

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR 2EZ COASTAL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE – NEW APPLICATION
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector		☒	
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name: Thomas Coates, Esq.		☐	
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter		☒	
License #:	NEW	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:05 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: 2EZ Coastal Lounge, LLC		T/A: 2EZ Coastal Restaurant & Lounge		Address: 5401 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/L 7 Day License.								
Applicants:	☒	Licensees:	☐		Representative:			
1. Ameerah Harris		Dirk Widdowson, Esquire						
2. Natethan Sample								
3. Nina Yli-Piipari								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Robert Ricco		1.						
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 – Letter from San Remo Condo Association		1.						
2. Applicant's Exhibit #2 – Letter from Town of Ocean City (Reply to request for Incidents at location)		2.						
3. Applicant's Collective Exhibit #3 – Employee TIPS/TAM certificates		3.						
Hearing Minutes: The applicants Ameerah Harris, Nathan Sample, and Nina Yli-Piipari accompanied by their attorney Dirk Widdowson, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for an Application for Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License. The applicants were sworn in. Witness Robert Ricco was sworn in. Attorney Widdowson asked Ricco about his relationship with the property at 5401 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. Ricco stated he has owned the property for 15 to 20 years and that the property has held an alcohol license at least five times in the past. Ricco stated he believes the license is necessary for the public and will not negatively affect safety or the surrounding neighborhood. He also confirmed that he contacted the San Remo Condo Association, which expressed no objections. Board Attorney Fisher entered (Applicant's Exhibit #1), a letter from the San Remo Condo Association. Chairman Nichols noted that the Board's role is to ensure legal compliance in considering the license. Attorney Widdowson stated that the lease is in order and no objections have been raised. Sample appeared before the Board and stated he is the owner of 2EZ Coastal Lounge, LLC, along with Harris and Piipari. Sample confirmed his understanding of the Class "B" B/W/L 7-Day License requirements to offer hot meals from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. while open. He explained he would like to provide live music inside the premises until 10 p.m., and background music outside with speakers facing inward toward the business. Sample stated that he, Harris, or Piipari would always be present to supervise the premises. He also confirmed the San Remo Condo Association had no objections to the license. Sample reported that he contacted the local police department regarding any incidents at the location. He submitted (Applicant's Exhibit #2), a letter from the Town of Ocean City. Widdowson stated the record showed only one incident, a noise violation, dated June 12,								

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2024. Sample affirmed his understanding that, if granted the license, he is responsible for maintaining order, safety, and compliance with all Liquor Board regulations. He stated that the business will use ID scanners and that all employees are TIPS/TAM certified. Board Attorney Fisher entered (Applicant's Exhibit #3), the employee TIPS/TAM certificates. Sample also stated that Harris and Piipari will be managing the restaurant and that one of them will always be on-site. Sample reported that the Health Department inspection is scheduled for June 18, 2026, and the Fire Marshal inspection is scheduled for June 23, 2026. Documentation has been submitted to the Fire Marshal, and the applicants are awaiting a response. Attorney Widdowson noted that the Board is waiting for confirmation from both the Health Department and the Fire Marshal. Sample stated he understood. Attorney Widdowson asked Administrator Payne if the applicant needed to complete anything further. Administrator Payne asked for clarification regarding the lease; Board Attorney Fisher confirmed the lease is in order. Administrator Payne also stated that there have been many operators at this location over the years, and entertainment restrictions have consistently remained in place due to citizen concerns about noise in the neighborhood. Administrator Payne clarified that the application before the Board is solely for a Class "B" B/W/L 7-Day License and that there is no additional advertisement connected to the applicants. Commissioner Pusey asked about the applicant's intentions regarding music. Chairman Nichols asked whether the applicants were aware of the historical entertainment restrictions at the property, which included: no DJ, outside speakers only until 10 p.m., four-piece non-amplified music inside from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. five nights per week, three-piece amplified music inside until 9 p.m. five nights per week, no simultaneous amplified and non-amplified entertainment, no outside live entertainment, no games or pool tables, and no off-sale privileges. Attorney Widdowson stated the applicants were requesting five amplified pieces inside until 12 a.m., with outside music remaining as currently allowed. Administrator Payne reiterated that these restrictions have been maintained through multiple operators due to ongoing neighborhood concerns. Commissioner Cropper asked Sample whether he agreed to outside music ending at 9 p.m. Sample confirmed he did. Chairman Nichols noted the applicants may return in the future if they wish to amend the entertainment restrictions. Commissioner Pusey requested clarification of the applicant's proposed entertainment schedule, which was reiterated for the record. Chairman Nichols asked Sample to share his background. Sample explained that he began with catering work and cooking for his church and eventually chose to expand into opening a restaurant.

