

**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

**Minutes of Public Meeting
July 14, 2025**

The meeting of the Talbot County Board of Liquor License Commissioners was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 14, 2025. Present were Chairman Jack M. Gottschalk, Commissioner Edward M. Bridges, Jr., Commissioner David Fike, Alternate Jacqueline O'Neil and Board Secretary Victoria E. Bradley.

OLD BUSINESS

Upon motion by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Fike, the minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2025, were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Three Raven Investment, LLC– Application for transfer of the business and Class E, Beer, Wine & Liquor License (Off-sale Alcohol Dispensaries)

All those in attendance to testify in the matter were sworn in, (Applicants Joeseph Petro & Joesph C. Petro).

Mr. Petro gave opening statements about the business, the application and the reason for the transfer. Mr. Petro stated their lease is ending and wanted to make the move to a new location, just across from their current location.

Chairman Gottschalk asked what will be done with the building at the new location. Mr. Petro testified that the location is smaller but will be more efficient for their business set up. They will be rebranding and be more upscale with a good selection of alcohol.

Commissioner Bridges asked if they have an Attachment #3 or a Fire Marshalls certificate to submit. Mr. Petro explained that he had forgotten about the Attachment #3 but would bring it to Secretary Bradley later that day. Mr. Petro further testified that they have an electrician doing some work in the building now, and after it is completed the Fire Marshall will be able to come out to check and give their certificate. Mr. Petro asked the Board to give approval pending those missing items.

Chairman Gottschalk asked if a Bulk Transfer would be needed because the location is the only thing changing and not the business or licensees. Secretary Bradley testified that she spoke with the State office to confirm if a Bulk Transfer Permit would be needed for the business to transfer to a new location. Secretary Bradley further testified that the State was able to confirm that a Bulk Transfer Permit is not needed or required for a business to move locations. The Bulk Transfer

Permit is only for the transfer of alcohol from one business to another, not when a business moves locations.

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

- Motion made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges that the Board approve transfer of the business and Class E, Beer, Wine & Liquor License (Off-sale Alcohol Dispensaries) pending the Board receiving the Attachment #3 and the Fire Marshall inspection. Motion passed unanimously.

4 Dogs Brewing Company, LLC– Application for transfer of the business and Class F-A alcohol license (hotels/restaurants – on-sale, beer, wine and liquor) & Class B-R, Beer & Wine License (off-sale) hotels/restaurants

All those in attendance to testify in the matter were sworn in, (Applicant Patrick Ragan).

Mr. Ragan gave opening statements about the business and reason for the transfer applicant. Mr. Ragan testified that the current lease was ending, and they needed to move quickly to find a new location. Mr. Ragan further testified that they have not been able to collect and present all of the necessary documents for the application due to the timing and work being done on the new location.

Commissioner Fike asked if they would be taking over the entire property. Mr. Ragan testified that they would be taking over the location and it is about 5,000 Sq. Ft.

Chairman Gottschalk asked to clarify what documents are needed still. Secretary Bradley testified that the Fire Marshalls certificate, Health Dept permit, Planning and Zoning approval, and Attachment 1 through 3. Mr. Ragan testified that he has been and is still currently working very hard to get all of the documents needed.

Chairman Gottschalk asked Mr. Ragan what his timeframe is for gathering the documents and being ready to open at the new location. Mr. Ragan testified that he believed his time frame was roughly three weeks to have all the documents ready.

Chairman Gottschalk stated the Board should consider postponing the hearing until most if not all the records were ready. Commissioner Fike asked if the applicant sees any issues with putting his business in this new location. Mr. Ragan testified that he did not see any issues with the new location and that they would not need to get any building construction permits or make any drastic changes.

Commissioner Bridges asked if there was any furniture or kitchen inside the new building. Mr. Ragan testified there was some restaurant furniture inside and they have a full kitchen in the upstairs part of the building, and the Health Department has seen it as part of their preliminary checks.

The Board agreed that they need to postpone the hearing on this matter until we have most of the documents needed. The Board agreed that the next possible date for the hearing is August 25, 2025, to allow time for the applicants to gather the remaining documents.

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

- Motion made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Bridges that the hearing be postponed to August 25, 2025, to allow time for the Applicants to gather the necessary documents. Motion passed unanimously.

Liquor Inspector's Report

Inspector Whitmer briefed the Board as to ongoing County liquor inspections. Inspector Whitmer briefed the Board on the recent problems with the 21 Matters program some business owners have had issues with. Inspector Whitmer stated this program is through the Health Department and they are dealing with the issue.

The Board agreed that they felt the program was not necessary and at the moment has caused more confusion than help. The Board stated the businesses have many checks they must go through including inspections and certifications along with appearing in front of the Board.

Old Business

Chairman Gottschalk informed the Board he has not been able to contact the Health Department regarding the 21 Matters program yet but would follow up with them soon. The Board discussed receiving the phone calls and emails from citizens about the incidents.

Secretary Bradley asked the Board to check their County Emails for one day applications that are pending administrative approval. The next Board meeting was set for August 25, 2025.

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 10:27 a.m.