sidewalk Purnell was referencing, Purnell clarified it was the sidewalk leading up to Wild Bill's and past the hotel. Administrator Payne clarified that the sidewalk is not part of the licensed premises, and therefore any patron leaving with alcoholic beverages would be a violation; Purnell acknowledged and agreed. Commissioner Esham stated that having two licenses does not enhance available services, Board Attorney Fisher clarified that it is not two licenses, but rather one connected licensed premises. Commissioner Esham reiterated that the pool area is licensed and that alcohol may not leave that area or go to the hotel. Board Attorney Fisher confirmed that alcohol could not be transported through the parking lot without a special exception. Chairman Nichols suggested that Administrator Payne conduct an on-site visit with Purnell to walk the premises and gain a clearer understanding. Commissioner Esham asked Administrator Payne whether all matters for this hearing had been covered. Administrator Payne stated she was confident the Board had addressed; alcoholic beverage restrictions for Wild Bill's, sidewalk and off-premise limitations, the service window operations for the enclosed pool area, requirement that alcohol remain within the licensed perimeter, restrictions on taking alcoholic beverages into the hotel absent a special exception, and Caruso Pizza being a separate building from the hotel, preventing alcohol from leaving that establishment, and the parking lot is controlled by the Board through a special exception.

The Board approved the submitted site plan which illustrates the boundaries of the entire licensed property which includes Caruso Pizza, Wild Bill's, pool area, parking lot and the hotel, the board applied the following restriction to both Caruso Pizza and Wild Bill's – No Off Sale.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Esham	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: THE BOARD APPLIED THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTION TO BOTH CARUSO PIZZA AND WILD BILL'S – NO OFF SALE									
Time Hearing Ended: 3:18 p.m.									