The Board tentatively approved the Application for 2EZ Coastal Restaurant & Lounge Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License pending all required documentation.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED INSIDE WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PIECES NON AMPLIFIED FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT FIVE NIGHTS PER WEEK OR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AMPLIFIED ALLOWED INSIDE WITH A MAXIMUM OF THREE PIECES FIVE NIGHTS PER WEEK UNTIL 9 P.M. NON AMPLIFIED AND AMPLIFIED CANNOT BE AT THE SAME TIME, NO OUTSIDE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, NO DISC JOCKEY ALLOWED, OUTSIDE SPEAKERS ALLOWED FROM 11 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M., NO GAMES ALLOWED, NO POOL TALBES ALLOWED, NO OFF SALE.

Time Hearing Ended: 1:25 P.M.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR TAPHOUSE WEST – LICENSE #911
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney (Recused Himself)		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			☐
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	911	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	1:25 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: West OC Taphouse, LLC		T/A: Taphouse West		Address: 12513 Ocean Gateway Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License Request to expand the licensed premises, request for multiple outside games.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Zev Sibony				Hugh Cropper, Esquire				
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Zac Jarrett				1.				
2. Kiah Van Auken				2.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – BZA Agenda dtd 6/11/26				1.				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Photo Front Sidewalk Area				2.				
3. Licensee's Exhibit #3 – Photo of Side Yard Area				3.				
Hearing Minutes: The licensee Zev Sibony along with, Zac Jarrett, and Kiah Van Auken accompanied by his attorney Hugh Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for a Class "B" B/W/L 7 Day License request to expand the licensed premises, request for multiple outside games. The licensee and witnesses were sworn in. Cropper stated that the licensee was present for two matters. The first issue involved expanding the licensed premises to include the side yard, which had not been part of the licensed area under the previous licensee. Cropper explained that Sibony was unaware that the side yard was not licensed and that patrons had been using the area without alcohol, playing games such as cornhole. When Administrator Payne contacted him to inform him this area was not permitted for customer use, Sibony immediately called the manager on duty and instructed him to stop all activity in the side yard, remove the games, and rope off the area to prevent access. Sibony then contacted Administrator Payne again to begin the process of applying to add the side yard to the licensed premises. Chairman Nichols stated for the record that he personally observed alcoholic beverages in the side yard. Cropper responded that Sibony had shown him the available camera footage, which did not depict alcoholic beverages. Administrator Payne clarified that the footage provided to her did not show the side yard area where individuals were playing cornhole with alcoholic beverages but instead showed only the brick area in the front, which is licensed. Cropper entered (Licensee's Exhibit #1), the BZA Agenda dated June 11, 2026; (Licensee's Exhibit #2), a photo of the front sidewalk; and (Licensee's Exhibit #3), a photo of the side yard. Cropper asked Sibony to explain what occurred on the day Administrator Payne contacted him. Sibony stated that upon receiving the call, he immediately called the manager on duty and instructed him to remove all customers from the side yard, remove the games, rope off the area, and to take photographs of the corrective actions. These photographs were sent promptly to Administrator Payne. Cropper then asked Sibony whether there is a public need for outdoor seating. Sibony stated there is, explaining that customers frequently request								

