



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

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022
3:30 PM.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AT LAKE LURE TOWN HALL.

Present: Linda Samarotto, Chair
Bob Cassano, Board Member
Esther Lusk, Board Member
Peter O'Leary, Board Member

Russ Dunst, ABC Store Manager
Jim Proctor, Town Council Liaison

Absent: Richard Sayles, Board Member
Rhonda Cook, Accountant

Others Present: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. AGENDA ADOPTION

Ms. Esther Lusk made a motion to adopt the agenda, as presented. Chair Samarotto seconded. All present board member voted in favor.

III. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

There were no conflict of interests.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the July 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bob Cassano made a motion to approve the July 18, 2022 regular meeting minutes, as presented. Chair Samarotto seconded and all voted in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of ABC Store Operations

Store Manager Russ Dunst reviewed his manger's report. Mr. Dunst noted an increase in overtime and a percentage increase in sales. Commissioner Proctor asked Mr. Dunst to explain the difference in retail sales between this year and last year and Mr. Dunst cited COVID and supply chain issues as factors in making a difference. Ms. Lusk asked why there is a push to increase credit card sales even though this method costs the Store and it was noted that this is how the majority of payments are made.

Mr. Dunst reported that Rhonda Cook is working on closing books and he will relay all audit information to the auditor, Terryjean Moody.

Mr. Dunst detailed current staff and store operations and noted that the store continues to have a shortage of one employee.

Mr. Dunst noted that deliveries remain a state-wide issue. He also expressed that he had heard that a commissioner for state ABC Commission visited the Columbus ABC Store and explained that orders are being cut.

Mr. Dunst relayed that he had received confirmation on the holiday items including Benchmark, Evan Williams, eggnog, moonshine, Jack Daniels, etc. Mr. Dunst estimated that these holiday items should be delivered between mid to late October.

The Board and Manager Dunst held discussion regarding possibilities of relocating. Mr. Cassano suggested getting better idea of financials and other statistics before proceeding with any decisions. Commissioner Proctor suggested looking at estimates for a building similar to those described by Mr. Dunst and suggested looking at General Statutes regarding ABC Stores in proximity to schools.

Mr. Cassano asked if there has been any thought regarding the transition into the slow season. Mr. Dunst explained that store employees will be scaling-back after the holiday season and noted that the slow season will be a good opportunity to deep clean the store.

Mr. O'Leary asked if there is a copy of the budget that was submitted to the state for approval. Mr. Dunst did not have a copy present. Mr. Cassano expressed that he would also like a copy of the budget. Mr. Dunst explained that Ms. Cook is continuing to work on making financial improvements and that the proposed budget was submitted but it will be more fine-tuned when the audit is completed in August or September.

The Board discussed penalties for late financial submittals that occurred under past management and accounting. The Board discussed audit details. Commission Proctor recommended asking the state ABC Commission about available auditors.

The Board discussed having members hold a meeting to speak with Ms. Cook. Chair Samarotto agreed to set up a meeting with Ms. Cook and will also contact Ms. Moody regarding the status of the audit process. Mr. Dunst noted that he will speak with other local managers about their audit firms.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Lusk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chair Samarotto seconded and all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

ATTEST



Olivia Stewman, Town Clerk



Linda Samarotto, Board Chair