

**TOWN OF CEDAR LAKE
BARRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 7.13.26

**AN ORDINANCE FOR ISSUING LIQUOR LICENSES
AND OPERATOR/BARTENDER LICENSES**

Adopted: July 13, 2026

Effective Date: July 13, 2026

Prepared by the Town Board of the Town of Cedar Lake

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

1.01 Purpose. The Town of Cedar Lake adopts this ordinance to regulate the sale and retail of alcoholic beverages within the town limits. The goal of this ordinance is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of residents and visitors, while supporting responsible business practices.

1.02 Authority. This ordinance is adopted under the authority of Wisconsin Statutes Section 60.10, 60.22, 125.10 and Chapter 25 which allows municipalities to enact regulations governing the retail sale of alcohol within their boundaries. All provisions of this ordinance shall be interpreted to be consistent with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125 (Alcohol Beverages).

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this ordinance, the following terms have the meanings stated below:

"Above Quota" License" — A retail intoxicating liquor license issued in excess of the numerical quota established under Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.51(3)(a). Issued by the state only.

"Alcohol Beverage" — All types of beverages that contain at least .5% ABV. (fermented malt beverages and intoxicating liquor) sec. 125.02(1) Wis. Stats.

"Applicant" — Any person, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation that submits an application for a liquor license under this ordinance.

"Class A" Beer License — A license that authorizes sales of beer in any quantity in original packages for off-premises consumption.

"Class B" Beer License — A license that authorizes the sale of beer to consumers for on- and off-premises consumption.

"Class C Wine" Only License — A license that authorizes sales of wine by the glass or in an opened original container for on-premises consumption.

""Class A" Liquor License — A license that authorizes sales of intoxicating liquor in any quantity in original packages for off-premises consumption.

""Class B" Liquor License" — A license that authorizes the sale of intoxicating liquor to consumers.

"Licensee" — Any person or entity that holds a valid liquor license issued under this ordinance.

"Licensed Premises" — The physical location authorized by a license for the sale, service, or consumption of alcohol beverages.

"Person" — Any individual, partnership, company, limited liability company, or corporation.

"Town Board" — The governing body of the Town of Cedar Lake.

"Town Clerk" — The duly elected/appointed Clerk of the Town of Cedar Lake.

SECTION 3. LICENSE REQUIRED

3.01 No Retail Sales Without a License. No person may sell, offer to sell, or allow the consumption of any alcohol beverage at any location within the Town of Cedar Lake without first obtaining the appropriate license issued under this ordinance and Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125.

3.02 Types of Licenses Issued. The Town of Cedar Lake may issue the following types of licenses, subject to the limits set by Wisconsin law:

- "Class A" Fermented Malt Beverage License
 - "Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage License
 - "Class C Wine" Only License
-

- "Class A" Intoxicating Liquor License
- "Class B" Intoxicating Liquor License
- Operator's (Bartender's) License
- Provisional Operator's License
- Reserve "Class B" License (if available)
- Above Quota "Class B" Liquor License (issued from state only)

3.03 Temporary Licenses. Temporary Class B licenses ("Picnic Licenses") may be issued by the Town Clerk to bona fide clubs, lodges, or other qualifying organizations for single events, consistent with Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.26(6).

SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

4.01 Individual Applicants. To be eligible for a retail alcohol beverage license, an individual applicant must:

- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Have no arrest or conviction record, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats. (Wisconsin Fair Employment Act)
- Are a continuous Wisconsin resident for at least 90 days
- Provide proof of a Wisconsin's seller's permit, as required under sec. 77.61(11), Wis. Stats.
- Not be a habitual law offender or convicted of a felony, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats., unless pardoned

4.02 Partnerships

- Each partner must meet all the individual qualifications listed above, except only the partnership must submit proof of a Wisconsin seller's permit.
- Each partner must be listed on the license application.