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outdoor seating and that expanding the licensed area would help accommodate the public. He stated that they wish to place six four-top tables, one or two cornhole games, and a game called Kan Jam (a flying disc game) in the side yard, and to serve alcoholic beverages in the area. When asked, Sibony stated he can adjust the cameras to provide coverage of the side yard. Cropper asked Jarrett to describe what occurred on the day Sibony contacted him. Jarrett stated he removed all customers and games from the side yard, cordoned the area off, and informed all staff that there could be no customer activity there. Jarrett stated that customers regularly request outdoor seating and that there is strong demand for it. He affirmed that they would follow all Liquor Board rules and regulations. Cropper then asked employee Auken, who has worked for Sibony since April 2023, whether she believed outdoor seating was needed. She stated that customers continually request outdoor seating and outdoor gathering space to play games, and that staff will follow all rules and regulations if the side yard is licensed. She confirmed that cameras will be installed to monitor the area. Auken explained she was not working on the day of the incident but had been informed of it and has since complied with the instructions to prohibit customer access to the side yard. Chairman Nichols confirmed with Sibony that a fence will be installed along the road where the applicants intend to license the side yard. Sibony confirmed this. Chairman Nichols asked why the licensee had not submitted a diagram showing table placement. Cropper explained that they did not provide a fixed diagram because the location of the games may require temporary movement of the tables. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the tables would extend beyond the building footprint. Sibony stated the tables would remain only in the grassy yard area and not beyond it. Commissioner Cropper asked how access to the outdoor seating area would be controlled. Sibony stated that patrons would be required to enter the restaurant first and then be seated outside by staff. They stated they would place an "exit only" sign on the door leading from the outdoor seating area and a sign stating, "no alcoholic beverages past this door." Sibony agreed to this requirement. Chairman Nichols asked about the height of the fence, and Cropper stated it would be five feet. Commissioner Pusey asked how customers would physically access the side yard, and the Sibony stated that access would be through the garage doors.

The Board approved the request for a Class “B” B/W/L 7 Day license request to expand the licensed premises, and request for multiple outside games.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: NO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALLOWED OUTSIDE, TWO CORNHOLE GAMES ALLOWED OUTSIDE, KAN JAM FLYING DISC GAME ALLOWED OUTSIDE. SIDE YARD MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH A FIVE-FOOT FENCE.									
Time Hearing Ended: 1:45 P.M.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR CARUSO PIZZA & WILD BILL'S – LICENSE #816
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:	R. Charles Nichols, Chairman	X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
	Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III	☐				
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	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	816	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026	Hearing Start Time:	1:45 P.M.	
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L	Day:	7 Day	
For:	OC Taco Truck, Inc.	T/A:	Caruso Pizza & Wild Bill's	Address:	420 Atlantic Avenue & Boardwalk Ocean City, Maryland 21842	
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting:	X Yes	Violation: ☐ Yes

Items to be discussed: Request to expand the licensed premises for Bike Week on September 9, 2026 - September 12, 2026, during the hours of 12 p.m. until 12 a.m. in adjacent parking lot, request for live entertainment for Bike Week on September 9, 2026 - September 12, 2026, during the hours of 12 p.m. until 12 a.m. in adjacent parking lot, request to redefine the licensed property.

Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X	Representative:	
1. William Purnell, III				Dirk Widdowson, Esquire	
Witnesses:				Protestants:	
1. Ronnie Townsend – (In Support)				1. Chief, Ray Austin	
2. Bruce Krasner – (In Support)				2. Sgt. Doug Smith	
3. William Wilkins – (In Support)				3. Captain Dennis Eade	
4. Tara Bruning – (In Support)				4.	
Exhibits:				Exhibits:	
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Proposed Site Plan				1.	
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Site Plan for Area Bike Week				2.	

