

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
33 S. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD - COMMUNITY ROOM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014 – 7:30 PM**

Mayor Tom Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Hayes; Trustees Blackwood, Farwell, Glasgow, LaBedz, Rosenberg, Sidor, Scaletta, Tinaglia

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus, Assistant Village Manager Diana Mikula; Assistant Village Attorney Robin Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Ilias Haritos and Attorney Stephan Daday for Bottles & Barrels, Inc.; Chuck Hamburg, Representative of Creative Hospitality Associates, LLC (CHA)

1. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDING TO THE LIQUOR COMMISSIONER THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS "AA" LIQUOR LICENSE TO BOTTLES & BARRELS, INC., DBA RUSTIC J'S, LOCATED AT 1609 W. CAMPBELL.

Mayor Hayes swore in Ilias Haritos. Mayor Hayes asked Attorney Stephan Daday to introduce himself to the Board. Mr. Daday informed the Board that his client was seeking a Class AA liquor license for his establishment located at 1609 W. Campbell. The Board was also informed that CHA Consulting was in the audience. Their firm completed Mr. Haritos' business plan and they will be working closely with Mr. Haritos the first several months after he opens. Mr. Haritos' plans for Rustic J's to be a family restaurant much like a former restaurant that was at this address for several years. The restaurant will hold 108 seats, no live entertainment, no pool tables, and all dining tables will be low profile tables.

Ms. Mikula reported to the Board that Mr. Haritos had submitted a new application, new forms, and new floor plan, along with a business plan. Bottles & Barrels, Inc. is 100% owned by Mr. Haritos. In August 2014, a background report was issued on Mr. Haritos by the Arlington Heights Police Department. At that time, no convictions were disclosed and no criminal derogatory information was found. In addition, no lawsuits, judgments, or liens were outstanding. The applicant submitted a letter dated November 13, 2014 that he has not been involved in any arrests or convictions since the original background was completed. The Arlington Heights Police Department

confirmed no derogatory information was identified in the public record occurring between July and November 2014.

Ms. Mikula stated that a floor plan walk-thru would be conducted if Mr. Haritos' request for a liquor license were approved tonight, before the liquor license would be issued. Mayor Hayes asked Mr. Haritos to confirm his hours of operation and to assure the Board that food would be available at all times. Mr. Haritos did confirm his hours and stated that a full menu – not a modified menu – would be available at all times liquor is being sold.

Mayor Hayes asked Mr. Haritos what type of uniforms his staff would be wearing at the restaurant. Mr. Haritos responded polo shirts.

Mayor Hayes asked Mr. Haritos to explain his business plan to the Board. Mr. Haritos stated that he wanted to provide a place where families or couples could have a nice meal and a drink. He's not out to make money off liquor, he wants to make his money off good food. A chef will be hired as well as cooks. Ten to 18 employees will be hired and all will be Basset trained.

Mayor Hayes swore in Chuck Hamburg of CHA. Mr. Hamburg explained that his firm works with Lettuce Us Entertainment restaurants, Gibson's Steakhouse, as well as other big-name establishments. They believe in presenting an outstanding food experience to their diners as well as offering a family friendly atmosphere. They wrote the curriculum for Basset training for the IL Liquor Commission. Mr. Hamburg feels that Arlington Heights presently has restaurants serving only mediocre food. Because of this, Rustic J's will become an asset to the community.

Trustee Sidor asked Mr. Hamburg what would make Rustic J's different from any of the restaurants currently in Arlington Heights. Mr. Hamburg responded that Rustic J's would have a certain type of hamburger, craft cocktails, etc. It will be like a family restaurant you would see in Chicago and would now have in the suburbs. They don't build average restaurants.

Trustee Glasgow asked Mr. Hamburg to explain some items that were submitted in the business plan such as the mention of Frenchman's Cove being within a one-mile radius of the restaurant when in fact it is at the northern most tip of Arlington Heights. He further stated that he believes residents there would probably go to Buffalo Grove to eat a meal versus traveling to Rustic J's. Mr. Hamburg feels the food experience will draw those people to this restaurant.

Trustee Glasgow asked Mr. Haritos why he omitted his employment from a gentlemen's club in Rockford on his new application. Mr. Haritos explained it was a part-time position and he did not hold a management position.

Trustee Tinaglia stated to Mr. Haritos that this new plan is more in line with what Mr. Haritos tried to explain to the Board when he met with them in August. The plan that he submitted at the prior meeting featured high-top tables, pool tables, etc., which did not make the restaurant appear family-friendly. Trustee Tinaglia feels this is a much better plan.

Trustee Tinaglia asked Mr. Hamburg if he had a financial interest in the restaurant because he spoke a lot about his restaurants. Mr. Hamburg said no but he did have a gentleman's agreement with Mr. Haritos that he would stay on as a consultant for 90 days.

Trustee Blackwood asked Mr. Hamburg to explain what he meant by the term "American Fare". Mr. Hamburg explained that the menu would offer what's popular with the American palate right now. The menu would offer American Fusion fare – things that Americans find pleasing. Green Tea ice cream, lamb and bacon burgers are just a few of the items that are popular with Americans right now.

Trustee Farwell asked what type of dress code staff would be wearing since the plan submitted focused only on Polo shirts. Mr. Daday responded that either jeans or khaki pants would be worn by all staff members.

Trustee LaBedz questioned Mr. Daday about the number of seats. Mr. Daday responded that the seating chart indicates 108 seats, which includes two benches located by the bar.

Trustee Scaletta asked Mr. Haritos how he was financing his business. Mr. Haritos stated he was using his savings.

TRUSTEE FARWELL MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SCALETTA TO RECOMMEND THAT THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMEND TO THE LIQUOR COMMISSIONER THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS "AA" LIQUOR LICENSE TO BOTTLES & BARRELS, DBA RUSTIC J'S, LOCATED AT 1609 W. CAMPBELL.

VOTE: 8 AYES 1 NAY - GLASGOW

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

TRUSTEE FARWELL MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE LABEDZ TO ADJOURN.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Recorded By: Diane Staggs, Admin. Asst. II