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 (via telephone)
Erik Dickes, Planning Department
Doug Clark, Douglas County Health Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Leddy made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Second by Mr. Leo.

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

Motion carried 7-0

III. Examination Review

REQUEST: Review of journeyman plumber’s examination given Tuesday, February 10th.

IV. Cases

REQUEST: Approval of eight 4 hour continuing education classes to meet 576 hour education requirement for apprentice plumbers.

Jim Wonder spoke to the Board via telephone. Mr. Wonder stated that on February 25, 2008, the Board approved his 2009 class subjects for the year. One of the approved subjects was an eight session, 4 hour class for Grade VI Water Operators. Mr. Wonder has now come back before the Board to request
that apprentice plumbers be allowed to attend his Grade VI class in order to meet their 576 hour education

requirement. Mr. Wonder stated that apprentices attending this class in order to make up their missing required education hours would be required to take all 32 hours offered, and would also be required to take the state examination for Grade VI Water Operator at the end of these sessions.

Mr. Miller stated that he had no objection to Mr. Wonder’s proposal, and that he would entertain a motion to approve from the Board.

Motion to approve by Mr. Leo. Second by Mr. Leddy.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Mike Podjenski appeared before the Board with a request for approval of ten 1 hour continuing education classes. These classes will be held for Aksarben employees only, and will be given once a month, on the third Wednesday of each month. The topics to be covered in the one hour classes will include:

- General water heater service and repair, electric and gas and how to properly use a multi-meter.
- Residential power vent water heater and C3 technology. How to properly check gas pressure and draft.
- Commercial heater, understanding of digital read out controls, checking for proper draft.
- Tempering valves for commercial installations, proper re-circulation connection and proper adjustment.
- Setting of tempering valves for ADA requirements for lavatories, showers and other fixtures.
- Proper installation of emergency shower and eye wash assemblies.
- Electronic flush valves and faucets, battery operated and hard wired systems.
- Water softeners, proper installation, proper method of air gap
- Hot water recirculating systems, gravity versus pumped and proper sizing of pump and piping.
- Proper installation of backwater valves
- Proper spacing requirements for ADA fixtures
Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Podjenski is a plumbing instructor at Metro Community College. He has served in this capacity for the past eight years.

**Motion** to approve Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning as a Provider and to approve Mike Podjenski in the afore-mentioned subjects by Mr. Leo. Seconded by Mr. Reed.

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

Motion carried 7-0

**Motion** to approve the proposed monthly one hour continuing education classes outlined above by Mr. Reed. Seconded by Mr. Leo.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Sarah Christofferson appeared before the Board with a request to approve three 1 hour classes for Grade VI Water Operators. These classes will be taught by Jim Bewley, Terry Vail and Bob Jedlicka. Jim Bewley and Terry Vail are Approved Instructors; Ms. Christofferson requested that Bob Jedlicka be certified as an Approved Instructor for Backflow.

**Motion** by Mr. Reed to approve Ferguson Enterprises as an Approved Provider. Seconded by Mr. Leo.

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

Motion carried 7-0

**Motion** to approve Bob Jedlicka as an Approved Instructor for Backflow by Mr. Leo. Seconded by Mr. Leddy.

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

Motion carried 7-0
**Motion** to approve the proposed three 1 hour continuing education classes for Grade VI Water Operators by Mr. Leddy. Seconded by Mr. Leo.

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

Motion carried 7-0

**9-3-40**
Sarah Christofferson  
Ferguson Enterprises  
15005 Grover Street  
Omaha NE 68144

REQUEST: Approval of Instructor(s).  
Approval of continuing education class.

Sarah Christofferson appeared before the Board with a request to approve four 1 hour continuing education classes. These classes will be taught by Brian Haines, Kirk Petersen, Ed Huffman, and Troy McIntyre.

Mr. Miller stated that he was not familiar with the proposed instructors. Mr. Leo stated that he knew Mr. Huffman very well, and would be willing to make a motion to approve Mr. Huffman as an approved instructor.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to meet the proposed instructors, and to be able to see examples of their course materials. Additionally, Mr. Miller requested additional background information for Brian Haines and Troy McIntyre.