Hearing Minutes: The licensee, William Purnell III, accompanied by his attorney, Dirk Widdowson, Esquire, appeared before the Board requesting approval to expand the licensed premises for Bike Week on September 9th–12th, 2026 from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. each day in the adjacent parking lot; approval for live entertainment during the same dates and hours in the adjacent parking lot; and approval to redefine the licensed property. The licensee, witnesses, and protestants were sworn in. Widdowson asked Purnell to state his occupation. Purnell reported that he is the owner of Caruso Pizza & Wild Bill's restaurant and has worked in the food service industry since he was eighteen years old. Purnell explained that the liquor license covers OC Taco Truck, Inc. (trade name Caruso Pizza) at 420 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland; Wild Bill's at 403 Baltimore Avenue; and the adjacent shared parking lot. Widdowson entered (Licensee's Exhibit #1), the proposed site plan, and asked Purnell to explain his request. Purnell stated he wished to exclude his backyard, rug shop, personal driveway, and a rented store (401 CBD Store), none of which currently serve alcohol, and to include the Atlantic Hotel parking lot within the licensed premises. Chairman Nichols directed the Board to address the request to redefine the property first. After reviewing the revised site plan, Commissioners had no questions, and Commissioner Cropper moved to approve the change, excluding the previously discussed area. Purnell confirmed his understanding. Widdowson then addressed the second request: a temporary expansion of the licensed premises and live entertainment for Bike Week, September 9th–12th, 2026, from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. each day. Purnell stated he has hosted this event for 24 years except last year when the request was denied. When asked about issues during the 24 prior years of approval, Purnell stated there was only one issue

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last year inside Wild Bill's. Purnell explained that he hires private security positioned on hotel balconies, inside the hotel, in the parking lot, and at all entrances. He described the entertainment set-up five to six bands daily with breaks in between, and bag checks upon entry and exit to prevent outside alcohol. He clarified he was not requesting motorcycle burnouts. Commissioner Pusey asked about the balcony area, and Purnell stated it is not part of the licensed area. Board Attorney Fisher entered (Licensee's Exhibit #2), the Bike Week site plan. Commissioner Pusey asked about prior issues since last year's application was denied. Purnell acknowledged two women fighting in the parking lot last year but stated police and security responded immediately and all involved were removed. Widdowson called witness Ronnie Townsend, a retired Ocean City police officer, who provides security for Purnell during multiple events including Bike Week. Townsend stated he has worked Bike Week security for Purnell for five years and supports the application. He stated that many volunteers are local firefighters, retired EMS, police, and local youth, including his sons, who assist with parking lot supervision, trash removal, and general labor. Townsend stated that while occasional issues arise, security and police handle them promptly. He described a strong, collaborative working relationship with the Ocean City Police Department (OCPD). Witness Bruce Krasner, who owns several boardwalk properties including one within the Atlantic Hotel, testified in support of Purnell. Krasner stated he has attended every Bike Week event and believes Purnell runs the event properly, with a significant positive impact on local businesses. Krasner stated that last year, when the event was not approved, his business suffered significant declines. Widdowson then called William Wilkins, owner and operator of the Cork Bar. Wilkins testified that he has observed Purnell's Bike Week events over the years and believes they are properly run, with visible police and security presence. He stated the event benefits his business and that last year's cancellation caused reduced customer flow. Commissioner Pusey asked whether Wilkins could hear the music from his establishment. Wilkins stated the music cannot be heard inside due to his jukebox but can be heard outside. Widdowson called Tara Bruning, manager of the Atlantic Hotel and sister of Purnell. Bruning testified that she has worked at the hotel for 30 years and has never experienced problems from Bike Week. She stated the event benefits the hotel and is adequately supervised. She confirmed that many bikers stay at the hotel and that guests enjoy the event. Chairman Nichols recognized Sgt. Doug Smith of the Ocean City Police Department. Sgt. Smith gave testimony that he submitted information to the Board regarding a recent incident. He referenced a June 22, 2025, incident previously addressed by the Board, and a more recent incident on May 26, 2026, involving an off-duty employee engaged in a fight on Wicomico Street in the Wild Bill's parking lot. The employee incorrectly claimed police could not enter the property, similar to the incident last year. Sgt. Smith stated OCPD remains concerned because these issues have been repeated. He noted that during Bike Week last year there was also a fight inside Wild Bill's requiring police response. Sgt. Smith noted that in his 15–20 years of testifying before the Board, this was the first time both the OCPD Chief and Commander are in attendance. Widdowson asked Sgt. Smith whether the incident occurred on licensed property; Sgt. Smith said it occurred on Wicomico Street. Widdowson noted that the case was closed with no charges filed; Sgt. Smith stated he believed applications for charges may have been filed but would need to check the court record. Sgt. Smith also stated the employee entered the licensed premises and continued stating it was private property. Sgt. Smith did not recall whether signs stating "private property" were posted. Chairman Nichols asked whether the person was an employee; Purnell confirmed he was one of his managers. Sgt. Smith stated the incident occurred around 2:17 a.m. and that Wild Bill's could not have been open at that time by law. The Commander Eade addressed the Board next. He stated he has served with the OCPD for 27 years, primarily patrolling the south end of town, and has known the Purnell family for many years. He stated the Chief made it clear they were not present to oppose the

