

Virginia ABC Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Attendees

Board Chair, Tim Hugo
Board Vice-Chair, Mark Stepanian
Board Member, Greg Holland
Board Member, Lisa Jennings
Board Member, Jack Kerrigan
CEO, Dale Farino
Deputy Secretary, Chris Curtis
AGC, LaTonya Hucks Watkins
COO, Tom Kirby
CHR, John Singleton
Office of the Attorney General, Elizabeth Peay
Senior Paralegal, Helen Gordon
Sales Audit Lead Analyst, Martha Jackson

Opening Remarks

- Chair Hugo, asked if there were any questions on the minutes from the January 15th meeting.

New Business - Board Approval

Approve Minutes from January 15, Board Meeting

- There being no discussion on the minutes. Board member Holland moved to accept the Board minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting as written. Vice Chair Stepanian seconded the motion. The Chair called roll, all members voted to approve the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Approve Happy Hour Legislation

- Acting General Counsel Hucks-Watkins, VA ABC received a petition to extend Happy Hour hours from 9:00 p.m. to midnight. The proposal has been through a round of public comment; 20 comments were in favor and 15 were in opposition to the proposal. Today the Board must vote to either deny the petition, amend the petition, or approve the petition.
- Mrs. Jennings noted that the recommending presentations and discussion from the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association stated that there was no increased risk of harm to the public with regard to extending happy hour periods and referenced an absence of research to the contrary of which they were aware. Mrs. Jennings identified several cites easily accessible with a Google search and suggested that a more thorough review and information would assist with a better informed decision on this topic.
- After substantial discussion, Board member Kerrigan made a motion to reject the proposed petition, as the Board would like more information from other entities of concern, and would like to see the outcome of legislation currently before the General Assembly. Vice Chair Stepanian seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Chair called roll and all members voted to approve the motion. The petition is rejected.

Internal Audit Presentation (Garner)

- Holly Garner, Director of Internal Audit gave a presentation on FY25 year-end report and FY26 short plan. Board member Kerrigan made a motion to approve the internal audit plan as submitted and Vice-Chairman Stepanian seconded the motion. The Chair called roll and the motion was unanimously accepted.

Board Appeal Hearing(s)

- The Board conveyed in the Hearing Room at 10:11 a.m. to hear the appeal of Hill Top Restaurant, license #097462. After careful consideration, Vice-Chair Stepanian moved to uphold the Administrative Law

Virginia ABC Board Meeting Minutes February 5, 2026

Judge's decision, which was seconded by Board member Jennings. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0.

- In the appeal of Express Food Mart, license #043642, after careful consideration Vice-Chair Stepanian moved to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's decision, which was seconded by Board member Jennings. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0.

Closed Session

- The Board moved into deliberations in closed session at 10:45 a.m. In attendance with the Board were Elizabeth Peay, Esq., Dale Farino, Chris Curtis, Tonya Hucks-Watkins, Esq. and Kristie Miles.

Return to Open Session

- Chair Hugo returned the Board to open session at 11:05 a.m.

2026 Legislative Session

- Acting General Counsel Hucks-Watkins, we are currently monitoring seventeen (17) ABC-related bills, but some are companion bills.

Board Comments

- Chair Hugo asked the Board for any comments.
- Board member Jennings commended the team and the delivery folks. She had a very professional, straightforward, on-line purchase and delivery experience with the product delivered on time.

Comments from the Public

- Chair Hugo asked for any comments from the public.
- There being none, the Chair stated that the Board would like to hear from Mr. Lisk's industry when the talk comes back up in April or May regarding the MBAR.
- Mr. Lisk, responded that the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association would appreciate the opportunity to review Board member Jennings' research as we were not trying to hide anything from the Board, we want to make an informed response as well.

Closed Session

- The Board moved into closed session at 11:32 a.m. to discuss pending litigation. In attendance with the Board were Elizabeth Peay, Esq., Dale Farino, Chris Curtis, Tom Kirby, John Singleton, and LaTonya Hucks-Watkins, Esq.
- Board member Kerrigan made a motion to move into closed session. Board member Jennings seconded the motion, the Chair called roll; the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next meeting: March 31, 2026