

**ANGIER BOARD OF ALCOHOL CONTROL
MINUTES
October 19, 2023 6:30 pm
ANGIER BOARD ROOM**

A called meeting of the Town of Angier ABC Board was held on October 19, 2023 at the Angier Board Room.

Members Present and/or Participating:

Brian Hawley
Howard Babbitt, Member
Tim Thompson, Member
Joe Langley, Member
Dennis Gilby, Member

Others Present:

Maggie Sandroock , General Manager

Board Chair, Brian Hawley, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Brian Hawley, Board Chairman, opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. All in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. In an effort to avoid any possible conflicts, Board Chair, Brian Hawley read the following ethics reminder:

In accordance with GS 18B-201, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts.
Does any member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board today?
4. Board members reported no conflicts.
5. Board Chair, Brian Hawley, opened the floor for additions to the agenda. Motion made by Board Member Babbitt to recuse Board Chair Hawley from all discussions and votes on Bonuses for year end. Vote was unanimous. (3-0)
6. Motion made by Board Member Gilby to add Item 5 to Old Business Library Disbursement update from Board Attorney, Item 3 to New Business, Report from Attorney and item 4 to New Business Discussion of Merit Bonuses. Vote was unanimous (3-0)
7. Board Chair, Brian Hawley opened the floor for the consent agenda. Motion made by Board Member Langley to approve minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes 19 October 2023 with the addition of Member Joe Langley and Member Dennis Gilby as present. The vote was unanimous (3-0). Board Member Babbitt made a motion to approve Closed Session minutes of 19 October 2023 as written. The vote was unanimous. (4-0)
8. Chairman Hawley opened discussion of ABC Sign repair. GM Sandroock advised the board of the difficulty in getting the required 3 estimates for sign repair as companies are currently over booked. Chairman Hawley asked if there was a policy regarding required estimates and writing a policy that would allow work to awarded when multiple estimates are difficult to obtain.

9. Board Chairman Hawley opened discussion of the new Board Member Outside Affiliations & Disbursement Policy with the addition made as item (c) which links the new policy with General Statute. After a brief discussion consensus was reached to send this policy to the Board Attorney for review and once approved by the Board Attorney it would be sent to the NCABC.

10. Board Member Babbitt provided an update to the board on the Building Committee meeting. The board was advised the committee had reached out to NC House Representative Joe Pike to see if it would be feasible to build a new store within Angier town limits but in that part of town that resides in Wake County. Board Chair Hawley shared that he had a recent conversation with Rep. Pike who indicated he had received pushback from NCABC on this option. GM to investigate further.

11. Board Chairman opened discussion of Alcohol Education Disbursement options. GM shared several options including the Harnett County Education Foundation and a direct disbursement to the Harnett County School system Drivers Education program who are required to provide 6 hours of Alcohol Education as part of the Drivers Education curriculum. GM advised the board that Superintendent of Schools Aaron Fleming and Superintendent of curriculum Brookie Ferguson indicated monies given to the Drivers Education program would be most welcome. Board Member Babbitt suggested that the 3 Harnett County Boards along with State and local legislators meet to discuss disbursement options and efficiencies. After brief discussion the decision was made to move forward with scheduling a round table on 14 December 2023.

12. Chairman Hawley opened the discussion with Board Attorney representative Megan Mathews on status of disbursements to Angier Municipal Library. The Board Attorney has determined that the current policy is no longer valid. The Angier Municipal Library no longer exists as it was absorbed into the Harnett County Library System. Recommendation was for the statute to be revised to allow Angier ABC to distribute as requested by the Angier Town Commissioners.

13. Board Chairman Hawley opened discussion of Holiday Lottery Rules. After a brief discussion consensus was reached to post in the store and on website. After brief discussion consensus was reached to move forward with rules, after ensuring lottery complies with NCABC rules.

14. Board Chair opened floor for presentation of letter from Board Attorney Megan Mathews. Motion was made by Board Member Langley to enter the Board Attorneys letter into minutes. The vote was unanimous. (4-0)

Hi, Mr. Hawley.

After the phone call this afternoon, I wanted to pass along the press release.

At a recent meeting, the Angier ABC Board instructed the Board Attorney to contact the State ABC Board to authorize an investigation into the following:

- 1. Any claim of nepotism that may be detrimental to the organization;**
- 2. Any allegations that the Board improperly fired a former General Manager and coerced the hiring of another General Manager;**
- 3. Alleged misconduct of any Board member within the last 6 months, including former Board Members;**

4. Improper selection or influence of the Board to the Angier Town Council in selecting Board Members;
5. Any Board member conflict of interest;
6. Any substantial allegation made against the Board in the recent published articles from the local press.

Upon receipt of the request, the State ABC Board referred the matter to the State Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency (ALE).

Upon review by the ALE, it was determined that no action would be taken and considered the matters closed.

Chip and I agree it can be handled one of two ways:

1. Put the statement above in the upcoming meeting minutes as "Report from Board Attorney" and then provide the minutes to the press rather than releasing a formal statement; or
2. Release the above statement formally to press.

Thanks,

Megan E. Mathews
Attorney
Hewett Law Group, P.A.


15. Board Member Thompson moved under NC 143-318 11.A6 to move to closed session to discuss personnel at 7:09 pm. The vote was unanimous. (4-0)

16. Board returns to open session at 7:20.

17 General Manager Sandrock provided board update on current projects and store events.

18. Motion to Adjourn made by Board Member Thompson at 7:29 pm.

The board voted unanimously to adjourn. (4-0)



Brian Hawley, Chairman ABC Board



Maggie Sandrock, General Manager