

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN
OF LAKE LURE ABC BOARD**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023
3:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AT LAKE LURE TOWN HALL.

Present: Richard Sayles, Chair
Bob Cassano, Vice Chair
Trace Boswell, Board Member
Esther Lusk, Board Member
Peter O'Leary, Board Member

Trent McGuire, Store Manager
Rhonda Cook, Accountant

Absent:

Others Present: Scott Doster, Town Council Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Richard Sayles called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. AGENDA ADOPTION

Mr. Cassano made a motion to adopt the agenda, as presented. Mr. Boswell seconded. All board members voted in favor.

III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

There were no conflict of interest.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2023 REGULAR ABC BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

There was a motion to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes, as presented. There was a second to the motion and all voted in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Adoption of 2024 ABC Board Schedule*

Board members reviewed the 2024 ABC Board Schedule. Mrs. Lusk made a motion to approve the schedule. Mr. Cassano seconded and all voted in favor. The 2024 ABC Board Schedule was adopted as follows:

2024 ABC BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

January 22*	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
February 19	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
March 18	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
April 15	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
May 20	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
June 17	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
July 15	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
August 19	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
September 16	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
October 21	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
November 18	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center
December 16	3:30 P.M.	Lake Lure Municipal Center

*ABC Board Meetings are held the third Monday of each month except when the date falls on a holiday. Meetings will be held at the Lake Lure Municipal Center.

B. *Discuss Garbage Issues*

Chair Sayles explained that he sent management and Board members information in regard to garbage behind the building and it was determined that the garbage is from the Store. Mr. McGuire noted that staff will start monitoring garbage on Fridays. Mr. McGuire stated that he offered Hope Wittmer \$100 every three months for garbage services or the store may be able to get a larger bin. It was noted that there are not many options for garbage services in Lake Lure, but Mr. McGuire is looking at all options. Commissioner Doster asked if Mr. McGuire can find out the kind of bin that Mrs. Wittmer has and Mr. McGuire answered that he could find out. Mr. McGuire noted that there may not be room to place a new dumpster behind the building. Board members discussed that the easiest solution is to establish an agreement with Mrs. Wittmer and to cancel services with Nelon.

C. *Discuss Broken Windows*

Mr. McGuire explained that the windows broke and that he thinks it was broken by LB&B during a delivery. Mr. McGuire added that it was also not the appropriate type of glass, but he is working to resolve the issue and in the meantime wood has been placed in the window seal. Mr. McGuire suggested that the wood remain in place even after the windows are installed.

D. *Discuss Inventory*

Chair Sayles explained that he reported to Town Council about how the inventory was completed without closing the store and how impressive it was. Mr. McGuire agreed and noted that the inventory went well and he feels good about the product amount in the store. Mr. McGuire explained slight variance when the inventory was completed, but Carolina Data did not think it was significant and suggested not doing inventories in December or right after a truck is delivered in the future. It was detailed that Carolina Data brought lent the store an extra scanner for the inventory. Chair Sayles expressed that much improvement has been made since new management has taken over operations. McGuire noted that inventory was completed with very little overtime necessary.

E. *Review Board Member Terms and Officer Changes*

It was discussed Mr. O'Leary's term is expiring and he is going to submit an application for re-appointment. Commissioner Doster noted that the Board won't have to vote on chair and vice chair until March. Board members discussed keeping the chair and vice chair as is because the Board is going steady and consistent.

F. *Update on Security System*

Mr. McGuire provided an update that Foothills Security has recommended that the Store remain on continuous security rather than motion based. There was consensus to leave the security system as it is current operating for the time being.

G. *Update on Insurance Claim*

Mrs. Lusk read the email from the claims adjuster. It was detailed that the claim was submitted directly to the former accountant and that the Board would have to contact them for information. Mrs. Lusk added that the adjuster could not provide any details regarding the determination. It was stated that coverage was denied. Mrs. Lusk expressed that the Board should have recourse. Commissioner Doster stated that he thinks that the Board would have to sue the insurance company if they wanted to seek recourse. It was noted that another town that had filed a claim against the past accountant won their claim. Commissioner Doster noted that he will contact Town Attorney William Morgan and ask him for advice. Mrs. Lusk has information that she can provide for Mr. Morgan if needed. Board members expressed that over \$100,000 is involved and that the former accountant needs to be held accountable. Mr. O'Leary noted that Commissioner Doster should inform Mr. Morgan about the other ABC Stores that submitted claims and at that at least one of them was paid. Commissioner Doster noted that there should be an explanation as to why the coverage was denied.

