



VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM

108 West Main Street and Virtually

To access meeting from any device: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/336650045>

Or by (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 | Access Code: 336-650-045

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **DISCLOSURE OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

It is recommended that a written request to address the Village Board by non-members should be submitted via mail, hand delivery, or the Village Website to the Village of Winnebago Office located at 108 West Main Street, Winnebago, Illinois, 61088, by 12:00 Noon on the day of the meeting scheduled by the Village authorities in which the speaker would like to participate. Alternatively, speakers may fill out the form at the meeting to sign up for public comment. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. A maximum of thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed for public comment at each meeting.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- [a.](#) Minutes from October 08, 2025
 - [b.](#) Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2025
 - [c.](#) Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2026

6. **DISCUSSION**

- [a.](#) Tap Wall Discussion

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Posted: March 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at 108 W. Main Street, Winnebago, IL

and online at www.villageofwinnebago.com Tel 815.335.2020 | Fax 815.415-8491

/s/ Kellie Symonds, Deputy Clerk



VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 08, 2025 at 5:30 PM
108 West Main Street and Virtually

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Or by (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 | Access Code: 336-650-045

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Liquor Commissioner Frank Eubank, Kelli Jeffers, Jim O'Rourke ABSENT: Adam Lefevre

GUESTS: Village Administrator Joey Dienberg, Village Attorney Mary Gaziano, Village Intern Kyle Okubo

3. DISCLOSURE OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes from September 10, 2025

Ms. Jeffers made the motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025, seconded Mr. O'Rourke. Motions carried on a voice vote of those present.

6. DISCUSSION

a. Tap Wall Concept

Mr. O'Rourke stated that the conversation was a continuation of the discussion from the Liquor Commission meeting held on September 10, 2025.

Village Administrator Joey Dienberg reviewed information previously provided to the Commission regarding the preliminary concept of a self-serve tap wall proposed by the owners of Table Talk Supper Club. He noted that a summary of the prior discussion had been shared

with the owners and asked whether the Commission had interest in moving forward with drafting an ordinance.

Commissioner Eubank stated that the business owners did not intend to serve alcohol on their first day of operation but did not want the issue to delay their ability to obtain a liquor license. He noted that the owners were not present at the meeting and had not submitted additional information for consideration.

Commissioner Eubank stated that it would still be beneficial to continue the discussion regardless of the owners' absence. Mr. O'Rourke asked whether there were existing regulations addressing tap walls. Attorney Gaziano responded that there was limited information available. She contacted other municipalities and found that some had implemented tap walls without consulting their attorneys.

Attorney Gaziano reiterated common limits she identified during research: 32 ounces of beer, 10 ounces of wine, and 3 ounces of spirits loaded onto a patron's card at one time. Additional pours would require staff authorization and card reloading.

Commissioner Eubank explained that the Village could establish specific limitations for tap wall systems regardless of the type of liquor license issued. For example, even if a license allowed hard liquor service, the Village could restrict a tap wall to beer and wine only. He also suggested the possibility of creating a separate liquor license classification for establishments wishing to install a tap wall. Commissioner Eubank emphasized the importance of establishing consumption limits regardless of the regulatory approach chosen.

Mr. Jeffers stated that it was difficult to fully discuss the logistics of a tap wall without input from the business owners about how they intended to implement the system.

Commissioner Eubank noted that monitoring consumption would likely be one of the most challenging aspects and questioned what systems would be used to track patrons' pours. He also stated that other restaurants within the Village might eventually be interested in installing tap walls, and the Village should develop regulations that apply broadly rather than tailoring them to a single business.

Commissioner Eubank suggested that the Commission might consider limiting the hours during which a tap wall could operate. Mr. O'Rourke expressed concern about restricting service times, noting that establishments commonly serve drinks such as mimosas and Bloody Marys' during morning hours. Commissioner Eubank suggested that different restrictions could potentially be created based on the type of alcohol served.

