I. Roll Call

Members Present:
Dennis E. Clifton
Jeff O. Estabrook
George E. Killian
Patrick B. Leddy, Vice-Chairman
Cataldo A. Leo
David Miller, Chairman
Christopher P. Reed

Others Present: Jim Wonder, Planning Department
                Doug Clark, Douglas County Health Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17th, 2008 meeting. Mr. Leo seconded the motion.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

III. Examination Review

REQUEST: Review of journeymen plumber's examination given Wednesday, November 12.

Jerad Fuller
5003 North 62nd Street
Omaha NE 68104

Robert L Hackett III
9561 Corby St
Omaha NE 68134

Lorin Loch
6756 South 88th Street
Lincoln NE 68526

Chris Maguire
14916 Dayton Street
Omaha NE 68137

Kevin McLaughlin
6230 Fort Street
Omaha NE 68104

Chris Novak
17318 Redman Circle
Omaha, NE 68116
IV. Cases

9-1-3 Robert J. Huxhold
2137 S 61 Ave
Omaha NE 68106

REQUEST: Waiver to allow additional time to complete continuing education requirement
49-215

Robert J. Huxhold appeared before the Board requesting more time to complete his 2008 continuing education requirement.

Mr. Miller read from Mr. Huxhold’s file that Mr. Huxhold attended three hours of continuing education on December 23, 2008. He is currently missing 5 hours of continuing education.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to whether Mr. Huxhold is missing hours for any other years. Mr. Miller stated that according to Mr. Huxhold’s file, he is current in continuing education hours with the exception of 2008.

Motion to grant six months’ extension to June 1, 2009 in order to make up 5 hours of continuing education credit by Mr. Killian. Mr. Huxhold must submit proof to the Board Secretary that his missing five hours have been made up before the June 1, 2009 deadline. If the hours have not been completed by the deadline, Mr. Huxhold must reappear before the Board. Seconded by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-4 Charles D. Knutson
12707 N 96 St.
Omaha NE 68122

REQUEST: Waiver to allow additional time to complete continuing education requirement
49-215

Charles Knutson appeared before the Board requesting more time to complete his continuing education requirement.

Mr. Knutson explained that he was informed by the Board Secretary that he was missing 20 hours of continuing education dating from 2003 through 2008 when he came into the Planning Department to renew his license. Mr. Knutson explained that he was not aware that he needed continuing education
hours as a sewer layer, but has begun to make up his hours, attending a four hour class on December 29, 2008.

Mr. Killian inquired as to whether the Board could waive Mr. Knutson’s continuing education requirement for the years in question. Mr. Wonder stated that the Code did not allow the Board to grant such a waiver. Mr. Wonder recommended that the Board grant Mr. Knutson six months’ extension; at that time, Mr. Knutson could reappear before the Board to update them on his progress.

Motion to grant six months’ extension to July 1, 2009 in order to make up 20 hours of continuing education credit by Mr. Killian. If the missing hours have not been completed by the deadline, Mr. Knutson must reappear before the Board to request another extension. Seconded by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-5
Chad Rowley
Hydrologic
11621 Centennial Road
LaVista NE 68128

REQUEST: Approval of a 5 ½ hour continuing education class. 49-215

Chad Rowley was not present. Mr. Miller recommended that this case be held over to the next meeting so that Mr. Rowley can appear before the Board.

Motion to hold this case over to the January 28, 2009 meeting of the Plumbing Board by Mr. Leo. Seconded by Mr. Clifton.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-6
Steve Pintore
6712 Blondo Street
Omaha NE 68104

REQUEST: Issuance of a temporary Master Plumber’s license. 49-213

Steve Pintore appeared before the Board. Mr. Pintore explained that he is currently employed by Midwest Mechanical, which is currently without a Master plumber due to the death of their registered Master plumber.

Mr. Wonder stated that according to Plumbing Code, a licensed Journeyman plumber may be granted a temporary Master’s license for a period of up to one year. Mr. Pintore is a licensed Journeyman plumber with the City of Omaha and is currently scheduled to take the Master’s exam next month.
Motion by Mr. Leo to grant a temporary Master Plumber’s license until December 31, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Leddy.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-7
William Moore
16007 400 St
Carson IA 51525

REQUEST: Renewal of Sewer Layer’s license.

