Entered 04/01/25 16:47:02 Desc Main Docket #0171 Date Filed: 04/01/2025 Case 25-52415-sms Doc 171 Filed 04/01/25 Document

IT IS ORDERED as set forth below:

**Date: April 1, 2025** 

Sage M. Sigler U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

In re:	) Chapter 11	
OTB HOLDING LLC, et al., 1  Debtors.	)	3. f.G.\
	) Case No. 25-52415 (S	MS)
	)	
	)	
	) (Jointly Administered)	)
	)	

## FINAL ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PREPETITION WAGES, PAYROLL TAXES, CERTAIN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND RELATED EXPENSES; (II) DIRECTING BANKS TO HONOR RELATED PREPETITION TRANSFERS; AND (III) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

This matter is before the Court on the Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing Payment of Prepetition Wages, Payroll Taxes, Certain Employee Benefits, and Related Expenses; (II) Directing Banks to Honor Related Prepetition Transfers; and (III) Granting Related Relief (the "Motion") [Docket No. 7] of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in

The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, include: OTB Holding LLC (3213), OTB Acquisition LLC (8500), OTB Acquisition of New Jersey LLC (1506), OTB Acquisition of Howard County LLC (9865), Mt. Laurel Restaurant Operations LLC (5100), OTB Acquisition of Kansas LLC (9014), OTB Acquisition of Baltimore County, LLC (6963). OTB Holding LLC's service address is One Buckhead Plaza, 3060 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305.

possession (the "<u>Debtors</u>"). All capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given them in the Motion. On March 7, 2025, the Court granted the Motion on an interim basis and scheduled a Final Hearing for March 28, 2025. The Final Hearing was reset to April 1, 2025. *See* Docket No. 123.

The Court has considered the Motion, the First Day Declaration, and the matters reflected in the record of the hearings held on the Motion on March 6, 2025 and April 1, 2025. It appears that proper and adequate notice of the Motion has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and the Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and the Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1408; and it appearing that the relief requested is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest, and that good cause has been shown therefore: IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The Motion is granted on a final basis as set forth herein.
- 2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to pay all Employee Obligations that have accrued by virtue of the services rendered by their Employees prior to the Petition Date. The Employee Obligations that the Debtors are authorized to pay are described in the Motion and include, without limitation, (i) wages, salaries, other compensations and reimbursements; (ii) payroll taxes; (iii) Paid Leave; (iv) qualified 401(k) plan obligations; (v) health and welfare benefits; (vi) life, disability and accident insurance; (vii) non-insider severance programs, (viii) non-insider incentive programs, and (ix) other benefits.

- 3. The Debtors shall not honor any prepetition claims or obligations on account of the Employee Obligations to any individual that exceeds the priority amounts set forth in sections 507(a)(4) and 507(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to maintain, honor, and continue the Compensation and Benefit Programs in the ordinary course of business and consistent with the Debtors' prepetition practices and modify, change, and discontinue any of their Compensation and Benefits Programs and to implement new programs, policies, and benefits for non-insider Employees in the ordinary course of business during these chapter 11 cases.
- 5. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to pay any cost or penalty incurred by their Employees in the event that a check issued by the Debtors for payment of the Employee Obligations is inadvertently not honored because of the filing of the Debtors' bankruptcy cases.
- 6. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to make payments to applicable third parties in connection with the Employee Obligations, including, without limitation, all Payroll Obligations, in accordance with the Debtors' ordinary course of business and stated policies, as set forth in the Motion.
- 7. The Debtors are further authorized, but not directed, to continue the Non Insider Severance Practice and honor post-petition severance obligations, but only with respect to non-Insider Employees whose employment with the Debtors terminates post-petition.
- 8. The Debtors are further authorized, but not directed, to continue the Non-Insider Employee Incentive Programs and honor obligations with respect to non-Insider Employees to the extent provided in the Motion.

- 9. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing herein shall be deemed to authorize transactions that are otherwise prohibited under Section 503(c)(1) and 503(c)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, nothing in this Order shall authorize the Debtors to cash out unpaid PTO, unless applicable non-bankruptcy law requires such payment.
- 11. Subject to the availability of funds, all applicable banks and other financial institutions are directed to receive, process, honor, and pay any and all checks, drafts and transfer requests evidencing Employee Obligations under this Order, regardless of whether they are drawn prior to the Petition Date or subsequent to the Petition Date.
- 12. Banks and other financial institutions that process, honor, and pay any and all checks on account of Employee Obligations may rely on the representation of the Debtors as to which checks are issued and authorized to be paid in accordance with this Order without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.
- 13. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to the Employee Obligations.
- 14. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, absent further authorization and approval of the court, the Debtors shall not: (a) initiate any new benefit programs for Employees; (b) pay severance to any Employee in excess of \$25,000; or (c) make a retention payment to any Employee in excess of \$50,000.

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- 15. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order, any payment made or to be made by the Debtors pursuant to the authority granted herein, and any relief or authorization granted herein, shall be subject to and in compliance with each interim and final order entered by the Court in respect of the Debtors' Emergency Motion for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtors to Obtain Senior Secured Superpriority Postpetition Financing; (II) Granting (A) Liens and Superpriority Administrative Expense Claims and (B) Adequate Protection; (III) Authorizing Use of Cash Collateral; (IV) Modifying the Automatic Stay; (V) Scheduling a Final Hearing; and (VI) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 17] (collectively, such interim and final orders, the "DIP Order"), including compliance with the Budget (as defined in the DIP Order) and any other terms and conditions of the DIP Order. Nothing herein is intended to modify, alter, or waive, in any way, any terms, provisions, requirements, or restrictions of the DIP Order. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the terms of the DIP Order and the terms of this Order or any action taken or proposed to be taken hereunder, the terms of the DIP Order shall control. For the avoidance of doubt, the Debtors are not authorized to make payments pursuant to this Order except as permitted by the Budget.
- 16. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order, nor any payment made pursuant to the authority granted by this Order, is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) an admission as to the validity of any claim against the Debtors; (ii) an agreement or obligation to pay any claims; (iii) a waiver of any claims or causes of action that may exist against any creditor or interest holder; (iv) a waiver of the Debtors' or any appropriate party in interest's rights to dispute any claim; or (v) an approval, assumption, or rejection of any agreement, contract, program, policy, or lease under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.

- 17. Nothing in this Order shall be deemed to authorize the payment of any amounts in satisfaction of bonus or severance obligations, including without limitation any obligations subject to section 503(c) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 18. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 19. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a), the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Northern District of Georgia and the Complex Case Procedures are satisfied by such notice.
- 20. The requirements set forth in Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) are satisfied by the contents of the Motion or are otherwise deemed waived.
- 21. Notwithstanding any applicability of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 22. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from the implementation of this Order.
- 23. Proposed counsel for the Debtors, through Kurtzman Carson Consultants, LLC d/b/a Verita Global ("Verita") shall, within three (3) days of the entry of this Order, cause a copy of this Order to be served by electronic mail or first class mail, as applicable, on all parties served with the Motion, and Verita shall file promptly thereafter a certificate of service confirming such service.

## [END OF ORDER]

## Prepared and presented by:

/s/ Jeffrey R. Dutson

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