

**QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023  
9:00 A.M.**

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq. Those present were: Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq., Chairman; Thomas E. Beery, Vice Chairman; John T. McQueeney and Charles W. Ferrar, Members; Jeffrey E. Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Mandy Calvert, Liquor Inspector; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board. Member Timothy G. Hibbard was not present.

**SPECIAL/TEMPORARY LICENSES:**

There were no Special/Temporary Licenses for the month of March, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to approve the February 10, 2023 Minutes and February 2023 Reports. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Board held a public hearing for a new Class “B-D” Beer, Wine & Liquor License for Justin Cox, Ryan Gordon and Clark Mowrey, for the Benefit of Atlas Kentmorr, LLC, trading as Kentmorr Restaurant, permitting the sale of the aforesaid beverages on the premises located at 910 Kentmorr Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666. Mr. Justin Cox and Mr. Ryan Gordon, Applicants, appeared before the Board. Mr. Clark Mowrey was unable to attend. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. All submitted documents were in order. Mr. Ransom said documents still needed are background checks for Mr. Cox and Mr. Gordon, Health Dept., Fire Marshal and Planning & Zoning approvals. The Applicants will be meeting with Ms. Calvert after the meeting today. Mr. Ransom reviewed the standards in § 4-210 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code, approval or denial of license. Kentmorr Restaurant will continue to operate as it has been. One of the major changes will be on the beach area. It will no longer be open to the public. It will be focused on food service and change the seating to alleviate the crowding that was there previously. Mr. Ransom said the beach area was a point of contention with the community. They plan to put the bar and food service stand there. People will check in with the host inside the restaurant and there will be a host at the beach also. There is a public need and desire for the license. Kentmorr Restaurant was in business for approx. 49 years. This license will not have a negative effect on other licenses in the area. It will be a seafood based menu. There will be no health or safety issues. They are working with the property owner to streamline the parking. Mr. Thompson said the diagram submitted indicates the licensed premises will be the entire restaurant and all the way down to the beach. There will be a fence installed to keep the beach patrons from entering someone else’s property. Mr. Ferrar asked why they applied for a “B-D” license rather than a “B” license. They said they would like to be able to sell beer to go for people on their boats. Mr. Beery said people will be prohibited from coming off a boat with a beer in their hand. Mr. Peter McCardle, property

owner, appeared before the Board. He has been the owner/manager/partner of Kentmorr Restaurant for over 18 years. He now has equal say in the use of the restaurant property. It will no longer be allowed to pay a fee and enter the beach area. There will no parking on the street. He said the Harpers still own the house next door and have been a great asset during the transition. No one else appeared regarding this application. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. McQueeney, to approve the Class "B-D" BWL license, contingent upon receipt of the two background checks, Fire Marshal, Health Dept. and Planning & Zoning approvals and meet with Ms. Calvert. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Ransom said Memorial Day will be a good test for the applicants. Mr. McCardle said there is a gentleman on board who handles the "meet and greet" and he does an incredible job.

**VIOLATION HEARING:**

The Board held a hearing regarding a violation under § 6-304 of the Alcoholic Beverages Code for One Stop Gasoline, LLC, trading as One Stop Gas, 32227 Queen Anne Highway, Queen Anne, MD 21657. The charge involves the sale of alcohol to a minor which occurred on November 15, 2022 at the licensed premises. Mr. Mohammed Y. Chaudhry, Licensee, appeared before the Board. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. Mr. Chaudhry is not contesting the charges. Ms. Calvert's letter with attachments to the Licensee dated 2/6/23 and the Notice of Intention to Defend were entered as Applicant's Exhibit No. 1. A motion was made by Mr. Beery, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, that a violation has occurred. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Ransom said there have been several past violations. In February, 2021 the Board put a 3-day suspension in abeyance for two years, to expire April 6, 2023. Mr. Ransom said this 3-day suspension will be automatic. Mr. Chaudhry said his assistant manager has been working for him for the last ten years and never had a violation. He was working alone that day and was having a bad day with customers and made a mistake. Mr. Chaudhry said his assistant manager is currently certified for alcohol awareness training but he will be attending another class. Mr. Chaudhry is at the store some days and his son is there some days. He said alcohol sales are important and are approx. 25% of his revenue. He said his employees have caught a lot of underage persons and also with fake ID's. He has told his cashiers if they have questions about a license, they can refuse the sale. Mr. Beery asked Mr. Chaudhry if he has a policy on when to check an ID. He said the policy is to check anyone under 30 yrs. of age. He has had his alcohol license for 22 years and he realizes he is responsible. He said he feels employees should have some responsibility too. Mr. McQueeney said he is willing to give Mr. Chaudhry one more chance. A motion was made by Mr. McQueeney, seconded by Mr. Ferrar, to impose a \$1,000 fine, plus the three-day suspension that was held in abeyance for two years, plus a five-day suspension for the most recent charge, a total of eight days suspension, from March 13, 2023 thru March 20, 2023. The \$1,000 fine to be paid before the suspension is over, which is March 21, 2023. Ms. Calvert will pick up the license on Monday, March 13 and the license can be picked up by Mr. Chaudhry on Tuesday, March 21. If any beer and wine is sold within that time, the license will be automatically revoked. Also Mr. Aslam, the employee who sold the alcohol, must retake an alcohol awareness training class within the next 60 days, before May 1, 2023. By a vote of four in favor and none opposed, the motion passed. Mr. Beery said the alcohol should be covered

so it's not sold accidentally. Mr. Ransom said the Board is being very generous. Mr. Chaudhry said it is very hard to find good working people.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Mr. Ferrar asked what are the Board's Rules concerning attendance for Board members. Mr. Ransom said there is no formal policy at this time.

The Revised Rules and Regulations were signed by the Board members today and will be put on the County website.

Ms. Maxwell discussed the transfer of Luke's Grille to Island Pub. One of the documents required was the Bulk Transfer permit and to date it has not been received. As of today there is no alcohol to transfer. Mr. Thompson said if there is no inventory, there is nothing to transfer. He said if no one objects, this should not be an issue.

The July 2023 meeting will have to be changed due to 4th of July Holiday.

**DRUG FREE COALITION:**

Mr. Warren Wright appeared before the Board. He said the TAMS training held this morning at Holiday Inn had 26 out of 28 participants. The presenter was very good. He said the class cost the participants only \$20. Plus Ms. Calvert arranged for the meeting room at no cost. He said Ms. Calvert put in a lot of work and the class was very successful. Mr. Wright said he will have the Queen Anne's Co. results of the YRBS soon. He said the national survey showed the rate that adolescents use alcohol, tobacco and drugs remained about the same. The statistics for boys went down in all categories. But the total number did not go down because of the tremendous increase in adolescent girls using. Mr. Beery he heard a report that in the State of MD, state troopers worked 19 crashes this past weekend where alcohol was involved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Maxwell*  
Clerk

/s/ Gene M. Ransom, III, Esq.  
Chairman