

**Special Village Board Meeting  
May 5, 2020**

Board Present: Trustee Weatherston, Trustee Stillman, Trustee Wanggaard, Trustee Martin, Trustee Prott, and President Dobbs.

Absent Trustee Wishau was excused.

Staff/Others: Village Administrator Tom Christensen, Utility Districts Director Anthony Bunkelman, Development Director Peter Wagner and Attorney Elaine Ekes.

**1. Call the meeting to order**

President Dobbs called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., via Zoom meeting.

**2. Discussion and possible action on request from the Depot to waive and reduce various licensing renewal fees for 2020-2021**

Christensen explained that this has been a frequent topic for the League of Municipalities and that there have been many communities across the state that have reduced these renewal fees. He spoke of the possibility of prorating the license renewal fee to reflect the time the taverns have been closed as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The Board debated on whether it was fair to help one sector and not all. The Village does not require business licenses. Class A Licenses would not be eligible for relief because they have been able to remain open during this time. There was some discussion regarding if the taverns would be received federal subsidies. Operator License fees would not be eligible for a reduced fee because background checks are necessary, and a wallet size license is provided. Both have an expense that the fee helps to cover. There was further discussion regarding applying a prorated fee across all the Class B Licenses for three months.

Sue Gracyalny of The Depot Tavern, 11402 County Road G, was present and requested to speak. She thanked the Board and the Clerk for responding to her so quickly and holding this meeting to address the concerns mentioned in the letter. She stated that she was approached by the President of the Tavern League from the City of Racine and Racine County (John Dunk and Dean Larson), and was asked if she would be willing to submit a letter and it was her impression that they would be requesting this of all local bars/restaurants in the area. She was surprised that she was the only one that had submitted a letter. She understood being fair, and thought the points brought up were valid. She stated that with the current Badger Bounce Back Plan, bars that do not serve food will only be able to reopen under “Phase II”, right now we are not even in “Phase I” and are still in the Safer at Home order. She suggested a payment plan, or a deferred payment would be helpful because most of these places will likely not be open by June. She also said she has not received any federal relief funding yet and does not know of anyone who has.

There was further discussion regarding the possibility of deferring payments, and how the fee structure could be paid in installments. There is a risk of chasing after the licensee if payments are missed after the license has already been issued. A straight reduction in the rate would be the cleanest way to approach this issue.

Motion by Trustee Weatherston to reduce the annual fee of a Class B Beer License from \$100 to \$50 and Class B Liquor License from \$500 to \$400 for a total fee of \$450 for the licensing year 2020-2021 and payable through normal procedures to the Clerk, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to sign a Resolution that puts this fee change for this license year into effect. Seconded by Trustee Martin.

Trustee Prott commented that if the Board moves forward with this, they should be prepared for other businesses to seek financial assistance and will need to be accommodating. President Dobbs stated that the Village does not charge a fee for other businesses.

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trustee Weatherston – aye | Trustee Martin – aye  |
| Trustee Stillman – aye    | Trustee Prott – nay   |
| Trustee Wanggaard – aye   | President Dobbs – aye |

Motion carried, 5/1.

### **3. Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Wanggaard to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Stillman. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karie Pope  
Village Clerk