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**MINUTES – January 7, 2026**

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The Allegany County Board of License Commissioners held a meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. 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 Bob Mace, Eva Mace, Bob Boyle, Wayne Heavener, Megan Holly, Dennis Dillon, Jason Niner, and Brian Dillon.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrell. The Board approved the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes.

There were no hearings scheduled for one-day special class “C” licenses.

At the December 17, 2025 meeting, Mr. Dennis Dillon and Mr. Jason Niner agreed to return to the January 7 meeting with a written plan of action on how to provide a safer environment within the Merchant’s Alley area. Dennis Dillon and Brian Dillon were represented by Attorney Mr. Wayne Heavener and requested to speak first. Mr. Heavener expressed to the Board that Uncle Jack’s Pizzeria and Pub want to remain good neighbors with Niner’s Canal Pub and hopefully resolve the current issues. Mr. Heavener stated that Mr. Dillon did have a written plan of action in hand, but he would like more time to review some information on the area of Merchant’s Alley. He requested the Board to clarify what they were looking for and why. Commissioner Stafford responded that there is a different element of people coming into this area after 11 PM. Some of the time it has been noted that none of the individuals are patrons of either establishment, but are bringing in outside alcohol onto the premises for consumption. Commissioner Stafford stated that Uncle Jack’s has placed tables and chairs in this area that may promote individuals to linger in the area. The Liquor Board has asked Uncle Jack’s to remove these tables and chairs entirely or by 10 PM. Commissioner Stafford stated that to date the tables and chairs were still there. Commissioner Stafford stated that he has spoken to past bartenders of the establishment and these females are afraid to walk in the alleyway. Mr. Heavener stated that Uncle Jack’s is willing to work with the Liquor Board to resolve the issues, but he needed to point out that the two establishments attract different people in regards to Uncle Jack’s being a restaurant and Niners being a bar. Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Heavener if they have ever looked at receipts to see how many pizzas are being sold after 11 PM. Mr. Heavener stated that this would be something they would need to look into. Liquor Inspector Bageant stated that both establishments share the same customers and he has witnessed it on multiple occasions while

performing routine inspections. Commissioner Stafford stated that these two establishments have created an environment with unsafe conditions that concerns the safety of the community. The Liquor Board would like to work with these two establishments along with the City of Cumberland Police, and the City of Cumberland to eliminate the problem. Mr. Heavener requested to have another meeting with the Board and request Mr. Cohen, City of Cumberland Attorney, to attend the meeting to discuss possible resolutions to the issues. The Board agreed to have another meeting. The meeting was set for February 4, 2026 at 10 AM upon verification of Mr. Cohens' availability. Chairman Farrell asked if Mr. Niner wanted to add anything. Mr. Niner stated that he did have a written plan of action in hand. He was going to try to change the environment of the bar by having different events. For example, he would have a karaoke night, a theme night, etc. He stated that he has been closed for the last three weeks with the holidays. He stated that sometimes it is difficult to control people being outside. He also stated that he has been in business for 12 to 13 years and since My Place closed in West Virginia, it seems that he is catching a slow trickle of people after 11 PM. The Mr. Niner stated that he wants to be a good neighbor and work with the Liquor Board to resolve the issues. The Liquor Board thanked them all for their time.

Robert Mace requested to speak to the Board about an issue at the Cumberland Democrat Club, 201 Valley Street, Cumberland. Mr. Mace stated that he has been president of the Democrat Club since 2001. He stated that he had to terminate Arin Baker from being bar manager. When she was terminated, he was locked out of the computer system and all alcoholic beverage receipts and paperwork were removed from the premises. He stated that he has not been able to log in to the computer system for 12 days. He stated that a password was changed that had not been changed since 2016. He showed receipts where he purchased a new computer and was able to log in as of yesterday, January 6, 2026. Mr. Mace showed the board pictures of the condition of the bar area and chairs that belonged to the Democrat Club out in the weather. He stated that the Club needs to purchase bar stools. Mr. Mace wanted to make the Liquor Board aware of the current issues occurring at the Democrat Club because he feels that Mrs. Baker may cause problems. Commissioner Stafford asked Mr. Mace if Arin Baker was his daughter and Mr. Mace stated that she was his stepdaughter which made the situation more difficult. Mrs. Arin Baker and her husband Lionel Baker are both licensees along with Mr. Robert Mace for the Cumberland Democrat Club. Commissioner Stafford asked if the situation has been discussed with the other members of the Board for the club. Mr. Mace stated that he had spoken to other Board members about the situation. Mr. Mace stated that he has changed the locks at the club twice. He said that policy states keys are not given to part-time bartenders and Mrs. Baker gave a key to one. He

stated that on New Year's Eve Mrs. Baker fell asleep at the bar. He stated that it happens frequently and the other bartenders would over serve her because she was their boss. Mr. Mace stated that Mrs. Baker has made comments on Facebook in regards to the termination and again he just wanted to make the Board aware of the situation. The Board advised Mr. Mace to get with the other Board Members of the Club to resolve the issues with the bar manager. They also gave Mr. Mace contact information for the state alcoholic beverage inspector to see what paperwork he would need to get copies of to be in compliance with alcoholic beverage law. Mr. Mace stated he would be in contact with the inspector.

Megan Holly and Robert Boyle with Queen City Cravings addressed the Board. A letter was sent to Queen City Cravings on December 29, 2025 about their alcoholic beverage license. They provided the board with a letter of hardship. They stated that New Creamery LLC still owned 108 W Harrison Street, Cumberland and they have a manager's agreement with the new tenants, Streetside Sizzle, for the alcoholic beverage license. The Board explained that the hardship letter should have been handed in a while back, but they don't like to terminate a license. They asked New Creamery LLC to provide a copy of the manager's agreement. Ms. Holly stated she would send it via email later today. Chairman Farrell made a motion to continue the alcoholic beverage license, Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, and unanimously approved by Commissioner Stafford.

As a follow-up from the last meeting, the Board asked if a response was sent to the Cresaptown Eagles in regards to minors being allowed on the premises. Board Attorney, Mr. Pillai, stated that he would get that response out by the end of this week.

The Board was asked to review a new rules and regulations booklet. All Board members have had a chance to review. None of the members had changes or corrections. Office staff would like to distribute the new booklet at license pick-up. Chairman Farrell requested that the Board Attorney review and bring his findings to the next meeting.

There was general discussion about the Women's Civic Club surrendering their current Class "C" beer and wine license to apply for a new Class "C" beer, wine, and liquor alcoholic beverage license. The Board agreed that they could surrender current license at time of renewal to apply for new license. There was discussion about applying for grant money for compliance checks to be completed. There was also discussion on getting an update on the progress of the Wills Hotel.

The board reviewed the inspector violation sheets. The Inspector reported on 78 routine inspections between December 17, 2025 through January 6, 2026.



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

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.

The next regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 100 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 "1/21/2026" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

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