

The Swatara Township Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing for an Inter Municipal Liquor License Transfer for Triple B Restaurants & Bar Inc., 4401 Derry Street on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7:06 p.m., at the Swatara Township Administration Building, 599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Members of the Board present: Commissioners Richard Boudier, Shaela Ellis, Michael Tuckey, Jeff Varner and Christine Zubeck. Also present: Manager Jim Fosselman, Assistant Manager Kim Kaufman, Solicitor Brandon O'Connor, and Secretary Karen Alleman.

Solicitor O'Connor: Now is the time and place for the public hearing for inter municipal liquor license transfer for Triple B Restaurants & Bar, Inc., 4401 Derry Street. If the applicant and any of its representatives are present, they can approach the lectern. If you could just start by telling us your name, and just go ahead and go into your application.

Applicant Binod Rai: Hi, my name is Binod Rai. I am here for Triple B Restaurant & Bar to get the liquor license transferred over. Do I have to do something here?

Solicitor O'Connor: I'm happy to walk you through it. So, tell us a little bit about what your proposed restaurant will be, what kind of restaurant is it, what kind of cuisine, how big is it, where is it? Give us a little bit of rundown.

Mr. Rai: Yes, so its, so what I was thinking about is opening up an American style restaurant. It's fairly small space, it used to be a Pizza Hut. So, I don't have a lot like big room in there but we trying to make best use of it and basically we're, I'm just thinking of good use of space where there aren't many restaurants for the community. I hope by using this space I will be able to make a good use out of it.

Solicitor O'Connor: So, you said it's not a big space, you've provided us a floor plan. Could you just elaborate about how many seats it has?

Mr. Rai: Yes, seventy seats, that's how much we could fit. That's the best we could do.

Solicitor O'Connor: Sure, and what kind of liquor license is it?

Mr. Rai: It's generally all, what I was thinking about we could sell beer and liquor, but we're not generally focused on drinks, we are mainly more focused on food rather than just liquor, alcohol.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, and what kind of restaurant experience do you have?

Mr. Rai: This would be my first business that I'm going to start but I have lots of friends who already have established business with the liquor. Some of them I know have bars, some of them have almost similar to what I'm thinking about. They have established bar and restaurant so if I have questions, they are willing to help me if I need any support like how to operate a business.

Solicitor O'Connor: So, you've got good consultants?

Mr. Rai: Yes

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, have you personally ever worked in a restaurant?

Mr. Rai: No.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay.

Mr. Rai: But right now, I am doing customer service. I hope that means something, customers that I might see at the restaurant. Other than that, this would be my first business as the owner.

Solicitor O'Connor: So, with that in mind, I think it will answer some of my other questions but I'm gonna ask them anyway just for purposes of making it clear. So, have you ever personally owned or managed a liquor license before?

Mr. Rai: No sir.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, then that would mean that you have not had any prior Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board citations issued against you?

Mr. Rai: No sir.

Solicitor O'Connor: And that would also mean that you haven't had a liquor license revoked from you.

Mr. Rai: No sir.

Solicitor O'Connor: Is there anybody that you intend to employ at a management level or hire other than yourself?

Mr. Rai: Not right now, I'm thinking about being the head of it. I might get a manager in the future, but right now I'm thinking about representing myself as a owner and manager. I think since its not a whole lot of big space I can handle it. If there is any case that I can't handle, I will get a manager who could assist me.

Solicitor O'Connor: So do you understand the things that can get you in trouble in terms of having a liquor license and serving alcohol in your restaurant?

Mr. Rai: I will do my best not to get in any trouble.

Solicitor O'Connor: No serving to minors, no over serving?

Mr. Rai: No sir, I will have my employees get RAMP certified before they serve. Before we even start business, I guess.

Solicitor O'Connor: I know we are in the early stages of you starting this business, but have you become RAMP certified at this point?

Mr. Rai: No sir, but I will certainly get one.

Solicitor O'Connor: So, in terms of questions of setting a basis, I don't have any other questions, I'm gonna take the time to open it up to the Commissioners. I'll start with Commissioner Zubeck.

Commissioner Zubeck: I guess RAMP certification is inclusive of the liquor laws that govern the Commonwealth, is that correct?

Solicitor O'Connor: So as a former RAMP certified person myself, it is the basic training course about appropriate serving of alcohol, the basic regulations, checking ID's, not overserving and things like that. So that's what a RAMP certification is.

Commissioner Zubeck: So, do you plan on obtaining your RAMP certification prior to obtaining the liquor license?

Mr. Rai: Yes.

Commissioner Zubeck: Have you already started some of the process of going through the LCB to obtain your liquor license?

Mr. Rai: Not yet. So right now we are demolishing the building, we have not even started reconstructing it. I submitted application for the reconstruction of the building about a month ago. Once they start rebuilding the building mostly on my part we don't have to do anything outside. Its just mostly interior that I will need to fix. So once we start to fix the interior I will start to get my certifications. I will start working towards getting my certifications.

Commissioner Zubeck: Just to clarify, you had said that you didn't, you had never personally worked in a restaurant. Does that mean you have no background in serving of any kind, or is that...do you have any type of background in the food service business or any related background?

Mr. Rai: No ma'am. I...no, I have not done any of those kind of things.

Commissioner Zubeck: Okay, alright, well thank you very much, that's all the questions I have for him.

Mr. Raj: Thank you.

Solicitor O'Connor: Any other commissioners?

Commissioner Tuckey: What is the square footage of the facility that you are planning on operating?

Mr. Raj: I'm bad a numbers, I believe it is....nineteen? I have to look that up, I'm sorry.

Solicitor O'Connor: Any other questions Commissioner Tuckey?

Commissioner Tuckey: Do you know what's allowed to be, what age to be able to be served?

Mr. Raj: Yes sir, twenty-one.

Commissioner Tuckey: And you are working with other people to open this business up, or are you doing this all on your own?

Mr. Raj: Mostly on my own. I was thinking of starting business for a while but it hasn't been successful but since I saw the Pizza Hut, it was out for a while so I thought it was a good location to start business. Also, it would help other people who, you know, can't commute long distance in the community. I certainly, it wasn't all me, I had people who helped me process all this way. I don't want to take everything on my own but I certainly had people who walked me to this point.

Commissioner Tuckey: So, day to day operations, you would be the main guy?

Mr. Raj: Yessir.

Commissioner Tuckey: Okay, okay, that's it for now for me.

Commissioner Zubeck: Are there any other questions?

Commissioner Ellis: I don't have a question, but I just want to state that this is the Pizza Hut that's on Derry Street. I don't know if everyone is familiar with it so just, we are talking about the square footage. I think most people in the room are familiar with the size of the building, so I just wanted to make sure that is part of the record.

Mr. Raj: Okay, thank you.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, do you have anything else you would like to add before we open it up to public comment?

Mr. Rai: No sir, I am just too nervous right now. I never had to do this kind of thing.

Solicitor O'Connor: Okay, well if you don't try you never will. I will have you take a seat for a moment, there may be follow up questions depending on if the floor has any questions. So, if you don't mind stepping down for a moment, we will open it, open the floor to public comment. If you have a comment, you can raise your hand, you can come up to the lectern. Going once...okay, seeing none, I will hand it back over to Commissioner Zubeck.

The public hearing concluded at 7:19 p.m.

Karen Alleman, Recording Secretary