H. *Discuss ABC Store Operations*

Mr. McGuire reported that the store lost a part time employee, but a new employee has been on board who is doing a good job and is well known and liked in the community. Mr. McGuire added that the store is still seeking a part time employee for dayshift.

Mr. McGuire detailed that there was supposed to be a tasting for Conviction out of Mt. Pleasant, but they canceled the day before. Mr. McGuire expressed dissatisfaction with the last minute cancellation and the company rescheduled the tasting for this Friday.

Mr. McGuire contacted Quinn Woolard with the ABC Commission about store employees or management bartending in the area and Mr. Woolard informed him that it is not a conflict of interest, but it is not advised.

Mr. McGuire detailed that he received approval from Commission this week to reduce the price of four products and that he is going to try to move them with the discounts.

It was detailed that Carolina Data is going to highlight all reports that Ms. Cook needs in red or green. Ms. Cook explained that the reports are complicated if you do not know what to pull, so this will be very helpful. Mr. McGuire noted that when the ABC Commission changes product codes, Carolina Data is going to change them in the system moving forward. Mr. Cassano asked where Carolina Data gets their information and Mr. McGuire answered that they get their information directly from the state.

Mr. McGuire and Ms. Patricia Crain met with Weldon Mills today and spoke with them about doing a display in the Store. Mr. McGuire added that Weldon Mills is the company that has done two tastings and sold well.

Mr. McGuire noted that he previously discussed switching to Spectrum and that he has concluding that switching will save money, but would include cancellation fees for PANGAEA and AT&T. Ms. Cook noted that if the phone is on VIOP, there may be issues with security. Mr. McGuire noted that Spectrum would 5G and will be underground. Mr. McGuire noted that during power outages, he has to close the store or do cash only sales.

I. Review Financial Report

Ms. Cook provided the financial report. It was noted that numbers were down this month, but the store still made a profit. Ms. Cook detailed that next month the annual software payment of \$5,000 will be due. Mr. Cassano expressed that sells should increase between now and New Year's Eve because of the holidays. Commissioner Doster asked how Mr. McGuire feels about the Store's activity in December and Mr. McGuire answered that he is pleasantly surprised that it stays as busy as it does during the off season. Mr. McGuire noted that he ordered 10 fireball kegs and one couple had already bought four of them. Mr. Boswell asked why there is a credit on payroll taxes and Ms. Cook answered that there was an adjustment at the end of the audit and that she will review the last audit to gain a better understanding. Mr. Boswell asked what unrestricted assets are and Ms. Cook noted that the unrestricted assets line item is required to be in the budget for lease liability, which was discussed by the auditor when they presented this year's audit. Mr. McGuire noted that there was seven or eight ABC stores that did not get their audits submitted and cannot get allocations.

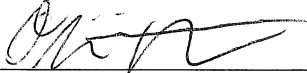
Mr. McGuire asked if the Board is in support of announcing that Patricia Crain is officially the assistant manager and Board members expressed support. Mr. McGuire asked if Ms. Crain can begin attending Board meetings and Board members answered yes.

Commissioner Doster noted that the Chair Sayles's annual board presentation to Council went well. Commissioner Doster added that the Town is impressed with the improvements and store operations. Mr. McGuire stated that restaurants have expressed that they are also impressed and it was mentioned that Chair Sayles detailed this during his report. It was also mentioned that Chair Sayles recognized the late Earl Russell for all he had done for the Store.

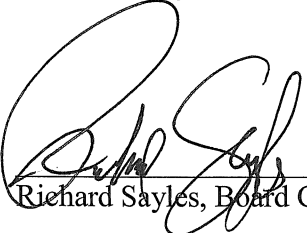
VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Boswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cassano seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

ATTEST:



Olivia Stewman, Town Clerk



Richard Sayles, Board Chair