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Belville ABC Board

Joseph "Joe" Henson, Chairman
Tilita "Lee" Alexander, Vice Chairwoman
John Crowder
Richard Trexler
Robert "Gene" Ward

Belville ABC Board Regular Meeting
Brunswick Community College, Room 209
Leland Campus
2045 Enterprise Drive
Leland, NC 28451
July 15, 2025
6:30 PM

Attendees:

Chairman- Joseph Henson
Vice Chairwoman -Tilita Alexander
Member – Richard Trexler
Member - John Crowder
Member - Gene Ward
Attorney - Jim Eldridge

Staff: Tia Clemmons – General Manager
Naysha Reid

Staff Absent:

Alexa Causey, Store Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. and began by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Gene Ward made a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved 5-0. There were no conflict of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Member Richard Trexler made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting. The minutes were approved 5-0.

Member Richard Trexler made a motion to approve the June 17, 2025, Closed Session meeting minutes. The minutes were approved 5-0.

4. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Member Richard Trexler made the motion to go into closed session at 6:39 pm in reference to Real Property on Blackwell Road, Belville, NC. Real Property N.C.G.S.143-318-11(a)(5). The motion to come back into regular session at 7:24 pm was made by Member Richard Trexler at which time Attorney Eldridge stated that during the Closed Session the Board had discussed property matters. No votes and no actions were taken.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Report on best-selling items per store-status of extra purchases

General Manager Tia Clemmons informed the ABC Board that the top 5 best-selling liquors for the month of June were:

•	Tito's Half Gallon	517
•	Platinum Half Gallon	340
•	Buffalo Trace	286
•	Smirnoff's Half Gallon	273
•	Pinnacle Half Gallon	228
•	Tito's Fiftths	162

Ms. Clemmons stated that if you take Buffalo Trace out of the mix Tito's Fifth's would be in fifth place. Chairman Joe Henson stated that they can do tastings at the conference. He stated that Maker's Mark sells barrels for special blends. Shallotte has a special blend, and we could try it . Attorney Eldridge suggested that they do a regular barrel. Chairman Henson asked if they should go back to what is on the shelf. Chairman Henson asked the Board if they would agree for him and General Manager Tia Clemmons to make the decision. The staff is looking at buying a pallet of Fireball 50 mls for a profit of \$1,400.00 and a pallet of 750 Fireball for a profit of \$2,172.75. Tito's Fifth's will be on sale in August for \$20.95 a bottle, a savings of \$3.00 a bottle. Member John Crowder asked if alcohol goes bad. General Manager Clemmons stated that Bailey's might have an expiration date.

b. Alcohol tastings – past and future

General Manager Tia Clemmons reported that Buffalo City had an alcohol tasting on June 20th and did well. They sold 12 bottles of their product. End of Days Distillery, NC will have a tasting on Friday July 18th at Waterford and on Thursday, July 17th at Belville.

c. Status of current staffing

General Manager Tia Clemmons stated that there is 1 person in queue for a position and that 2 applicants did not pass their drug test. General Manager stated that one was for alcohol and the other was cocaine use. One person came by with an application and will be interviewed next week. The Belville Store has 6 employees, and the Waterford Store is waiting on a decision from Naysha Reid. Chairman Henson stated that he would like to have Ms. Reid full-time or as a store manager. Ms. Clemmons stated that there are signs posted on the door for hiring.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. General Manager's Report

General Manager Tia Clemmons reported that the Belville and Waterford stores were in 4th place in sales out of the 9 ABC stores located in Brunswick County for June. Brunswick County was in 1st place; Southport was in 2nd place and Oak Island was in 3rd place.

The combined monthly sales were down 4.63 %. For the first 8 days of July, they were down 17%. In June, Money Market Account 1 earned \$869.84 in interest, and Money Market Account 2 earned \$868.69 in interest. The Capital Management Fund earned \$2,727.00 in interest. The ABC Stores received \$11,047.50 in discounts. Vice-Chairwoman asked if everything with the system was fixed. Ms. Clemmons stated that Gaskins had not updated the system yet. Chairman Henson asked if both ABC Stores were having computer problems. The General Manager advised him that it took a long time for credit cards to process. Chairman Henson stated that Gaskins needed to fix and if they did not soon to call him and he will call them.

b. New Accountant

Attorney Eldridge stated that there was a proposal. It is from S. Preston Douglass and Associates. One proposal is with payroll included and the other is without payroll. Attorney Eldridge suggested that some minor changes need be made. The cost with payroll is \$1,708.33 a month and without payroll the cost is \$ 1,583.00 a month.

Member Richard Trexler recommended the Board go with Douglass. Chairman Henson stated that Douglass would have a savings of \$25,000 a year.

Vice-Chairwoman Alexander stated that the budget for the Auditor this year is \$36,000.00. Member Trexler stated that we would save \$10,000.00. There was some discussion about the accountant before the motion was made to terminate Money Mastery. The vote was 4 - 1 with Vice-Chairwoman Lee Alexander casting the opposing vote. Member Richard Trexler made a motion for S. Preston Douglass to provide payroll. The Vote was 4 -1 with Vice Chairwoman Lee Alexander casting the opposing vote. Attorney Eldridge asked who would notify Money Mastery Chairman Henson or Member Richard Trexler. The Board will send a written notice within 30 days.

c. New Auditor

Member Richard Trexler stated that Wade Green of Whiteville does the audit for 4 or more ABC Stores . They are Whiteville, Sunset Beach, Oak Island and the Town of Brunswick. His proposal is \$6,500.00. Attorney Eldridge suggested that the board table until the next meeting. Chairman Henson called the Shallotte ABC Store Manager to ask questions about the auditor. Member Richard Trexler made the motion to retain Wade Green out of Whiteville pending the review. The vote was 4-1, with Vice Chairwoman Lee Alexander casting the opposing vote.

9. Board Member and Staff Reports

- A. Gene Ward - had nothing to report.
- B. Richard Trexler – had nothing to report.
- C. John Crowder – had nothing to report
- D. Vice-Chairman Lee Alexander – had nothing to report
- E. Attorney Eldridge – had nothing to report.
- F. Chairman Henson – had nothing to report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Richard Trexler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm.