

Marshfield DAV announces plans to hire full-time bar manager

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Marshfield — After having its liquor license suspended for two weeks in February, the Disabled American Veterans bar at 108 Dyke Road is closing in on hiring a new bar manager.

Selectmen suspended the DAV's license after the bar's staff over-served two patrons involved in a Nov. 29, 2009, incident in which their car crashed near the DAV building after leaving the bar. The driver allegedly fled the scene, and Marshfield police later charged the operator of the car, James B. Bennett of 61 Monitor Road, of driving under the influence of alcohol.

With no full-time bar manager on staff at the time, David Dean, the bar's longtime interim manager, was instructed after a Feb. 1 selectmen's hearing on the matter to fill the position. At the Sept. 13 selectmen's meeting, Dean introduced Joseph Tomasello, a DAV member and the applicant being recommended for the position.

"On the behalf of the DAV, I apologize for the time it took to come up with a manager," Dean said. "We had someone lined up who was going to retire. We couldn't get a hold of him and had to start the process over."

Tomasello, a veteran bartender who said he managed U.S. Marine bars for years, said instances of over-serving would not occur under his watch and that he was on the verge of getting TIPS training for staff members at the bar. However, he is still waiting to hear back from the Marshfield Police Department.

"We're not out to make a profit. We're a private club," he said, noting that the people involved in the Nov. 29 accident were not members, but rather guests of members.

The town has a stake in how the DAV conducts business, as it leases the facility to the group for \$1 per month and would ultimately be responsible for any lawsuits.

Touching on the Nov. 29 incident, selectmen Chairwoman Patricia Reilly said the overriding issue was levels of intoxication.

"If someone needs to be carried out once they leave the premises, that's a concern," she said. "We just want to make sure it doesn't happen again."

"It won't happen again," Tomasello responded. "We left you with a bad impression."

Before he can officially be hired, Tomasello will appear before selectmen at a future meeting. If approved, and if the DAV can show that its bartenders have been TIPS-certified, Tomasello's change-of-manager application will then go before the state's Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for final approval, according to Town Administrator Rocco Longo.

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