

**Village of Iola Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**June 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Iola Village Hall, Community Room, 180 South Main Street, Iola, WI 54945**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Jennifer Schustek. The open meeting statement was read by J. Schustek.

Roll Call: Trustees present: Alan Bauer, Dave Harper, Rick Meyers, Pamela Parks, Sharyl Peterson, Jennifer Schustek and Jim Rasmussen.

Others present: Jennifer O'Malley; Mike Richberg; Sherri Miller; Steve Steeber; Nate Goli; Step Goli; Mark McCoy; Kathy Welk; Judy Enz; Eric Peterson; Patty Peterson; Donna Hansen; Jason Cline; Bob Moe; Sheryl Uber; Holly Neuman; Cathy Borgmann; Aaron Stratton; Tony Zubella; Greg Krogwold; Dean Parks; Mike Gray; Holly Gray; Lauri Brino; Sandy Bostwick; Sue Thulien; Rya Jones; Lori Melum; Bob Melum; Attorney Bruce J. Meagher; Attorney Charles Adams; Attorney Tom Johnson; Chief Paul Zierler, Laura J. Krogwold, Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Iola; Colton Wegener, Patrol Officer; and Ben Strojny, Patrol Officer.

QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CLASS "B"/"CLASS B" ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE AND OPERATORS LICENSE FOR STEVE STEEBER BE ISSUED.

Attorney Charles Adams was retained by the Village for purposes of advising the Board and conducting the meeting. He stated that he would be the moderator for the evening and would follow the procedure for the conduct of the meeting as set forth in the attachment that was distributed and explained by Attorney Adams.

Attorney Tom Johnson appeared on behalf of Thirsty Perch and Steve Steeber. Attorney Bruce J. Meagher was asked to act as the Secretary of the meeting.

A. Presentation in favor of the recommendation for non-renewal by Iola Chief of Police Paul Zierler.

Chief Zierler explained that Mr. Steeber was stopped by Waupaca County Deputy Brandon Rasmussen on December 3, 2023. The stop resulted in Mr. Steeber receiving citations from Waupaca County for resisting arrest and obstruction of justice. Attorney Johnson offered to stipulate to the conviction but Chief Zierler declined because he wanted to play a video tape for the Board to show the convictions for Mr. Steeber of resisting arrest and obstruction were related to the misuse of alcohol.

Mr. Zierler then presented the video tape which was approximately 20 minutes in duration which detailed all of the activity. A flash drive of the video tape is available

as part of the record but will not be summarized in the notes being prepared at this time.

Chief Zierler then proceeded to describe the documents which are included in the attached packet for the hearing dated Thursday, June 26, 2025. The first page of the packet is an index of each of those documents.

Chief Zierler stated that the judgments of conviction for resisting or obstructing an officer and false swearing were sufficient basis to revoke the liquor license for the Thirsty Perch and the operator's license for Mr. Steeber.

Chief Zierler called the Board's attention to the difference between the individual questionnaire submitted by Mr. Steeber on May 21, 2024 and June 4, 2024. The initial questionnaire failed to refer to numerous offenses that should have been included. The matter was referred to the District Attorney and Mr. Steeber received a conviction for false swearing which is attached to the documents on page 9.

B. Cross Examination of Chief Zierler by Attorney Johnson.

Attorney Johnson cross examined Chief Zierler and solicited agreement that Mr. Steeber had never been intoxicated at his place of business as far as the Chief was aware. Attorney Johnson also pointed out that Mr. Steeber was not convicted for operating under the influence or any other alcohol related offense. Attorney Johnson also stated that these convictions were single event matters and were not repeated or habitual.

Chief Zierler stated his opinion that the resistance of Mr. Steeber was based on his misuse of alcohol warranting revocation of the licenses.

C. Presentation of Attorney Johnson.

Although offered the opportunity, Attorney Johnson indicated that he did not have any evidence to present or witnesses to call on behalf of his client.

D. Closing Statement of Chief Zierler.

In his closing statement, Chief Zierler referred to the approval guidelines included on page 11 of the attachment and stated that following through on its schematic resulted in his determination that the license should not be renewed. In Chief Zierler's opinion, by committing the acts described above, Mr. Steeber has disqualified the Thirsty Perch and himself from holding a license.

E. Closing Statement of Attorney Johnson.

Attorney Johnson stated that the Wisconsin Statutes provide the license can be non-renewed only if the applicant has been convicted of a felony or is a habitual law offender. He stated that since no felony is involved in the cases referred to, the Board would be limited to the finding that the applicant was a habitual offender of

the law. He further stated that resisting arrest is not related to the liquor license and that the two convictions were not repetitive and were both one-time events which were not reoccurring. Neither offense was a drug offense or an alcohol related offense and therefore Mr. Johnson concluded that they fell short of the basis for non-renewal. He stated that his client wanted to stay in business.

- F. Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session. Pamela Parks moved that the meeting be adjourned into closed session under Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85(1)(a) to: deliberate concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing held by the body. Jim Rasmussen seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, all Trustees voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was convened into closed session at approximately 6:50 o'clock p.m.
- G. Re-Convene in Open Session. At approximately 8:05 o'clock p.m. the meeting was reconvened into open session to vote on the decision. In a roll call vote, each of the Trustees voted in favor of the motion.

Thereafter, it was moved by Jim Rasmussen and seconded by Dave Harper that the operator's license for Steve Steeber not be issued. By roll call vote, each of the Trustees voted in favor of that motion.

Thereafter, it was moved by Pamela Parks and seconded by Rick Meyers that the Class "B"/"Class B" alcohol and beverage license for the Thirsty Perch not be issued. In a roll call vote, each of the Trustees voted in favor of that motion.

After that action was taken, Attorney Adams made a statement on behalf of the Village Board. The statement was that the Village had offered the applicants the opportunity to remove Steve Steeber from the application for the Class B Beverage License and withdraw his request for an operator's license and, if they did so, the Village would renew the alcoholic beverage license for the Thirsty Perch. The applicants refused to accept that proposal. Attorney Adams then stated that the Board had no option other than to take action to not issue the licenses because they were left with no other choice. They were not happy they had to do so.

- H. Adjournment.  
Motion by Jim Rasmussen and seconded by David Harper to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes by: Attorney Bruce Meagher