Attorney Gaziano reiterated that a BASSET-trained employee must be present on the premises whenever alcohol is available for consumption. Eubank noted that Table Talk Supper Club may want to open first and later determine which employees will pursue BASSET training as the staff becomes established.

Commissioner Eubank stated that some businesses that installed tap walls reported approximately a 30% increase in profits, noting that some establishments even increased bartender salaries due to higher revenue. While installation costs could be significant initially, he believed the system could be financially beneficial over time.

Mr. O'Rourke asked whether the Commission intended to begin drafting an ordinance. Eubank suggested that the Commission could outline general provisions for Attorney Gaziano to use in drafting a preliminary ordinance for discussion at the next meeting. Attorney Gaziano indicated it would be helpful for the Table Talk Supper Club owners to attend a meeting prior to drafting the ordinance to provide direction.

Commissioner Eubank stated that requiring an employee to stand at the tap wall continuously would likely be inefficient for the business. He suggested that an employee such as a hostess or maître d' could monitor the area while performing other duties.

Mr. O'Rourke suggested the tap wall might need to be physically separated, similar to video gaming areas, to prevent underage patrons from accessing it. Commissioner Eubank noted that if patrons were issued bracelets or access cards, physical barriers might not be necessary.

Attorney Gaziano reiterated that the tap wall systems she reviewed typically load an initial serving limit—such as 32 ounces of beer—onto a patron's access card. If the patron wishes to continue, a staff member must authorize and reload the card after verifying the patron has not been over-served.

Administrator Dienberg displayed the website pourmybeer.com and played a video demonstration for the Commission illustrating the tap wall system.

Mr. O'Rourke asked whether multiple employees should be BASSET trained since wait staff should be able to identify signs of over-service. Eubank explained that the Village's current ordinance requires only employees directly involved with alcohol service to be BASSET trained. Attorney Gaziano noted that Table Talk Supper Club had indicated they might employ teenagers, meaning not all staff could complete BASSET training. Eubank stated that having a trained manager, hostess, or similar employee present would be a reasonable approach.

Attorney Gaziano recommended that at least one backup BASSET-trained employee be available in case the primary trained employee was absent.

Ms. Jeffers stated that she liked the concept because the automated system controls the amount poured, reducing the possibility of heavy pours by bartenders. Commissioner Eubank agreed and noted that the system could also reduce the burden on bartenders to determine when a patron had reached their limit, since the system could enforce maximum pour limits automatically.

Attorney Gaziano raised the question of whether insurance providers, such as Illinois Casualty Company, might require specific dram shop liability provisions for establishments using tap walls.

Administrator Dienberg noted that the FAQ section on the pourmybeer.com website explains that patrons typically have access to only two drinks at a time. After those drinks are consumed, staff must authorize access to additional pours. Attorney Gaziano stated that Illinois statutes do not currently provide guidance on tap wall systems, meaning most establishments develop their own operational policies.

Commissioner Eubank suggested the Village could review regulations adopted in other states and potentially model an ordinance after those provisions. He also recommended seeking feedback from local liquor license holders and possibly requesting input from the Illinois Liquor Commission before finalizing any ordinance.

Attorney Gaziano noted that tap walls are reportedly legal in 44 states provided there are systems to verify age and enforce alcohol limits. She emphasized that the systems cannot function as vending machines; there cannot be a direct exchange of cash for alcohol dispensing. She also mentioned ADA requirements limiting the maximum height of the card reader to 48 inches from the floor.

Ms. Jeffers stated that the Commission had enough information to begin drafting a basic ordinance that could later be amended if necessary. Commissioner Eubank agreed that identifying several initial provisions would allow Attorney Gaziano to conduct additional research and prepare a draft ordinance.

Attorney Gaziano noted that certain plumbing requirements for tap systems are addressed by the health department and would not necessarily need to be included in the Village ordinance.

When asked what information she needed to draft the ordinance, Attorney Gaziano summarized that the Commission generally appeared supportive of the tap wall concept. She indicated she could draft an ordinance including several provisions for future discussion and revision.