William Moore was not present. Mr. Miller recommended that this case be held over to the next meeting so that Mr. Moore can appear before the Board.

Motion to hold this case over to the January 28, 2009 meeting of the Plumbing Board by Mr. Leddy. Seconded by Mr. Leo.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-8
John Glesinger
Firefighter’s Hall
6005 Grover Street
Omaha NE 68106

REQUEST: Waiver of 49-629, Establishments where food or drink is manufactured, sold or distributed.

John Glesinger and Cliff Shepoka appeared before the Board. Mr. Glesinger explained that they are remodeling the bar area at the Firefighter’s Hall, and wish to install a dishwasher for sterilization of bar equipment, including pitchers, dispenser nozzles, and ice scoops. The bar serves no food, and all glassware is disposable.

Mr. Glesinger stated that he had met with Terri from the Douglas County Health Department, who informed him that if the Hall received approval from the Plumbing Board that the Health Department would have no objections to the proposed modifications. Douglas Clark stated that he had not been informed of this statement, but would support approval of the waiver, pending inspection.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division had no objection to the waiver, and recommended that the Board grant the requested waiver.

Motion to grant waiver by Mr. Leo, pending final inspection by the Douglas County Health Department. Seconded by Mr. Clifton.
AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

9-1-9 WITHDRAWN AT APPLICANT REQUEST
KPC Consulting Engineers, Inc. REQUEST: Waiver of 49-2300, Reservoir
1501 JFK Drive
Bellevue NE 68005 49-2300

V. Apprenticeship Renewals (27)

Matt Christopherson Wonder Plumbing Metro
Jeff Clayton Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Inc Metro
Aaron Grady Radden Plumbing Metro
Brent Griffith Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Ryan Hackett Dave Janke Plumbing Inc Metro
Donald G. Harrell Plumbing & Electrical Contractors ABC
Noel Holmstedt Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Andrew Ives Dave Janke Plumbing, Inc. Metro
Christopher J Jensen Vincentini Plumbing ABC
Christian Kulm Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Metro
Nick La Benz Dave Janke Plumbing Inc ABC
Michael Lewis Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Steve Masloskie Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Inc Completed
Andrew R. Nielsen Mainelli Mechanical Plumbers Local 16
Jordan Peters Brooke Peters Plumbing Completed
Craig Phephles Dave Janke Plumbing Inc Metro
William D. Redler Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Chance Rohlfing Dave Janke Plumbing Inc Metro
Bryson Schmidt Dave Janke Plumbing Inc Metro
Matt Sexton Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Inc Metro
Jeffrey L Shaw Carmody Plumbing Metro
Jeff Stuczynski Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Blake Thompson Omaha Plumbing Company Inc Completed
Richard A Timmermeyer Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Inc Completed
Joseph Tritz Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Brandon Vail Plumbers Local 16 Plumbers Local 16
Jack D Wagner UNMC Metro

Motion to approve the above-listed twenty-seven apprenticeship renewals for the following year by Mr. Leo. Seconded by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0
V. Discussion

Mr. Wonder inquired as to whether the Board members had been able to review his proposed changes to continuing education requirements. He asked if the Board members had any questions or concerns with the proposed changes.

Mr. Miller questioned the definition of what constitutes a “clock hour” of time, and whether this hour should be defined as fifty minutes, or a full sixty minutes.

Mr. Wonder inquired of the Board how they wished to approve instructors under these new guidelines. Mr. Miller stated that those wishing to become Approved Instructors and/or Providers should be required to appear before the Plumbing Board in order to prove their qualifications and teaching experience. The Board concurred that the title of “Master Plumber” does not necessarily qualify a person to successfully teach continuing education material.

Mr. Wonder related the process he went through in order to obtain his certification to teach the IPC Plumbing Code. In order to become an approved instructor, Mr. Wonder was required to first observe a class, then to administer a class with the approved instructor, and finally administered his own class while being critiqued by the approved instructor. It was only after this process that he received certification.

