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**MINUTES – December 17, 2025**

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The Allegany County Board of License Commissioners held a meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. The meeting was conducted at 9:00 A.M. in Room 230 of the Allegany County Office Complex. Present for the meeting were Chairman – Tom Farrell, Commissioner – Jim Stafford, Commissioner – Ron Miller, Office Administrator – Brandy Snyder, Chief Inspector – Keith Bageant, and Board Attorney – Ramani Pillai. Also present for the meeting were Jason Niner, Shawn O'Rourke, Dennis Dillon, Rick Bauer, James Pyles, and Steve Friend.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrell. The Board approved the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

A One-day special class "C" license for beer and wine was approved for Shawn O'Rourke with Western Maryland Works. Western Maryland Works is a part of Allegany College of Maryland that promotes workforce development. They will be holding the Chamber After Hours event on January 14, 2026 at Western Maryland Works, 37 Lane Avenue, LaVale from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. There will be no minors attending the event. Alcoholic beverages will be served by ACM staff and 1812 Brewery. There being no questions, Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve, Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion, and unanimously approved by Chairman Farrell.

The Board requested licensees for Niner's Canal Pub and Uncle Jack's Pizzeria and Pub to attend today's meeting to discuss incidents occurring within the Merchant's Alley area. Licensee Brian Dillon with Uncle Jack's sent Dennis Dillon to represent the establishment and Niner's was represented by Jason Niner. Commissioner Stafford addressed the attendees stating that something needs to be done in this area to control the incidents that are occurring. The Cumberland City Police has responded to 56 calls to this area. There was a shooting in this area about two years ago and a man beat up pretty bad with a set of brass knuckles around Thanksgiving. Commissioner Stafford explained that as alcoholic beverage licensees this area is considered to be part of their premises and they are responsible for incidents that occur within it. Mr. Dillon stated that no altercations have occurred inside of Uncle Jack's located at 20 South Mechanic Street, Cumberland. Commissioner Stafford read a police report from November 24, 2025 in regards to an incident inside Uncle Jack's when a patron refused to pay his bar tab. Mr. Dillon stated that he had watched this incident at home on the cameras. Commissioner Stafford asked if both attendees were actually in the bar patrolling/watching to see what was actually occurring in the bar in actual time. Mr. Niner stated that he was mostly present and Mr. Dillon stated that he was not in the bar late at night he reviews camera footage from the night before

around 7:30 AM the next morning. The liquor board inspector spoke up and stated that when he has performed inspections at both establishments on the weekend during their busy time that Niner's had security on premises and Uncle Jack's has never had security. Commissioner Stafford asked the attendees if they thought they were catching the crowd from the Old My Place that use to be located in West Virginia, but is only a short distance away by foot or vehicle. Both attendees stated they do not believe so. Mr. Niner stated that there are a lot more homeless people in this area. He has stopped serving cups of pineapple juice, orange juice, etc. He realized that patrons were purchasing this and then taking it outside to mix with whatever liquor they brought with them. Mr. Dillon also agreed that the number of homeless people has significantly increased. Commissioner Stafford informed the attendees that they are able to bar or ban people from their establishments and recommended that may be this was a step that needed to be done by both establishments. Commissioner Stafford stated that the tables and chairs in the alley way need to be removed. If the tables and chairs are not there, people tend not to want to loiter in the area. Mr. Dillon stated that when the Cumberland City Police put up the transportable camera and lights that it helped the situation. People didn't want to loiter as much in the lighted alley way. Mr. Niner stated that he is having a new door installed so that patrons will not be able to enter the alleyway from Niner's Canal Pub. Commissioner Miller made a recommendation that both establishments return to the next liquor board meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 with a written plan of action on how each establishment plans on working toward providing a safer environment within the area known as Merchant's Alley. Both attendees stated that they would return. Commissioner Stafford provided an example that several years ago an establishment known as the Wonder Bar was not able to get incidents occurring on premises under control and the alcoholic beverage license was revoked. Commissioner Stafford stated to both attendees that if they could not work on providing a safer environment then the liquor Board would be imposing fines and possible alcoholic beverage license suspension or revocation. Both attendees stated they understood and would be back to the January 7, 2026 meeting with a written plan of action. The Board thanked Mr. Dillon and Mr. Niner for attending the meeting.