Attorney Gaziano also asked whether the Village knew the anticipated opening timeline for Table Talk Supper Club. Commissioner Eubank stated that the owners hoped to open within

approximately 60 days, potentially around December 1, and had indicated they did not intend to serve alcohol immediately upon opening.

Administrator Dienberg clarified that the tap wall concept would likely function as an additional provision within existing liquor license classes rather than a completely separate license. Under this approach, a business could obtain a standard liquor license and later add a tap wall if desired.

Commissioner Eubank agreed that existing liquor license requirements would remain in effect, with additional provisions governing the operation of tap walls. He noted that Table Talk Supper Club could apply for a liquor license now and potentially add a tap wall once the ordinance is established.

Attorney Gaziano expressed concern that some business owners might hesitate to purchase a liquor license if their primary goal was to operate a tap wall and the ordinance was later denied. Commissioner Eubank stated that drafting an ordinance and gathering feedback from local businesses would be the best approach. He suggested issuing a press release to inform the public that the Village is exploring the concept and to encourage input from business owners and residents.

Mr. O’Rourke clarified that any current liquor license holder would be eligible to install a tap wall once the provisions are adopted by the Board.

Administrator Dienberg noted that some tap wall vendors market the systems to grocery stores, allowing customers to have a drink while shopping.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Jeffers made the motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025, seconded by Mr. O’Rourke. Motion carried on a voice vote of those present.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

UNAPPROVED

Rachel Windgassen, Assistant Deputy Clerk
Prepared from recording



VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:30 PM
108 West Main Street and Virtually

To access meeting from any device: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/336650045>
Or by (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679 | Access Code: 336-650-045

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. LeFevre at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: LeFevre, O'Rourke, Jeffers

Absent: Eubank

Guests Present: Attorney Mary Gaziano, Village Administrator Dienberg, and Mr. McDonald

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of **October 8, 2025**

Due to recording equipment issues at the last meeting, Mr. Dienberg requested that the October 8, 2025, minutes be reviewed at the next meeting to allow time to clarify unclear portions of the recording.

Action: No action was taken on the minutes of October 8, 2025.

6. Discussion

Because the applicant was present, the Liquor License Application item was moved to the first item of discussion.

b. 126 S Benton Street Liquor License Application – Tap on Benton, LLC (Mr. McDonald)

Attorney Gaziano reviewed the submitted application and supporting documents:

- Application cover sheet listed the business name as *Benton Street Tap*; the legal business name is *Tap on Benton, LLC*. Applicant to correct, initial, and date the change.
- Lease effective date is **January 1, 2026**; a license cannot be issued prior to that date.
- Corporation exists, but the business is not yet open.
- Once Commissioner Eubank approves, the license can be issued.

Supporting documents reviewed included:

- Signed lease.
- Statement of Principal for Mr. McDonald
- Background check/fingerprinting (no issues)
- Payment of required fees: **\$1,500** (Class A License) and **\$5,000** (application fee)
- Employee policy for serving alcoholic beverages
- Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Village of Winnebago as certificate holder and showing appropriate liquor liability coverage

Attorney Gaziano confirmed that, by her review, the application was in order.

Discussion:

- Attorney Gaziano recommended approval effective after January 1, 2026.
- Mr. McDonald noted that the State of Illinois typically responds quickly with liquor license approvals and stated he could contact the property owner, Lisa Smith, to change the lease effective date.
- Attorney Gaziano stated the date change could be handled via an amendment or addendum to the lease.
- Mr. O'Rourke asked about food service. Mr. McDonald explained menu options, table seating, and the pizza oven specifications.
- Mr. O'Rourke asked about future gaming; Mr. McDonald stated it is planned.

Motion:

Mrs. Jeffers moved to recommend approval of the liquor license pending:

1. Correction to the business name on the application, and

2. Amendment to the lease changing the effective date from **January 1, 2026**, to **Monday, November 17, 2025**, with all other terms remaining the same.