Motion to hold this case over to the next plumbing board meeting by Mr. Leddy. Seconded by Mr. Clifton.

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

Motion carried 7-0. This item will be held over to the March 25, 2009 meeting.

**9-3-41**
Thomas Gurnon  
Elkhorn West Construction Inc.  
2618 N Main Street  
Omaha NE 68022

REQUEST: Waiver to allow the installation of a reduced size grease trap.

Thomas Gurnon appeared before the Board to request a waiver to allow the installation of a reduced-size grease trap. The subject property is a Little Cesar’s Pizza restaurant.
Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division opposes the idea of placing a grease trap inside the building due to cleanliness. Mr. Wonder stated that the Board could possibly approve a waiver to allow a reduced-size grease interceptor instead.

Mr. Gurnon stated that the restaurant will produce approximately eleven pounds of grease per month. The restaurant does not utilize fryers or produce a large amount of grease.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to whether there was room to install an interceptor outside the building. Mr. Gurnon replied that there was room to install an interceptor in the alley behind the building, but that they are requesting a waiver based on the cost to install this interceptor, in addition to the amount of grease that will actually be produced.

Mr. Miller stated that he did not see a hardship in installing the minimum size grease interceptor out behind the building, as Mr. Gurnon stated that the space was available. The difference between the cost of installing a smaller interceptor and the minimum size required by code is not great enough to constitute a hardship in his opinion.

Motion to deny by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Leddy.

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

Motion carried 7-0

9-3-42
Thomas Gurnon
Elkhorn West Construction Inc.
2618 N Main Street
Omaha NE 68022

REQUEST: Waiver to allow unisex restroom.

Thomas Gurnon appeared before the Board to request a waiver to allow a unisex restroom. Mr. Gurnon explained that the front of the restaurant does not hold seating for customers; customers walk in to pick up items. The proposed plan is to install one unisex restroom in the front of the store for customers and to install a second unisex restroom in the back of the store for employees only. Mr. Gurnon additionally requested the Board’s permission to install a lock set on the doors of the public restrooms in order to reduce the possibility of robbery.

Mr. Wonder stated that there was a similar request put forth to the Board for the Little Cesar’s restaurant located near the L Street Stockyards. In that case, the Board denied the request for unisex restrooms. This location was required to install the required restrooms for both men and women. Mr. Wonder further stated that the major difference between these two facilities is that the L Street location was new construction; the subject property in this case is being put into an existing facility.

Mr. Miller inquired as to Mr. Gurnon’s hardship in installing separate restroom facilities. Mr. Gurnon replied that the required restrooms would cut into the space needed for the kitchen area, and would force the front counter to be pushed into the kitchen area.
Mr. Reed suggested the possibility of requiring Mr. Gumon to install separate men’s and women’s restrooms in the front of the store, but granting a waiver to install a unisex restroom in the back of the store for employee use. This arrangement would allow the restaurant to meet the requirement for fixtures, while still providing a separate space for employees.

Motion to approve a unisex restroom in the rear of the building, with the stipulation that the required men’s and women’s restrooms be installed in the front of the store as per the Plumbing Code by Mr. Reed. Second by Mr. Killian.

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

Motion carried 7-0

9-3-43
Donald W. Engstrom
Omaha Airport Authority
4501 Abbot Drive, Suite 2300
Omaha NE 68110
49-636

Mr. Donald Engstrom with the Omaha Airport Authority appeared before the Board requesting a waiver of fixture count requirement. Mr. Engstrom stated that the Airport Authority wishes to convert a mezzanine area for use as an employee exercise facility, and wishes a waiver of the requirement that restrooms be located on each floor of a building. The employee locker room and restrooms are located directly beneath the mezzanine; Mr. Engstrom stated that the Airport Authority is requesting to be allowed to use these locker rooms and restrooms instead of installing new restrooms on the mezzanine floor.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division had no objection to the waiver, providing that the exercise facilities be for employee use only. The locker rooms beneath the mezzanine area currently house a sufficient number of fixtures. Mr. Engstrom stated that the Airport maintenance facility is not accessible to the public and is used mainly to store snow removal equipment, tractors, front-end loaders, and similar equipment.

Mr. Killian inquired of Mr. Wonder whether a mezzanine is required to have a fixture count, as it was his understanding that a mezzanine is considered a part of the same level, up to 1/3 of the floor space below. Mr. Wonder stated that a mezzanine, while considered a floor, is not considered part of the same level. Mr. Killian restated his disagreement with Mr. Wonder as to this definition.

Motion to approve by Mr. Killian. Seconded by Mr. Reed.

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

NAYS: Estabrook

Motion carried 6-1

9-3-44
John Dineen with HDR Architecture appeared before the Board requesting a waiver of fixture count requirement for the new baseball stadium; specifically, as regards the number of drinking fountains that the Code requires for the new facility. The Omaha plumbing code requires that a drinking fountain be installed roughly every thirty-two feet.

Mr. Dineen presented to the Board a diagram showing the number of drinking fountains required by the Omaha code, and a second diagram showing the proposed number of drinking fountains for the new stadium which will include thirty-four drinking fountains. The International Building Code requires a total of twenty-six drinking fountains.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division would support the revised number of fixtures, providing that patrons could receive a free cup of water from any of the concession stands should the drinking fountains be unavailable.

Motion to approve proposed number of drinking fountains by Mr. Reed. Second by Mr. Killian.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Bill Condon with Jensen Well appeared before the Board along with Don Moore, N Pitlor and Son. Mr. Moore explained that the proposed well will be located at approximately 192nd and West Dodge Road as part of the new women’s hospital campus. The well will normally be used to operate landscape features on the property; however, the water from this well will be used in an emergency (such as a water main break) to power the hospital’s cooling system. This is not potable water and will only be used to power water-cooled equipment in an emergency for a short period of time.

Doug Clark with the Douglas County Health Department stated that his division had no objection to the well being placed on the property for this use; however, he suggested that the water be tested to ensure that no water from the well is making its way into the hospital’s potable water supply.

Motion to approve proposed private well by Mr. Reed. Seconded by Mr. Leddy.

AYES: Clifton, Estabrook, Killian, Leddy, Leo, Miller, Reed
Bryon Lippincott with Lippincott Construction and Remodeling appeared before the Board. Mr. Lippincott explained that his client is working to convert a residential property at 19th and L Streets for use as an insurance office, and is requesting a waiver to allow existing PVC piping at this property to remain on site, rather than to switch this piping out to cast iron as required by Code. Additionally, Mr. Lippincott requested a waiver to allow a unisex restroom within the facility, and to waive the required urinal in this unisex restroom.

Mr. Lippincott stated that the existing PVC piping was installed throughout the entire house within the past five years.

Mr. Killian inquired as to the square footage of the property. The house is approximately 1,000 square feet, and less than three employees will be working in the building. Mr. Killian stated that based on the square footage, the number of employees on site, and the fact that the establishment does not serve food, Mr. Lippincott does not need a waiver to allow a unisex restroom. He may install either a unisex restroom with urinal on the property, or separate men’s and women’s facilities on the main floor of the new business without a decision from the Board. Mr. Wonder inquired whether the existing restroom in the house meets ADA requirements. Mr. Lippincott stated that during remodeling, this restroom would be expanded to meet ADA requirements.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division objects to a waiver which would allow the existing PVC piping to remain in place. This property is being converted for permanent commercial use, and to allow a waiver for PVC piping would set a precedent.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to whether the owner plans to ask that the property be rezoned. Mr. Lippincott replied that the property owner plans to apply to re-zone the property for commercial use. The property owner takes possession of the building within the coming week.

Mr. Miller stated that he did not see a hardship other than cost in installing cast iron piping throughout the property. He agreed with Mr. Wonder and the Plumbing Division that the existing PVC piping should not be allowed to remain on site.

Motion to deny waiver to allow existing PVC piping to remain; this piping must be switched to cast iron as per the requirements of the Omaha Plumbing Code by Mr. Leo. Seconded by Mr. Estabrook.
AYES: Estabrook, Leddy, Leo, Miller

NAYS: Clifton, Killian, Reed

Motion carried 4-3

V. Discussion

VI. Adjourn

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

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

Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM.