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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 204
Leland Campus
2045 Enterprise Drive
Leland, NC 28451
August 19, 2025
6:30 PM

Attendees:

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

Staff: Tia Clemmons – General Manager
Alexa Causey – Store Manager
Naysha Reid- Store Manager

Staff Absent:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. and began by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Attorney Eldridge requested to amend the agenda under New Business to add 8e Real Estate with Attorney. Member Richard Trexler made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The agenda was approved 5-0. There was no conflict of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Member Richard Trexler made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025, regular meeting. The minutes were approved 5-0.

Member Richard Trexler made a motion to approve July 15, 2025, Closed Session meeting minutes. The minutes were approved 5-0.

4. PRESENTATIONS

New accountants Matt McClean and Zack Brown of Douglass and Associates gave an overview of their company, and how they responded to the request for a proposal from the ABC Board. Mr. McClean stated that they have a sizable staff to manage the 44 audits they do. They also have 12 ABC Boards in North Carolina, and they understand how the state wants ABC audit information to be reported, and they have never lost an ABC audit. The company gets things done in a timely manner. Mr. Brown informed the Board that they experience pride in communication. He stated that General Manager Tia Clemmons will be their primary contact. Vice Chairwoman Lee Alexander asked if the company can get the job done on the fee quoted or would there be any additional fees? The job will be done in the fee quoted. Chairman Henson asked about paperwork for next year's liquor due to audit needing to be sent to state in September. Douglass and Associates will begin payroll in the second half of September. The contracts are signed. Attorney Eldridge and Chairman Henson believe that this is a good fit and Chairman Henson was glad that Douglass and Associates are on board.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. CLOSED SESSION

Member Richard Trexler made the motion to go into a closed session at 6:55 pm in reference to Attorney Consultation N.C.G.S. 143-318-11(a)(3) and Real Property N.C.G.S.143-318-11(a)(5). The motion to come back into regular session at 7:28 pm was made by Member Richard Trexler at which time Attorney Eldridge stated that during the Closed Session the Board had discussed various legal issues. No votes and no actions were taken.

7. OLD BUSINESS

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

Manager Alexa Causey informed the ABC Board that the top 5 best-selling liquors for the month of July were:

•	Tito's Half Gallon	583
•	Platinum Half Gallon	416
•	Smirnoff's Half Gallon	352
•	Tito's Fifths	352
•	Pinnacle Half Gallon	238
•	Taaka Half Gallon	151

Ms. Causey stated that Tito's fifths are on sale. There are no sales in September. In October Tito's Liters are back on sale with savings of \$2.00.

b. Alcohol tastings – past and future

General Manager Tia Clemmons reported that a tasting was done by End of Days Distillery from Wilmington, North Carolina at the Waterford Store on July 11, 2025, and the Belville Store on July 17, 2025. A tasting with Johnson Distillery was scheduled for July 21st and 22nd but was cancelled.

c. Status of current staffing

Store Manager Alexa Causey informed the board the Belville Store has 7 employees. One full-time and 6 part-time employees. Two employees switched stores, and both decided to quit. Store Manager Naysha Reid reported that the Waterford Store has 2 full-time and 5 part-time employees, with 1 part-time employee quitting. There was some discussion about the employee. Chairman Henson stated that there should be 2 employees in the stores at any given time, but holidays are different. General Manager Clemmons stated that 3 people are needed on truck nights. Member John Crowder stated that one employee needs to always be on the register, one stocking and one service.

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 July. The combined monthly sales were 1.97 %. For the first 12 days of August, they were down 5.47%. In July, Money Market Account 1 earned \$901.77 in interest, and Money Market Account 2 earned \$900.57 in interest. The Capital Management Fund earned \$2,841.35 in interest. The ABC Stores received \$5,038.61 in discounts.

b. July 4, 2026, opening.

A discussion on whether to open 1 ABC store on July 4, 2026. Chairman Henson stated that some stores are open, and some stores are closed but thinks it would be a good opportunity for us. Member Gene Ward asked if this had been done before. Member Richard Trexler stated that it has been allowable since last year. Member John Crowder stated that July 4, 2026, was on a Saturday. Chairwoman Alexander stated that 4 stores were open and had a good

showing. Member Richard Trexler stated that we would have to amend the language in the Personnel Policy Manual and make it a workday. Chairwoman Alexander stated that we need to check to see if you work on a holiday, do employees get time and a half pay. Member John Crowder stated that North Carolina is a right to work state, and double time was good with him. There was additional discussion on this issue, and it was decided to be addressed later.

c. Does a demotion/promotion mean their probationary period starts over

Attorney Eldridge stated in reading the item on probation, it is not recommended. If there is a demotion, the employee does not start over, and it is not required. You need to discuss with the employee what is expected of them. General Manager Clemmons wanted to make sure that she does not need to start a paper trial.

d. Recap of July 2025 NC ABC Conference

Member Richard Trexler commented on the new laws, and the distribution of money needs to be reported in 5 days. Chairwoman Alexander would like to ask the accountant in reference to the reporting of money. She also stated that she won corn hole boards and the conference was good and there were good presentations. Chairman Henson wants to buy barrels. He met with Maker's Mark Distillery, and he tasted different counties blends. He stated that he has started the barrel purchase process and it will arrive in December or January. The barrel cost is \$9,500.00. He stated that he found a good moonshine. General Manager Clemmons stated that the moonshine arrived yesterday and it is cherry chocolate. Chairwoman Alexander went to the new Greensboro ABC Store. They have the top 100 items in their back room, and they have a large warehouse, and a walk-in cooler. She stated the top 100 items in their back room, and they have a large warehouse, and a walk-in cooler. She stated that the that the number 1 seller in North Carolina this year is Tequilla.

e. Real Estate Attorney

The ABC Board has decided to hire Ned Barnes as the Real Estate Attorney.

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 8:36 pm.