

MINUTES

OMAHA PLUMBING BOARD

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, July 14, 2010
1:30 pm – City/County Building – 1819 Farnam Street
Jesse Lowe Conference Room – Third Floor

I. Roll Call

Members Present:

Brian A Barrett
Jeff O. Estabrook, Vice-Chairman
George E. Killian
David W. Miller, Chairman
Christopher P. Reed
Terry Salem
Daniel J. Wellendorf

Others Present: Jim Wonder, Planning Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

II. Election of Vice Chairman to the Board

Mr. Wellendorf nominated Jeff Estabrook as Vice-Chairman to the Board. Nomination seconded by Mr. Barrett.

AYES: Barrett, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

ABSTAIN: Estabrook

Motion carried 6-0-1

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

IV. *Cases

10-7-83

Dio Perez
4224 F St
Omaha NE 68107

REQUEST: Request to move additional continuing education hours from 2009 to 2008.

49-215

Dio Perez appeared before the Board. Mr. Perez took sixteen hours of approved continuing education in 2009; he asked that the Board allow eight of those hours to count towards his 2008 continuing education requirements.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to why Mr. Perez did not complete his required hours in 2008. Mr. Perez required that he was unable to do so due to the fact that he was incarcerated in 2008.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to move eight hours of continuing education from Mr. Perez' 2009 CEU totals to 2008. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

10-7-84

Anthony Monjarez
8536 Underwood Av
Omaha NE 68114

REQUEST: Request to allow additional time to complete 2005, 2007 and 2008 continuing education requirements.

49-215

Anthony Monjarez appeared before the Board to request additional time to complete his 2005, 2007 and 2008 continuing education hours. Mr. Monjarez cited recovery from a motorcycle accident and incarceration as his reasons for not completing his continuing education hours. Mr. Monjarez attended the 2009 CEU make-up class administered by the City of Omaha Plumbing Division and has also completed his 2010 continuing education requirement.

According to the Board Secretary's record, Mr. Monjarez is missing a total of 20 hours of continuing education. The Board discussed

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to give Mr. Monjarez until December 31, 2010 to complete a total of 20 hours of Board-approved continuing education.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

10-7-85

Theresa Ptacek
ABC Education Center
2602 Harney St
Omaha NE 68131-3621

REQUEST: Certification of apprentice program curriculum

49-244, 246, 247

Theresa Ptacek with the ABC Education Center appeared before the Board to request certification of ABC Education Center curriculum for the coming school year. Ms. Ptacek submitted for the Board's review a copy of their proposed curriculum.

Mr. Wonder stated his belief that City of Omaha plumbing trade programs at ABC Education Center and Metropolitan Community College have made many improvements to their curricula over the past few years in an effort to close any perceived gaps in the education offered. Mr. Wonder stated his growing belief that students must apply themselves during class time in order to increase their chances of passing the journeyman plumber examination after completing school.

When asked, Ms. Ptacek reported that enrollment at ABC Education Center is down in comparison to last year, and added that many of her first year students are enrolled in school, yet have not been able to find employment in the field due to the economy. Ms. Ptacek stated that in order to comply with the additional education hours now required in the City of Omaha Plumbing Code, the school is considering changing over from a four-year program to a five-year program.

Motion to approve submitted curriculum by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

10-7-86

Lyle Hendrickson
Metropolitan Community College
2707 Ed Babe Gomez Av
Omaha NE 68107

REQUEST: Certification of apprentice program curriculum

49-244, 246, 247

Lyle Hendrickson, Apprenticeship Coordinator with the Metropolitan Community College apprenticeship program, appeared before the Board to request certification of their curriculum for the coming school year. Mr. Hendrickson submitted for the Board's review copies of Metro's proposed curriculum.

Mr. Miller noted that Metro has added thirty-five classroom hours to their curriculum. Mr. Hendrickson stated that he has coordinated with the Mathematics department at Metro to create a basic math course for apprentice plumbers in order to identify and improve deficiencies in their math skills. The college has also added five weeks of classroom time to its schedule in order to comply with higher education hours in the Omaha Plumbing Code. Mr. Hendrickson stated that Metropolitan Community College is in the process of building a new training area for first year apprentices. This will allow first year students more time in the lab.

Mr. Estabrook inquired whether Metropolitan was also considering switching over to a five year program. Mr. Hendricks replied that at this time, the college will continue to offer a four-year program, with extra weeks of class time in each year in order to be in compliance with the new education requirements.

