



**State of Arkansas
Department of Finance
And Administration**

DFA - ARKANSAS TOBACCO CONTROL

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2020**

The Arkansas Tobacco Control Board met on Thursday, December 3, 2020 for its monthly meeting in the Main Street Mall Building, located at 101 E. Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Suite 119. There were 6 Board members present via Zoom. Those attending were Chairman Kevin Case, Mr. Sam Stathakis, Jr., Mrs. Carol Dyer, Dr. Patricia Knott, Mr. Gary Proffitt and Dr. Shabbir Dharamsey. Dr. Brad Mayfield was not able to attend today's meeting and we have 1 open position.

Chairman Kevin Case opened the meeting with greetings to staff, board members and attendees in the audience in the board room. The Hearing Officer and Court Reporter were not present for today's meeting.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Case asked for a motion to approve the board meeting minutes from October 1st, 2020. We did not have a meeting in November. A motion was made to approve the October minutes and it was passed with 6 yes votes, 1 absent and 1 open position.

WHOLESALE APPLICATIONS

Director Greg Sled presented 4 new Wholesale applications to the board for approval.

Lakshmi Distributors, LLC – Huntsville, AL
NK Wholesale Inc. – Memphis, TN
Cigar Werks, Inc. – St. Charles, IL
VR Products, LLC – Garden City, NY

A motion was made and seconded to approve all 4 applications. The Wholesale permits were approved with 6 yes votes, 1 absent and 1 open position.

NEW PERMITS ISSUED

Director Greg Sled asked the Board members to review the list of 87 new permits issued from September 28, 2020 through November 29, 2020. The new permits issued were approved by the board 6 yes votes, 1 absent and 1 open position.

ACCEPTED OFFERS OF SETTLEMENT

Director Sled then asked the board members to review the list of Accepted Offers of Settlement dated November 5 and December 3, 2020 which were approved by the board with 6 yes votes, 1 absent and 1 open position.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Director Greg Sled reported to the board that we have 4 hearings to be scheduled and we plan to have at least 1 for next months meeting via Zoom. The others will follow as soon as possible.

Our agents are all still working on Covid 19 inspections mainly. We completed 13 tobacco inspections with 5 violations, 4 of which were verbal warnings.

Our agents have been training to identify fake ID's which beginning in January will be starting a new program called Cops in Shops where they will be working inside the businesses and behind the counters.

Mr. Sam Stathakis ask about our reorganization and if Arkansas Tobacco Control should be under the Department of Public Safety since it is a law enforcement agency. There was discussion regarding this issue.

Mr. Gary Proffitt and Chairman Kevin Case had various questions about our merger and how tobacco and alcohol inspections and compliance checks would be conducted in the future. Some discussion followed regarding this issue.

Attorney Daniel Faulkner from the AG's office will be filling in as our attorney starting in January to cover until we hire a new attorney.

FDA ACTIVITY

Deputy Director Ray Owens reported that they are still mainly working on Covid 19 inspections. They did have one county that opened for FDA inspections that 3 inspections were completed with no violations.

OPEN FORUM

Director Sled ask if there were any questions or comments from the audience which there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

In closing, Chairman Case stated that our next meeting is scheduled for January 7th, 2021. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. It was approved with 6 yes votes, 1 absent and 1 open position. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by

Pat Dykes

December 3, 2020

Pat Dykes