4.03 Corporations, Nonprofit Organizations, Associations, Cooperatives and Limited Liability Companies

- All officers and directors of a corporation, including nonprofit organizations, associations, cooperatives and all members and managers of a limited liability company (LLC) must be these requirements:
 - Be at least 21 years of age.
 - Have no arrest or conviction record, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats. (Wisconsin Fair Employment Act)
 - Not be a habitual law offender or convicted of a felony, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats., unless pardoned
 - Corporations are required under Wis. Stats. Ch. 180 to have at least one officer. Limited liability companies may have one or more members.
-

- The entity must appoint an agent who is responsible for all alcohol beverage activities on the licensed premises.
- The agent must meet the individual qualifications listed above, except that only the corporation or limited liability company must submit proof of the seller's permit.
- The license is not valid until the agent is approved by the municipal licensing authority.

4.04 Operator's License Requirements. An applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have no arrest or conviction record, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats. (Wisconsin Fair Employment Act)
- Not be a habitual law offender or convicted of a felony, subject to secs. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, Wis. Stats., unless pardoned
- Successfully complete a DAB approved responsible beverage server training course before issuing the license if the individual is a new applicant.

SECTION 5. APPLICATION PROCESS

5.01 Where to Apply. Applications for all alcohol beverage licenses shall be filed with the Town Clerk on forms provided by the Town.

5.02 License Approval Process:

- Alcohol Beverage License Application (AB-200)
- Alcohol Beverage Individual Questionnaire (AB-100)
- Alcohol Beverage Appointment of Agent (AB-101)
- Proof of a seller's permit
- Proof that the applicants have completed the responsible beverage server training course
- Payment for publication fees
- Payment for license fee(s)

5.03 Application Fee. A non-refundable application fee shall be paid at the time of filing. The fee schedule has been set in Section 10, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.51(3)(b).

5.04 Background Investigation. The Town, in cooperation with the Town's law enforcement agency, may conduct a background check on each applicant. The cost of any required background check shall be paid by the applicant.

5.05 Publication Notice. Upon receipt of a complete application, the Town Clerk shall publish a Class 1 notice in a newspaper designated for official publication within the town, as required by Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.04(3). (Cost of this publication is paid by applicants)

5.06 Public Hearing. The Town Board may hold a public hearing on each completed application within 45 days of filing. Notice of the hearing may be posted as required by law. Members of the public may appear and offer comments.

5.07 Approval or Denial. After the public hearing, the Town Board shall vote to approve or deny the license. The Board may deny an application if:

- The applicant does not meet eligibility requirements.
- The proposed premises does not comply with zoning, building, or health codes.
- The location is within a restricted distance of a school, church, or other protected use as required by state law or local zoning.
- Approval would exceed the number of licenses allowed under Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.51.
- The Town Board determines, based on evidence, that granting the license would not serve the public interest.

SECTION 6. LICENSE TERM AND RENEWAL

6.01 License Year. All licenses issued under this ordinance are valid for one (1) year, from July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise provided.

6.02 Renewal Applications. Applications for renewal shall be filed with the Town Clerk no later than May 15 of each year. Late applications may result in a lapse of the license. Renewal fees shall be established by the Town Board by ordinance.

6.03 Transfer of License. A license issued under this ordinance is not transferable from one person to another. A change in ownership of the licensed business requires a new application. A license may be transferred to a new location on the same premises with Town Board approval, consistent with state law.

SECTION 7. INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

7.01 Right of Inspection. The Town Board, its designees, and law enforcement officers shall have the right to enter and inspect any licensed premises at any reasonable time during business hours to ensure compliance with this ordinance and applicable state laws.

7.02 Violations and Citations. Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance may be issued a citation by law enforcement. Each day of a continuing violation shall be treated as a separate offense.

SECTION 8. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES

8.01 Grounds for Suspension or Revocation. The Town Board may suspend or revoke any license issued under this ordinance for any of the following reasons:

- Violation of any provision of this ordinance.
- Violation of any provision of Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125.
- Conviction of the licensee or their employee for a crime directly related to alcohol beverage laws.
- Providing false or misleading information in a license application.
- Failure to pay applicable fees, taxes, or forfeitures.
- Operating the premises in a manner that is a danger to public health or safety.
- Holding but not using the license for over 2 years.

