

Warrant Article XX

A proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 150; Marijuana Business Licensing that amends the procedures for annual license renewals. Specific Chapter changes include:

Chapter 150. Marijuana Business Licensing

Article I. Marijuana Businesses

§ 150-9. Licensing authority.

A. Licensing procedures.

(1) Applications shall be reviewed in the order they are received and determined to be complete. After a completed application packet and fee is received by the Town Clerk, the Clerk will review the information and will contact the applicant if clarifications or updates to the submitted application materials are needed. The Clerk will notify the applicant whether they have met the standards necessary to be invited to be reviewed by the Topsham ~~Selectboard~~Board of Selectmen.

(2) The initial application for a license shall be processed by the Town Clerk but shall be reviewed by the Topsham ~~Selectboard~~Board of Selectmen. Applications shall be made on a form prepared by the Town and must include all information required by § 150-11 of this article and by the form.

(3) In the event that the Town Clerk determines that a submitted application is not complete, the Town Clerk shall notify the applicant within 10 business days that the application is not complete and shall inform the applicant of the additional information required to process the application.

(4) The Town Clerk shall order ~~national~~ background checks of each applicant and renewal applicant. If the applicant is a business entity, every officer, director, manager and general partner of the business entity is required to submit to a criminal history record check. Failure to submit required releases for a background check is grounds for denial of a license. The cost of the background check shall be borne by the applicant above and beyond the application fee.

(5) Public hearing. A public hearing on an application for a license shall be scheduled after receipt of a completed application pursuant to § 150-11. The Town Clerk shall post and publish public notice of the hearing not less than seven days prior to the hearing.

(6) A renewal application shall be subject to the same review standards and fees as applied to the initial issuance of the ~~license~~license. Public notification and comment period shall be conducted 14 days prior to any license renewal issuance, and the same notice requirement as a new application. As part of the renewal process, the Town ~~Selectboard~~Board of Selectmen -Clerk shall conduct a full staff review to determine

~~consider if any changes in operation or~~ compliance from prior years have occurred or are proposed, and based upon that review, may ~~add conditions to any future license to correct, abate or limit past problems. The Town Clerk shall~~ refer action on a renewal application to the Town ~~Selectboard~~ Board of Selectmen for public hearing and action.

(7) Applications received after the maximum number of licenses has been issued shall be placed on a waiting list at the request of the applicant. Following termination of an existing license, the Board of Selectmen ~~Selectboard~~ shall consider applications in order from the waitlist.