Second: Mr. O’Rourke

Roll Call Vote:

- Jeffers – Aye
- O’Rourke – Aye
- LeFevre – Aye

Motion carried unanimously of those present.

Attorney Gaziano stated the recommendation, along with the amended lease and corrected application, will be forwarded to Commissioner Eubank.

Mr. McDonald left the meeting.

6. Discussion

a. Tap Wall Discussion

Mr. LeFevre opened the discussion on the Tap Wall.

Mr. Dienberg provided copies of slides from *Pour My Beer*, the vendor proposed by Mr. Woolbright. He noted the brochure stated in a “legal analysis” section with a map of the states in the brochure that Illinois was “good to go”.

Mr. O’Rourke asked about the expected opening timeline. Mr. Dienberg stated that he spoke with Mr. Woolbright earlier in the day and that Mr. Woolbright indicated that, due to the government shutdown, paperwork processing is delayed, and there is no update on the opening date.

Mr. LeFevre asked whether a Liquor Application had been submitted. Mr. Dienberg replied that an application has not yet been submitted. Attorney Gaziano reported that President Eubank tasked her with preparing an ordinance related to Tap Walls regardless of whether this business proceeds.

Mr. LeFevre agreed with that approach. Attorney Gaziano noted she has located a few example ordinances for reference.

7. New Business

None.

8. Executive Session

None

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. O’Rourke, seconded by Mrs. Jeffers.
Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m. **Motion carried.**

UNAPPROVED

Prepared from recording by:
Kellie Symonds, Deputy Clerk



VILLAGE OF WINNEBAGO

LIQUOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

4. No public comment.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Ms. Jeffers made the motion, second by Mr. O'Rourke to layover the minutes of October 08, 2025 and November 12, 2025 to the next meeting.
- b. Minutes from November 12, 2025

6. DISCUSSION

- a. Mr. O'Rourke asked Mr. Springer about his business eventually adding Video Gaming. Mr. Springer said that he is in the process of adding video gaming. Attorney Gaziano reviewed Mr. Springers employee handbook and suggested he add additional language regarding procedures for determining age identification and consequences. She also stated that the Title Policy did not identify Mr. Johnson as the policy holder, and the Certificate of Insurance needed to include the General Liabilities and Damage to Property Coverage Limits.
Ms. Jeffers asked about the limited hours. Mr. Springer said that as business progresses hours will be expanded.
Mr. O'Rourke made the motion, second by Ms. Jeffers to recommend Louies Upton Corp provided that all the outstanding items (Owners Title Policy, General Liabilities and Property Damage limit, and revisions to the handbook) as requested by Attorney Gaziano. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Commissioner Eubank stated that he has ten (10) days to issue his response letter for Louies Uptown Corp. to Mr. Springer.

7. Amendments to the Liquor Ordinance were discussed to allow for a Tap Wall with the following considerations: Low proof spirits, reload via a card or bracelet, and must "deactivated" at the end of a visit.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Jeffers, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carried on a voice vote of those present. Meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

Kellie Symonds, Deputy Clerk



Agenda Item Executive Summary

Item Name Tap Wall Discussion Committee or Board Liquor Commission

BUDGET IMPACT

Amount:	N/A	Budgeted:	N/A
List what fund:	N/A		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At their last meeting on November 12, 2025, the Liquor Commission discussed the preliminary concept of a self-serve "tap wall" proposed by the owner of the upcoming Table Talk Supper Club and the progress of such installation. Village Administrator Joey Dienberg reported that he spoke with the owners who had a continuing uncertain timeline for opening due to governmental shutdown related delays in processing. The owner of the business was invited but did not attend the meeting. It was noted during this meeting that no liquor license application for Table Talk Supper Club has been submitted to date. Attorney Mary Gaziano noted she has been directed by President Eubank to draft a Tap Wall ordinance independent of the project's status and has already identified example ordinances for guidance.

ATTACHMENTS (PLEASE LIST)

None

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ For Discussion Only
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance
- ☐ Motion:

MOTION:

Staff: Joey Dienberg, Village Administrator Date: 12/10/2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING LIQUOR ORDINANCE NO. 97-11 TO ADD TAP WALL (SELF POUR) ALLOWANCE FOR CLASS A AND B LIQUOR LICENSE HOLDERS

WHEREAS, the Village’s liquor ordinance has four (4) different license classifications that deal with the service of alcohol for consumption on the premises, namely, Class A (for all alcoholic liquors), Class B (for beer and wine), Class C (for hotels and motels), and Class F for bowling alleys; and

WHEREAS, the Village currently has establishments that hold Class A and Class B liquor licenses, but none holding a Class C or Class F liquor license, as the Village does not have any hotels or motels or bowling alleys; and

WHEREAS, the concept of having tap walls (self-pour) at a business that serves alcoholic liquor is a fairly new concept, but one increasing in popularity, and could attract patrons to the Village of Winnebago, and offer additional income opportunity for Village entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, it is believed to be in the best interest of the citizenry of the Village of Winnebago to allow tap walls in establishments holding a Class A or Class B liquor license subject to certain terms and conditions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Winnebago, Illinois, as follows:

ARTICLE I

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE V TO ADD SECTION 2 TO ALLOW FOR TAP WALLS (SELF-POUR) FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF LIQUOR LICENSES

Section 2. Class A and Class B liquor license holders shall be allowed to install and operate a tap wall (self-pour) apparatus, without applying for an additional liquor license, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- A. All sales must comply with Illinois' minimum wage requirements for serving alcohol.
- B. Only customers twenty-one (21) years of age or older may operate a self-pour device.
- C. A licensee is required to actively and passively monitor customer operated dispenser pours and the consumption of customer operated dispenser poured alcohol, also commonly referred to as tap walls or self-pour.
- D. Customers must have their ID and age verified by a trained employee before receiving a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) card or bracelet to activate the taps. The RFID wristband identifies the user and tracks the amount poured.
- E. The RFID card shall be programmed to restrict the amount a customer may pour to 32 ounces for beer, 10 ounces for wine, and 3 ounces for low-proof spirits. A low-proof spirit is a spirit that has an alcohol by volume percentage (ABV) of less than thirty percent (30%). The Bassett trained employee may renew the card after the first session after assessing whether the customer shows signs of intoxication. The licensee must be able to inactivate the access card if necessary to prevent violations of this ordinance. The licensee must deactivate the access card at checkout or at the end of the business day.
- F. The customer issued a given RFID card or bracelet must be the sole user of that card or bracelet.
- G. All higher proof spirits must be served by a bartender.
- H. The licensee must provide constant video monitoring of the customer operated dispensing devices at all times during which the licensed establishment is open to the public. The licensee must keep recorded footage from the video monitoring for at least ninety (90) days and must provide the footage, upon request, to any authorized law enforcement agent.
- I. The permit holder must provide and maintain one (1) BASSET certified employee on the floor to serve as an attendant monitoring the customer operated dispensing devices for every thirty-five (35) customers operating the dispensing devices within an establishment.
- J. The attendant(s) must remain stationed within a reasonable distance and within the sightline of the customer operated dispensing devices and monitor the service of alcohol guarding against over and under age service, as well as any other applicable regulations.

- K. The licensee must not allow additional customers to enter the licensed premises unless it is able to appropriately staff attendants.
- L. The licensee and any on-premises manager will be joint and severally liable for any ordinance violations concerning this activity

ARTICLE II

AFFIRMATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 97-11

All other provisions of Ordinance No. 97-11, as amended, not in conflict with the instant ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE III

EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective on the date of its passage and approval, with publication to follow immediately thereafter in pamphlet form.

APPROVED:

Franklin J. Eubank, Jr., President of the Board of
Trustees of the Village of Winnebago, Illinois

ATTEST:

Sally Jo Huggins, Village Clerk

PASSED: _____

APPROVED: _____

PUBLISHED
(in pamphlet form): _____