8.02 Hearing Required. Before suspending or revoking a license, the Town Board shall provide the licensee with written notice of the grounds for the proposed action and an opportunity to appear and be heard at a public hearing. The notice shall be provided at least ten (10) days before the hearing.

8.03 Temporary Suspension. The Town Board may temporarily suspend a license for up to 90 days pending a revocation hearing, if there is reason to believe that continued operation poses an immediate risk to public safety.

SECTION 9. OPERATOR'S LICENSE

9.01 Requirement. No person may work as a bartender or be in charge of a licensed premises during alcohol service without holding a valid Operator's License issued by the Town of Cedar Lake.

9.02 Application. Applications for an Operator's License shall be submitted to the Town Clerk and shall include proof of completion of an approved responsible beverage server training course, consistent with Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.17.

9.03 Term. An Operator's License is valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance, unless revoked or suspended.

9.04 Provisional License. The Town Clerk may issue a Provisional Operator's License to a person employed by a licensee who has applied for an Operator's License. A Provisional License is valid for 60 days and is not renewable.

9.05 Authorization to Issue Operator's Licenses. The Town Board of the Town of Cedar Lake hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to issue Operator's Licenses and Provisional Operator's Licenses on behalf of the Town, consistent with the requirements of this ordinance and Wisconsin Statutes Section 125.17. The Town Clerk shall review each application for completeness and eligibility and may issue a license without Town Board approval when all requirements are clearly satisfied. The Town Clerk shall report all licenses issued to the Town Board at its next regular meeting.

SECTION 10. LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE

10.01 Annual License Fees. The following annual license fees are hereby established by the Town Board of the Town of Cedar Lake. All fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full at the time of application or renewal. Fees may be amended by Town Board resolution.

License Type	Annual Fee
"Class B" Intoxicating Liquor License	\$500.00
"Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage (Beer) License	\$100.00
"Class A" Intoxicating Liquor License	\$100.00
"Class A" Fermented Malt Beverage (Beer) License	\$10.00
Class C Wine License	\$100.00
Above Quota "Class B" Liquor License	\$500.00
Cigarette / Tobacco Retail License	\$5.00
Operator (Bartender) License	\$15.00
Provisional (Bartender) License	\$15.00

10.02 Proration. License fees are not prorated for a partial license year unless otherwise required by Wisconsin law.

10.03 Returned Checks. Any application submitted with a check that is returned for insufficient funds shall be considered incomplete until payment is made in full, including any applicable returned check fee set by the Town Board.

SECTION 11. GENERAL PROVISIONS

11.01 Severability. If any part of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable by a court, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

11.02 Conflict with State Law. Where any provision of this ordinance conflicts with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125 or other applicable state law, the state law shall control.

11.03 Repeal of Prior Ordinances. All prior Town ordinances or resolutions relating to alcohol beverage licensing that are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

11.04 Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as required by Wisconsin Statutes Section 60.80.

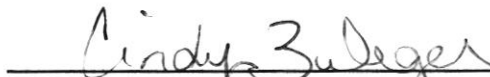
SECTION 13. ADOPTION

This ordinance was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Cedar Lake at a lawfully convened meeting on the 13 day of July, 2026. Any matter not addressed by the ordinance shall be governed by Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 125, as amended.

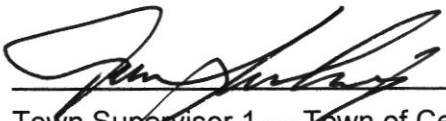
ATTEST:



Anthony J. WOLFF
Town Chair — Town of Cedar Lake



Cindy Zudeger
Town Clerk — Town of Cedar Lake



Town Supervisor 1 — Town of Cedar Lake



Town Supervisor 2 — Town of Cedar Lake

Date: 7/13/26
