



Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery

Draft January Minutes

Record of the Meeting of the Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery held on January 8, 2025 via web.

Members Present: Martin Manahan, Chair, Megan Cicio, Corey Mathieu

Others Present: Wendy Knight, Commissioner; Wesley Lawrence; Jacob Humbert; Skyler Genest, Katie Fleury, Melissa Heath, David Hamlin, Joshua Sumner, Melanie Gaiotti, Raifer Allen, Kevin, Brandon, Mike, Sara, Tanner, Bojan, Aarin Sandridge, Jeffrey Cochran Jr.

Meeting Start: 9:00 am.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

None

Board Actions on Consent Agenda Items:

- Approve minutes from December 2024 Board Meeting – motion to consent agenda items, Megan, second Corey, unanimous
- Approve licenses issued December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 – Moved and approved.

Public Comment:

- None

Licensing:

- None

Enforcement:

- Action Item: Docket 2025-01, The Den LLC – Tax Compliance
 - Jeffrey Cochran Jr, owner of The Den LLC and Aarin Sandridge of VT Tax Department are sworn in.
 - [Exhibits 1 – 6 admitted](#)
 - Aarin Sandridge is called for testimony – Accounts of tax delinquency by Mr. Cochran Jr since April of 2024, payment options have been discussed but not always followed through with.
 - Jeffrey Cochran Jr presents testimony – Every effort has been made to communicate with the VT Tax Department and to find a resolution for payment. Currently perusing a business loan to cover the delinquent taxes due to the state. Mr. Cochran is asking the board to grant a 30-day grace period before license suspension to obtain the business loan and pay past due taxes.

Commissioner Comments:

- Liquor sales continue to be 1-2% down
- WCAX interviewed Commissioner Knight on 'Dry January'
- Many national factors driving alcohol sales down
- Department is looking to expand kiosk models to drive sales
- DLL does not promote alcohol consumption to increase sales.
- MegaMillions and Powerball jackpots increase lottery sales.
- Under BID process for 2 new kiosk locations in Addison and Johnson, new Randolph kiosk location that recently opened is doing well.
- Sports Wagering YTD revenue shares 2.8M
- DLL would like to Introduce Mike Ferrant, newly appointed Deputy Commissioner

Other Business:

- None

Executive Session:

- Chair Manahan calls for deliberative session for the board to discuss Enforcement Hearing, action item: Docket 2025-01, The Den LLC – Tax Compliance

Meeting Adjourned: 9:49

Next Meeting: February 12, 2025