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licensee but to address concerns about recent conflicts with employees and younger members of the Purnell family. Commander Eade requested that Purnell ensure security is in place, employees remain sober on duty, and that law enforcement officers be treated with dignity and respect. He stated officers must not be cursed at, shoved, or obstructed in any way when performing lawful duties. He expressed hope that cooperation moving forward would correct the issues. Commissioner Pusey asked whether charges had been filed; Chairman Nichols noted Sgt. Smith did not yet know the status. Commissioner Pusey asked Purnell whether he was aware of the issues. Purnell stated he was notified the night of the incident. Chairman Nichols reminded Purnell that at the previous hearing he was instructed to fully cooperate with OCPD. Nichols expressed shock that law enforcement needed to address these issues again. He told Purnell that he must commit to correcting the issues, ensuring compliance, and conducting himself and his establishment appropriately. Purnell agreed. OCPD Chief Austin then addressed the Board. Chief Austin stated he has worked for the department for 31 years, previously worked with the Liquor Board, and returned as Chief in 2025. He stated he was surprised to learn of these issues and emphasized the need for employees to remain sober, respectful, and non-confrontational with police. He stated OCPD will meet with security staff and expects full cooperation. Chief Austin stressed that all parties must work together to ensure community safety and that failure to do so will result in consequences. Widdowson reiterated that Purnell will fully cooperate with the Liquor Board and OCPD. Chairman Nichols, speaking on behalf of the Board and law enforcement, asked Purnell to confirm that he will take the necessary steps to address concerns and support law enforcement. Purnell affirmed. He also agreed to implement OCPD security recommendations. Chairman Nichols directed Administrator Payne and Inspector Pembroke to conduct a walkthrough of all facilities to ensure full compliance, proper markings, and safety measures are in place before the event. Administrator Payne noted: IF THERE ARE ANY PROPOSED CHANGES AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE LICENSEE RELATIVE TO THE LAYOUT, SECURITY CHANGES OR EVENT CONDITIONS – THE BOARD'S ADMINISTRATOR HAS FINAL APPROVAL ON ANY CHANGES.

The Board approved the application to expand the licensed premises for Bike Week on September 9th – 12th, 2026 from 12 p.m. until 12 a.m. in the adjacent parking lot; approved the request for live entertainment during the same dates and hours; and approved the request to redefine the licensed property.

Motion:	1st	Mr. Cropper	2nd	Ms. Pusey	Approved:	X	Yes	☐	No
Restrictions: SAME RESTRICTIONS									
Time Hearing Ended: 2:35 P.M.									

