

**WOODFORD COUNTY LIQUOR COMMISSION
COUNTY BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
4:30 PM
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

John Krug, Barry Logan, Dan Steffen all present.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of March 2, 2020 minutes

Motion to approve March 2, 2020 minutes made by Logan, seconded by Steffen. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

David Rife from Fairlakes Golf Course addressed the committee. He stated that their revenues are generated from outings. Due to Covid- they could not hold any outings, and their revenue is down. Last year was a hardship and their business was significantly impacted by Covid.

Dennis Tipsword from the American Legion in Spring Bay stated that their business revenues are off and they are still struggling. He asked that a word be changed in our Ordinance. They are holding a 4 day carnival in August, and a class F license is for 3 days. He asked to change the 3 days to 4 days.

Thomas Miller with Issac Walton stated that Covid has really hurt them. They rent the building out, and with everything being shut down, they have had no events. They are a non-profit organization, used to hold steak fries on Friday, but had to stop that. With Covid they have had no opportunities to bring in revenue.

It was asked about the cost of dramshop liability insurance. It varies from place to place. It is calculated on the percent of alcohol sales and total revenue the business makes.

Kurt Grohsmeyer from Old Mill Vineyard stated that he has done some research, and other cities and municipalities have waived fees, or lowered them. Any little bit helps. That sales and rentals for their facility are down. People come to enjoy the ambiance of the building and to socialize. This hasn't been happening with the shutdown.

5. New Business

a. Discussion/action on possible waiver of County liquor fees due to Covid.

The committee felt that it had three options – keep the fees as they are, not charge any fee at all, or reduce the fees. It was asked of Mr. Grohsmeyer what other municipalities have waived fees. He stated that the City of Peoria, Washington, Normal, Anna, McHenry County, Rock Island, Naperville, are just to name a few. He has found that there are 13 different entities within the state that waived fees. The county takes in roughly \$5,000 from the liquor license fees. Some entities have more than one type of license.

Discussion was held on other fees charged within the county to these entities – health

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department charges for food services, etc. These fees vary on the type of food service the entity provided. It was stated that if we don't charge for the liquor license, then other entities that pay county fees are going to come wanting those fees waived also. It was stated that the wind farms are coming which will generate revenue for the county we didn't anticipate, so waiving this fee would not hurt us. Business are doing whatever they need to in order to survive. The Chanticleer spoke to one committee member and stated that they were doing really good – even built a new kitchen, outdoor eating area, and then Covid hit. If the business doesn't turn around, it will be sold. Cutting fees in half would be a good option. All license come due in April. It was suggested that fees could be waived for 6 months – issue the license, and if the fee isn't paid by October, then pull the license. A few of the businesses have already paid. The checks have been held, and not cashed yet. Discussion on how to handle those that have already paid should fees be changed. It was discussed refunding the fee from last year and the legality of doing this. Discussion on changing date from April to October. If this was done, and a license was only issued for 6 months, businesses would have to pay the state an additional fee, as they would have to get another license from the state also. Changing due date recreates a problem with all the paperwork. Discussion on charging 50% of fee for this year. Most businesses are down 50% or more due to Covid. Motion to reduce liquor fees by 50% for 2021 made by Logan, seconded by Steffen. It was stated that if Covid doesn't get better, we may not have liquor license as the businesses will close.
Motion passed.

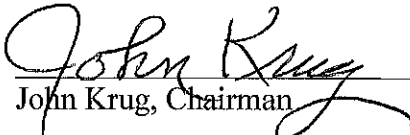
Discussion on the changing of Class F license from 3 days to 4. This committee cannot take action on this, but stated they do not have a problem with it, just need to find out the legality of doing this. For a 3 day license they pay \$50 to the County, but \$150 to the State. Every time the County requires a fee, they have to pay a fee to the State. The committee is wondering if this could be handled in a different manner. This issue will be discussed with the State's Attorney to see how to handle.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Steffen, seconded by Logan. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman


John Krug, Chairman