

**TOWNSHIP OF DERRY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, December 16, 2014**

600 Clearwater Road, Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

CALL TO ORDER

The December 16, 2014 Public Hearing of the Township of Derry Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by John W. Foley, Chairman.

ROLL CALL

Supervisors Present:

Sandy A. Ballard
Justin C. Engle, Secretary
John W. Foley, Chairman
Marc A. Moyer, Vice-Chairman
Matthew A. Weir

Also Present:

Charles Emerick, Director of Community Development
Jill E. Henry, Assistant Township Manager
James N. Negley, Township Manager/Township Treasurer
Jon Yost, Solicitor
Brenda Van Deursen, Recorder

Public Present: Michael Solomon, Greg St. Clair, Joseph Mari, Rich Gamble, Anne Newman

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing regarding a request from GBG Ventures, LLC for an Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License into Derry Township, Dauphin County.

Michael Solomon, Harrisburg Office of Cohen Seglias, representing GBG Ventures, LLC – Attorney Solomon introduced Joseph Mari and Greg St. Clair, the applicants requesting liquor license transfer. Mr. Mari is a Derry Township resident and Mr. St. Clair is a Dauphin County business person. If the property at 312 Mill Street is developed, it would be a top shelf facility just like Mr. Mari's restaurant in Lower Paxton Township.

The applicants purchased the property in June of this year. They tried to get the license associated with the property, but due to the former licensee having some issues with the Liquor Control Board it made the license unavailable for purchase. We did check around Derry Township for other available licenses and after going on the Liquor Control Board's website, we were able to find a Dauphin County license – Elizabethville Borough, License R19013. The applicants made contact with the owner of that establishment and worked

out an arrangement where the owner would sell. An agreement was entered into with the owner indicating her establishment is proposing to close in January 2015. The steps necessary for an intermunicipal transfer is to come before the Board of Supervisors to get permission before they can file with the Liquor Control Board. Two of Mr. Mari's businesses have liquor licenses and he has been a very reputable owner and operator of those licenses.

The expectation for the property is to have a licensed establishment. The applicants will work together with Fairfield Inn and try to make it a family oriented theme restaurant. Attorney Solomon has been in touch with some nationally recognized chains and is still aggressively looking for a business. They presently do not have anyone under contract to move into the property. The acquisition of a liquor license, even if it has to go into safekeeping, will make it that much more easy for the ownership to find an operator.

If they get an operator, they would expect no less than 10 full-time jobs and some seasonal and part-time jobs and they would be investing into the property upwards of probably around a half of a million to a million dollars which might include some demolition and reconstruction.

Discussion:

Chairman Foley asked if the expectation is to destroy the current structure and rebuild. Attorney Solomon replied that there is going to be some significant interior and exterior improvements. Chairman Foley asked if the applicants own what used to be the motel area behind it. The applicant answered that they do. Chairman Foley asked if it is going to stand and it is not. Chairman Foley asked if they had a theme for the restaurant at this point. Attorney Solomon said they have looked at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse in Frederick, Maryland, and Miller's Ale House in Philadelphia.

Supervisor Engle shared that he has known Joe Mari for several years and is known to be a good guy and he was happy to hear that he purchased the property. Mr. Mari has three restaurants and has lived in Derry Township for a year. Supervisor Engle said he has talked to the hotel owner over the years and they are anxious to have a restaurant locally that their guests could go to.

Public Comment:

Rich Gamble, Hockersville Road – Mr. Gamble said his understanding is the property closed up because it was a nuisance to the community. Why all of a sudden is it not a nuisance?

Motion: A motion made by Supervisor Ballard and seconded by Vice-Chairman Moyer that Resolution No. 1420 requesting the transfer of Restaurant Liquor License Number R-19013, is hereby approved. *The motion carried, 5-0.*

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Moyer moved to adjourn the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. Supervisor Engle seconded. ***The motion carried, 5-yes 0-no.***

SUBMITTED BY:

Justin C. Engle
Township Secretary

Brenda Van Deursen
Recording Secretary