Mr. Leo expressed his concern over the hours required to monitor such a system on the part of the City, and the fees required to attend three separate classes in order to obtain approval. Mr. Reed stated that the system described by Mr. Wonder could be used in order to certify an instructor without a sufficient amount of teaching experience.

Mr. Miller stated that all continuing education should be administered by qualified instructors, rather than simply having a group of plumbers sit and read the code book with their master plumber in the shop. Mr. Reed queried how the Board proposed to respond to the challenges that would inevitably come from those Master plumbers who are denied certification as Approved Instructors.

Mr. Wonder stated that under the new changes, all those wishing to obtain Board approval for continuing education classes would be required to submit copies of their course materials, including visual examples. They must also submit a detailed itinerary breaking down the subjects to be taught throughout the time period requested. Mr. Wonder further stated that he would be willing to appear before the Board as an applicant to become an Approved Instructor, and to act as an example for future applicants as to what will be required under the proposed changes to continuing education requirements. Mr. Wonder asked that the Board Secretary add him to the agenda for the next meeting of the Plumbing Board.

Mr. Wonder asked the Board if they wished him to make the necessary code changes and to put these new requirements into effect in the Plumbing Code. The Board members concurred that they would like Mr. Wonder to wait until after the next meeting, in order to allow more time for review of the proposed changes. This will also allow the Board to see Mr. Wonder’s presentation as an applicant to become an Approved Instructor/Provider.

Mr. Wonder moved on to a new topic, stating that he will be holding a class for sewer layers for Labor Union 1140 in the near future. Mr. Wonder stated that he would like to have the Board’s approval to allow those sewer layers who attend Mr. Wonder’s upcoming class to take the Sewer Layer’s examination in February. Due to the fact that there are no prerequisites for sewer layers, Mr. Wonder will not have a complete list of those who will be testing until a few days before the examination. Mr. Wonder stated his willingness to add this request to the agenda for January 28, in order to receive
formal approval of the Plumbing Board. The Board stated that they had no objection to Mr. Wonder's request. Mr. Wonder asked the Board Secretary to place this request on the January 28 agenda of the Plumbing Board.

Mr. Wonder informed the Plumbing Board that the Planning Department and the Plumbing Board has determined which Journeyman applicants received the highest scores on their examinations for the 2008 year. This year, those applicants are James J. Hall, Jeffrey D. Simms, and Joseph Kunes. Mr. Wonder stated that he will send the winners a letter congratulating them for their achievement, and inviting them to attend an awards ceremony at the January 28 meeting of the Plumbing Board. Mr. Wonder requested that the Board Secretary add this to the agenda for the January 28 meeting of the Board.

Finally, Mr. Wonder stated that he would like to meet with the Board members in an informal manner in order to review changes proposed by the Code Review Committee. This would be an informal explanation as to which sections of the code are subject to change and why these changes are felt to be necessary. Mr. Wonder stated that he would like to meet with Board members either on an individual basis, or in a group of no larger than three people at a time in order to discuss these changes and answer any questions that the Board members might have.

Mr. Miller inquired as to whether there were any further items for discussion. Mr. Leddy stated that he would like to request that the next agenda include an item approving continuing education credit for the 2009 year for instructors, inspectors, and Board members. Mr. Wonder requested that members of the Code Committee also be added to this list. Mr. Miller concurred, and asked the Board Secretary to add this item to the agenda for the January 28, 2009 meeting of the Plumbing Board.

Mr. Wonder stated that due to changes in the Plumbing Code, he would like to brief instructors from Omaha’s three plumbing schools on the plumbing examination. This would be a brief explanation as to what sort of items the examination covers and will allow instructors to ask questions; specific information as to the content of the test will not be given.

VI. Executive Session

Mr. Wonder requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss final drawings for the upcoming plumbing examination.

Motion to go into executive session by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Reed.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed

Motion carried 7-0

Plumbing Board entered Executive Session at 2:13 PM.

VII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by mutual consent at 2:45pm.