Mr. Wonder stated his approval of apprentice plumbers receiving math instruction, citing that this additional instruction will probably result in higher test scores on the journeyman examination. Mr. Wonder stated that test scores will also most likely see improvement due to current economic state which means there are less jobs available for plumbers upon completing school. Mr. Barrett inquired whether there will be an option for students to test out of the basic math class. Mr. Hendrickson stated that there is no such option at this time, but it may be available in the future, or the college could also require applicants to pass a basic math placement test before enrolling in the apprenticeship program. Mr. Hendrickson stated that he has tried something similar in the past but has met with resistance from the industry.

Motion to approve submitted curriculum by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Killian.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

10-7-87

Jason Himberger
363 N 185th Terrace
Omaha NE 68122

REQUEST: Waiver of section 49-636 Table 3 Note 10, restrooms on a mezzanine level.

49-636

Jason Himberger appeared before the Board to request a waiver of section 49-636 Table 3 Note 10, restrooms on a mezzanine level. The property in question is the new Crane Coffee Café located in the Paxton building on 10th and Capitol Streets.

Mr. Wonder stated that this business is on three levels; an entryway, a mid level, and an upper level. According to the Plumbing Code, these levels are defined as floors, rather than mezzanine levels, and Mr. Himberger would be required to install restrooms on each level. Mr. Himberger proposes to install restrooms for each sex on the middle level of the business. A multi-level lift will be installed to aid handicapped customers as they travel between the three levels. Mr. Wonder concluded that this situation is unique due to the fact that the Paxton Building is a historic property, and Mr. Himberger is constrained by the design of this pre-existing structure. The installed restrooms on the second level will meet fixture count requirements for the business.

Motion to approve by Mr. Killian. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

V. Discussion

- The Board discussed hearings for revocation/suspension of plumbing licenses, to take place on August 18th and September 15, 2010 from 6:00-9:00 pm. These meetings will take place at the Common Ground Community Center in Elkhorn.

Mr. Wonder reviewed procedures for revocation hearings, license suspension and license revocation with the Board members. The Board Secretary provided the Board members with directions to the meeting location and provided a sample of the materials that those asked to appear before the Board will receive via certified mail. Those who believe that they have received this notice in error should contact the Board Secretary and be prepared to provide proof that they have completed the required number of continuing education hours for their license(s).

Mr. Killian made a motion to hold meetings on August 18th and September 15, 2010 from 6:00-9:00 at the Common Ground Community Center in Elkhorn for the purpose of holding hearings for possible suspension or revocation of license(s) (Please see the Discussion portion of the July 14, 2010 agenda for a list of those people who will be sent notice to appear). Approximately forty cases will be heard per meeting; notices for each hearing will be sent via certified mail by the Board Secretary. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0

- The Board discussed exemption from continuing education requirements for Stephen Barrett. Mr. Barrett is currently serving in the military in Iraq. Mr. Wonder reviewed the Uniformed Services Employment Act with the Board members, and proposed that the Board make a motion to exempt Mr. Barrett from the completion of continuing education hours so long as he is actively serving in the military.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to waive continuing education requirements for Stephen Barrett so long as he is actively serving in the military. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

ABSTAIN: Barrett

Motion carried 6-0-1

- Mr. Wonder discussed his progress in the creation of an equivalency level examination for Omaha license applicants. This examination will be used primarily to determine the equivalency of out-of-jurisdiction plumbing license applicants who cannot prove that their home jurisdictions have equivalent licensure requirements to Omaha. This examination will be given only one time; no retest will be available. The examination will be offered at the discretion of the Omaha Plumbing Board. There will be a fee of \$500.00 to take the equivalency examination. Mr. Wonder stated that he will not have this examination ready in time for the August examinations; however, he believed that it will be ready in time for the November examinations.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Killian. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Killian, Miller, Reed, Salem, Wellendorf

Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

*** = APPLICANT MUST BE PRESENT AT MEETING**

A full, continually current agenda is available for public inspection in Room 1110 of the Omaha/Douglas Civic Center during normal business hours.

The Omaha Plumbing Board reserves the right to modify the agenda at the public meeting.

If alternative (tape) to the agenda is needed, please advise Jim Wonder. A 72-hour notice is required.

Applications for the meeting to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday, July 28th, 2010 are due no later than 9:00am on Thursday, July 15th, 2010.

Visit the Planning Department's Site on the Internet at <http://co.douglas.ne.us/omaha/planning/boards/plumbing-board>

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