Randy Barnhardt with Southern Glazers called into the Liquor Board office to say that all of their fees and order minimums will be rescinded to what they were back in October. There will only be a \$300 minimum order requirement versus \$500. This will be for the entire state of Maryland. Southern Glazers also offered to meet via zoom if the Board felt the need. The Board was pleased that the issue has been addressed and resolved and did not see the need for a meeting.

The remaining financial reports came in from the animal shelter Food Truck Festival, Salvation Army Red Shield Club Rock the Mountains, LaVale Athletic Association Summer Night Out, Sons of American Legion Post 13 Monster Bash and Savage Mountain Punk Arts Punktoberfest. There was discussion on requiring all one-day events to hand in a financial report within 30 days after the event. Some groups seem to not be making any profits off of their events. It was discussed that after two or three times of not making a profit to donate to the non-profit organization that the Liquor Board would refrain from issuing an alcoholic beverage license for the event.

Queen City Cravings attended the meeting on November 19, 2025 and were told that no hardship letter had been received by the office and no paperwork for a transfer has been received. At that time, they were given 37 days to either use or transfer the alcoholic beverage license. As of today, no paperwork has been received by the office and there is not enough time left to do an advertisement for the transfer of the license. Commissioner Farrell stated to send a letter to the licensee informing them that the alcoholic beverage license has been forfeited after the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stafford agreed.

Chairman Farrell provided an update on the flyer for National Highway Liquor. Mr. Farrell stopped at National Highway Liquor and informed them that they are not allowed to do the store raffle because it was considered to be enticement and illegal. Mr. Farrell explained that if they were going to send out such a large quantity of flyers that they should have had the flyer approved at the Liquor Board office before mailing out. The licensee stated he understood. The office has heard no more about the situation.

As per the Annotated Code of Maryland § 9-2005 Hours for December 31 and January 1, Commissioner Stafford made a motion to allow establishments to remain open on New Year's Eve until 3 AM. New Year's Eve falls on a Wednesday.

A member of the Cresaptown Eagles by-law committee requested clarification on the rules and regulations pertaining to minors on the premises. The questions were:

1. Can minors enter a private club without time restrictions as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian?
2. If the answer above is yes, are there any limits on how late into the night minors may remain in the club?
3. Is the club obligated to make a CPS report if parents have their children out extremely late at night in the club?

4. If a parent or guardian is drinking or intoxicated while accompanied by their minor child, what obligations or actions are required of the club under the law?

These questions were given to the board attorney to provide a response to the member of the Cresaptown Eagles.

Steve Friend requested to attend the meeting to ask a few questions. He expressed being upset with Matt Miller announcing that Puccini's located at 12901 Ali Ghan Road, Cumberland was for sale. He stated that it was bad for business. However, he stated that they may have a potential buyer and wanted to know how the alcoholic beverage license would work if the businesses were separated? He explained that currently the alcoholic beverage license is good for the premises which includes Puccini's Restaurant and Turkey Flight Event Center. The Board explained that the county is only allowed to issue two "B-D" alcoholic beverage licenses a year and 51 % of sales had to be for food versus alcohol, but there is a waiting list for this type of license. It was explained to Mr. Friend that Allegany County has a population quota of one license to every 1,300 residents so the only way to acquire an alcoholic beverage license would be to purchase an existing license from someone looking to transfer the license. Mr. Friend was provided with a list of potential establishments looking to transfer the alcoholic beverage license.

The Board was given a copy of the proposed changes to the local rules and regulations. All members and the attorney were asked to review and come back to the next meeting on January 7 with questions, comments, additions, etc.

There was general discussion about Dawn 2 Dusk located at 16 Valley Street, Cumberland. The establishment closed on December 1, 2025. They are doing some remodeling and plan to reopen as a noodle restaurant. Parkview Liquor is currently closed due to a fire on Monday, December 15, 2025. The Board was given copies of two articles that ran in the Cumberland Times News in regards to chain and grocery stores being permitted to sell beer and wine.

The board reviewed the inspector violation sheets. The Inspector reported on 117 routine inspections between November 19, 2025 through December 16, 2025.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Farrell made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, and unanimously approved by Commissioner Stafford.



Thomas E. Farrell, Chairman  
Charles R. Miller, Commissioner  
James Stafford Jr., Commissioner  
Keith Bageant, Chief Inspector  
Vacant, Inspector  
Brandy Snyder, Office Administrator

The next regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 230 of the Allegany County Office Complex.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Farrell", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Farrell, Chairman

A handwritten date "1/7/2026" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

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