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR FLAMINGO COAST – VAULT & LAGUNA ROOFTOP LOUNGE – LICENSE #113
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		☒	Marty W. Pusey	☒	Reese Cropper, III	☒
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		☒	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			☒
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney (RECUSED HIMSELF)		☒	Alternate Board Attorney: Name:			☐
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		☒	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			☒
License #:	113	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:40 P.M.		
Class:	"B"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: OC Flamingo, LLC		T/A: Flamingo Coast – Vault & Laguna Rooftop Lounge		Address: 3 North Division Street & Boardwalk Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	☒ Yes	Violation:	☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Request to change live entertainment hours from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. to 12 noon until 11 p.m.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	☒		Representative:			
1. James Bergey, III					Mark Cropper, Esquire			
Witnesses:					Protestants:			
1. Matt Ortt					1.			
Exhibits:					Exhibits:			
1.					1.			
Hearing Minutes: The licensee James Bergey, III, and Matt Ortt accompanied by their attorney Mark Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for a request to change live entertainment hours from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. to 12 noon until 11 p.m. The licensee and witness were sworn in. Cropper explained that the purpose of this request was to modify the starting time for live entertainment. He stated that Ortt continues to operate the location and spends a significant amount of time on-site. Cropper noted that customers frequently arrive earlier in the day and have expressed interest in having entertainment available earlier. He stated that since its last appearance before the Board, the establishment has had no complaints or issues related to entertainment, which is why they are now requesting an earlier start time. Bergey stated that he is often on-site and has likewise received no complaints or issues since implementing live entertainment. He agreed with Ortt that offering entertainment earlier would benefit customers and noted that patrons have specifically requested earlier entertainment. Cropper stated that when Bergey originally inquired about live entertainment, he advised Bergey to first focus on getting the restaurant up and running successfully. Cropper explained that the establishment has now done so, and their successful track record demonstrates that they can handle expanded entertainment hours. Commissioner Cropper expressed concern about the potential for rooftop noise complaints if live entertainment were permitted earlier in the day. Ortt responded that the windows installed around the rooftop have greatly helped contain sound, and that there is already a significant amount of activity and ambient noise on the boardwalk during that time of day. Commissioner Cropper asked whether the establishment was using electronic ID scanners. Ortt stated they do not use scanners but that employees thoroughly check all IDs and follow proper procedures. He stated he does not anticipate issues arising from this. Chairman Nichols stated that the business has had no violations to date. The Board approved the request for a change to live entertainment hours from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. to 12 noon until 11 p.m., 7 days per week.								
Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	☒	Yes	☐ No
Restrictions:								
Time Hearing Ended: 2:45 P.M.								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR BEARDED CLAM – LICENSE #10
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
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	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:	10	Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	2:40 P.M.		
Class:	"D"	Type:	B/W/L		Day:	7 Day		
For: Mi – Lin, Inc.		T/A: Bearded Clam		Address: 15 Wicomico Street Ocean City, Maryland 21842				
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes		Meeting:	X Yes		Violation: ☐ Yes
Items to be discussed: Request to expand the licensed premises, request to add an outside bar to licensed premises, request for one cornhole game, and one board game be allowed in the outside bar area.								
Applicants:	☐	Licensees:	X		Representative:			
1. Micheal Strawley, Jr.			Mark S. Cropper, Esquire					
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1.				1.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Licensee's Exhibit #1 – Copy of Establishments Alcohol License				1.				
2. Licensee's Exhibit #2 – Letter to April Payne				2.				
3. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #3 – Photos of Proposed outside bar area.				3.				
4. Licensee's Collective Exhibit #4 – Town of Ocean City Fire Marshal, and Building & Zoning Correspondences				4.				
5. Licensee's Exhibit #5 – 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 Renewal Applications				5.				
Hearing Minutes: The licensee Michael Strawley, Jr. along with his attorney Mark S. Cropper, Esquire appeared before the Board seeking approval for a request to expand the licensed premises, request to add an outside bar to licensed premises, request for one cornhole game, and one board game be allowed in the outside bar area. The licensee was sworn in. Cropper summarized the investigation report dated April 23, 2026, regarding the construction of a new outside bar located in the rear of the Bearded Clam. He explained that the bar was built before obtaining approval from the Board. Cropper entered (Licensee's Exhibit #1), a copy of the establishment's alcohol license, and (Licensee's Exhibit #2), a letter addressed to Administrator Payne. Cropper stated that Administrator Payne contacted Strawley after observing Facebook photos showing a newly constructed outside bar area. She informed him that, under Liquor Board rules and regulations, he did not have the Board's approval for this construction. Strawley immediately requested a hearing to seek approval. Cropper then entered (Licensee's Exhibit #3), photographs of the proposed outside bar area, and (Licensee's Exhibit #4), correspondence from the Town of Ocean City Fire Marshal, Building, and Zoning departments. Strawley stated that the Bearded Clam has been operated by his family since 1978. Cropper noted that this is one of the oldest licenses in the county and that the establishment has never had a violation. Cropper explained that Strawley did obtain all required permits from the Town of Ocean City before constructing the new bar and that all inspections								

