

LIQUOR AND LICENSE COMMISSION
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Chairman Hammerand called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. The following Commission members were present: John Hammerand, Chairman; Bob Bless; Diane Evertsen; John Jung and Barb Wheeler. Also in attendance: Kenneth Koehler, Liquor Commissioner; Jamie Rein, State's Attorney's Office; Cmdr. John Miller, Sheriff's Department; Mary McCann, County Board; and the public.

John Hammerand, Chairman
Bob Bless John Jung, Jr.
Diane Evertsen Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES: Mr. Jung made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2011 Liquor and License Commission meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Chairman Hammerand requested that the New Business items be heard next.

NEW BUSINESS:

Raffle Permits and Special Liquor License Request.

Special Liquor License:

St. Joseph Parish: Commission members reviewed the application for a Special Class "F" Liquor License for St. Joseph Parish located in Round Lake, Illinois for a rodeo to be held at 5411 Rt. 12, Richmond, Illinois on September 25, 2011. Father Timothy O'Malley from St. Joseph Parish and Alfredo Luna, owner of the property where the event will take place were present. Cmdr. Miller mentioned that the parties have entered into a revised Independent Off-Duty Detail Agreement with the McHenry County Sheriff's Department with services to be provided from 12:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the date of the event. Cmdr. Miller will provide a copy of the revised Agreement to Ms. Haines who will make it a part of the liquor license application for this event. St. Joseph Parish has applied for a Temporary Use Permit from the Planning & Development Department which is pending. Ms. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung, to approve the Special Class "F" Liquor License for St. Joseph Parish as submitted, pending approval of a Temporary Use Permit from the Planning & Development Department. The motion carried with all members voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Evertsen, Jung, Wheeler and Hammerand).

Raffle Permits:

Ms. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung, to review and approve two raffle permits at the same time. This was unanimously approved by the Commission members present. Raffle permits reviewed were for the Marengo Area Schools Education Foundation and Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois. Commission members reviewed the applications and noted all documents were completed and bond information provided. The motion carried with all members voting aye on a roll call vote (Bless, Evertsen, Jung, Wheeler and Hammerand).

PRESENTATION:

Discussion on Potential Winery Classifications:

Ms. McCann and Jeff Pankow, owner of Blue Star Vineyard in Hebron, Illinois joined committee members to discuss potential liquor licenses for wineries. Mr. and Mrs. Pankow own acreage and grow and harvest grapes for wine. This is their fourth growing season and all of their harvest of grapes from this year will be sold to two wineries, those being in Kane and Jo Daviess Counties. They have started drafting an application for a conditional use permit for their property, but they need to first know whether or not the McHenry County Liquor and License Commission will be creating a special liquor license for wineries. Currently the County does not have any liquor licenses specifically for wineries. The Planning and Development Committee is currently working on possibly making changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) which will allow wineries on agricultural property. Ms. Rein stated that Jo Daviess County has a liquor license for wineries/vineyards which states, in part: "authorizing the sale of wine only by the drink, by consumption on the premises and packaged

wine for consumption off the premises.” Mr. Pankow mentioned that other wineries in northern Illinois have events such as fall harvests and grape stomps. Attendance at such events usually comprise of more people than attendance at wine tasting events which would occur in wine tasting rooms. At the present time he is looking for a liquor license which will allow the sale of wine for wine tasting events and the sale of packaged goods. Ms. Rein mentioned that the Commission could create a liquor license similar to the Jo Daviess County liquor license for wineries/vineyards. Mr. Pankow’s future plans for his property would include a building for a facility for producing wine, along with a tasting room with a restaurant where light food may be served and where retail sales would occur. He would also need a bonded building because once wine is bottled, there is a tax placed on it and it has to be stored in a bonded building. He may also request that they be allowed to host outdoor weddings at their facility. Mr. Jung stated that the Commission needs to decide what special liquor license the Commission should have to fit these situations. Ms. Wheeler stated that a general vineyard license is a good idea and feels this would be a positive message to the agricultural community showing the County’s support for vineyards in the County. Ms. Rein mentioned that the Commission may create a liquor license for vineyards for the tasting and selling of wine and use the vineyard liquor license that Jo Daviess County currently has as an example. The Commission could incorporate this special liquor license into the Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing Ordinance and wait and see what happens with the Unified Development Ordinance. At the current time, alcohol is not allowed to be sold on agricultural property. She will prepare a draft for a special liquor license for vineyards/wineries for the Commission to review during upcoming meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Incident Reports: Ms. Rein reported that there were two Incident Reports for The Snuggery. Both incidences occurred in the parking lot and were on August 1, 2011 and August 18, 2011.

Update on Sting Operations: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMISSION: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Noting no further business, Ms. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jung, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION/REVIEW:

mh