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MINUTES FOR BEARDED CLAM – LICENSE #10
JUNE 17, 2026

were completed and passed. He clarified that Strawley’s mistake was not appearing before the Liquor Board for approval prior to beginning construction. Cropper entered in (Licensee’s Exhibit #5), the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 renewal applications. He noted that on the 2026/2027 application, the question regarding changes to the licensed premises had been answered with “warehouse demolished, currently rebuilding,” which demonstrated that Strawley was not attempting to conceal the improvements from the Board. Strawley acknowledged that he now understands he did not follow the required Liquor Board procedures. Cropper stated that they hope the Board will visit the site, review the improvements, and grant approval for the expanded area. He explained that the public cannot access the rear bar area from the street and that all customers must enter through the Bearded Clam’s front entrance, where IDs are checked. The area is enclosed, and customers cannot exit through the back. Cropper described the outside bar as an added amenity providing additional space for patrons to gather and enjoy alcoholic beverages. Chairman Nichols advised Strawley that any future changes to the premises must be brought before the Board prior to construction or implementation.

The Board approved the application for a request to expand the licensed premises, request to add an outside bar to licensed premises, request for one cornhole game, and one board game be allowed in the outside bar area.

Motion:	1st	Ms. Pusey	2nd	Mr. Cropper	Approved:	☒	X	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions: FOUR BACKGROUND SPEAKERS ALLOWED WITHIN OUTSIDE FENCED AREA, ONE CORNHOLE GAME ALLOWED WITHIN OUTSIDE FENCED AREA, ONE OTHER BOARD GAME ALLOWED WITHIN OUTSIDE FENCED AREA

Time Hearing Ended: 3:00 P.M.

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NABVETS – ORLANDO H. SMACK, JR., CHAPTER #0129 – LD26-0070
JUNE 17, 2026

Members Present:		R. Charles Nichols, Chairman		X	Marty W. Pusey	X	Reese Cropper, III	X
		Alternate Board Member: William E. Esham, III		☐				
Staff Present:		April Payne, Administrator		X	Joe Pembroke, Inspector			X
		Hank Fisher III, Esq., Board Attorney		X	Alternate Board Attorney: Name: Thomas Coates, Esquire			☐
		Stacey Odell, Administrative		X	Valarie Dawson, Court Reporter			X
License #:		Hearing Date:	June 17, 2026		Hearing Start Time:	3:05 p.m.		
Class:		Type:			Day:			
For: NABVETS – Orlando H. Smack Jr., Chapter #0129			T/A: NABVETS – Orlando H. Smack Jr., Chapter #0129		Address: 407 A Tingle Street Snow Hill, Maryland 21863			
New Application:	☐ Yes	Transfer:	☐ Yes	Meeting:	X Yes	Violation:	☐ Yes	
Items to be discussed: Special One Day Per Diem Application for June 27, 2026. Discussion to determine non-profit status.								
Applicants:	X	Licensees:	☐	Representative:				
1. Karen Lewis								
Witnesses:				Protestants:				
1. Anthony Mumford				1.				
2. Lawrence Ames				2.				
3. Clem Johnson				3.				
Exhibits:				Exhibits:				
1. Applicant's Exhibit #1 – Letter of Application Renewal of non-Profit Organization Status.				1. Board Exhibit #1 – Board's Investigation Report Dated May 15, 2026, Revoked IRS Letter, IRS Verification Letter, Entity Verification Search Letter, Pictures of the premises, Non-Profit Special One Day Per Diem Application.				
Applicant's Exhibit #2 - Email of verbal Special Exception from the Mayor and City Manager.				2. Board Exhibit #2 – Code Official email from Town of Snow Hill.				
Hearing Minutes: The applicant Karen Lewis along with the witnesses Anthony Mumford, Lawrence Ames, Clem Johnson appeared before the Board seeking approval for a Special One Day Per Diem Application for June 27, 2026, and a discussion to determine non-profit status. The applicant and witnesses were sworn in. Board Attorney Hank Fisher, Esq. stated that the applicants were present regarding their request for a Non-Profit Special One-Day Permit. Fisher explained that during the Board's investigation, it was discovered that NABVETS non-profit status with the IRS is currently revoked. To maintain non-profit status, organizations must file Form 990 annually. NABVETS had not filed Form 990 for three consecutive years, resulting in revocation effective May 15, 2025. Board Attorney Fisher entered (Board's Exhibit #1), which included the Board's Investigation Report dated May 15, 2026, the revoked IRS letter, IRS entity verification documents, pictures of the premises, and the Non-Profit Special One-Day Per Diem Application. Attorney Fisher explained that without an active non-profit status, NABVETS is not eligible to apply for a non-profit permit. He stated that the purpose of today's appearance was for the applicants to explain their organizational status. Fisher then asked Administrator Payne if she had anything to add. Administrator Payne entered (Board's Exhibit #2), which included email correspondence from the Code Official for the town of Snow Hill. Payne explained that the correspondence shows the property is located in a residential zoning district (R-2), where fraternal organizations may operate only with a Special Exception granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Payne requested								

WORCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR NABVETS – ORLANDO H. SMACK, JR., CHAPTER #0129 – LD26-0070
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written documentation from the Town of Snow Hill Code Official on this matter. The Code Official confirmed that no valid Special Exception Permit exists for the premises and that zoning regulations do not allow it to be used for private party events. The Code Official further stated that the building should be inspected for safety and occupancy compliance and requested that the Liquor Board not issue an alcohol permit until the Building Code, Fire Code, Zoning Code, and Special Exception requirements are met. Administrator Payne stated that she later received an email from the Town of Snow Hill claiming that the activities at the property had been sanctioned by the town. The Code Official, however, could not locate any documentation supporting this claim. Payne requested all relevant documents from the town in writing. Payne further reported that on June 17, 2026, at 8:28 a.m., she spoke with the Fire Marshal's Department, who confirmed that there has never been a fire inspection on the property. A fire inspection and approval would be required before issuance of a Fire Marshal Certificate. Payne stated that she also requested any official minutes, meeting records, or documentation from the Mayor or City Manager of Snow Hill supporting the applicant's claim of approval. No such records were found. Payne stated that based on her correspondence with the Snow Hill Code Official, the property currently has outstanding building, fire, zoning, and occupancy compliance issues. Board Attorney Fisher then turned the meeting over to the applicants. Lewis stated that after receiving the Board's letter, they contacted the IRS and were informed that their reinstatement application had been submitted. Lewis added that reinstatement takes approximately 22 days. She stated they originally believed they were operating under a chapter based in Wisconsin but have since learned they are a separate entity and not associated with that chapter. Chairman Nichols asked Lewis whether they currently have an approved non-profit status. Lewis responded that they do not. Board Attorney Fisher entered (Applicant's Exhibit #1), the Application for Renewal of Non-Profit Organization Status filed on June 3, 2026. Chairman Nichols stated that the Board cannot act on the application until NABVETS receives formal approval from the IRS reinstating their non-profit status. Board Attorney Fisher agreed. Chairman Nichols reiterated that the applicants must obtain the proper documentation before moving forward. If they receive their reinstatement and all necessary approvals within the next week or so, they may contact Administrator Payne to re-apply for a permit. Chairman Nichols emphasized that the Board must enforce rules and regulations for public safety and that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all Fire Marshal, Building, Zoning, Occupancy, and town requirements are fully satisfied. Commissioner Cropper made a motion to place the matter in continuance until all required documentation is obtained, noting that the Board cannot take any action at this time. Chairman Nichols stated that the applicants should not have held their previous events. Administrator Payne entered (Applicant's Exhibit #2), an email referencing a verbal Special Exception from the Mayor and City Manager. Chairman Nichols concluded by stating that the applicants may return once all proper documentation is in place.

THE BOARD STATED THAT THE "NON-PROFIT STATUS MUST BE COMPLETED AND ISSUED FIRE MARSHAL CERTIFICATE MUST BE ISSUED MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH TOWN OF SNOW HILL REGARDING ZOINING AND BUILDING PERMITS."

Motion:	1st		2nd		Approved:	☐	Yes	☐	No
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Restrictions:

Time Hearing Ended: 3:25 p.m.