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

Members Absent:

Others Present: James Wonder, City of Omaha Planning Department
Doug Clark, Douglas County Health Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

II. Approval of Minutes

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

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

Motion carried 7-0.

III. November Examination Reviews

Donald L Frank Jr 13009 Woodridge Cir
Bellevue NE 68123

REQUEST: Review of master plumber examination.

Mike S Henner 2527 S 80 Av
Omaha NE 68124

REQUEST: Review of journeyman plumber examination.

Robert J Hurley Jr (Written) 4156 Valley View Av
Bellevue NE 68147

REQUEST: Review of journeyman plumber examination.

Michael S Luty (Practical & Plans) 2718 N 124 Circle
Omaha NE 68164

REQUEST: Review of master plumber examination.

Ronald A Peters (Written II & Plans) 13609 Wallace Drive
Plattsmouth NE 68048

REQUEST: Review of master plumber examination.

Brandon J Pokorski (Written II, Practical & Plans) 4503 S 38 St
Omaha NE 68107

REQUEST: Review of master plumber examination.
IV. Cases

10-11-188 From 12/1/2010
Karli Meisinger
Eyman Plumbing Inc
8506 S 117 St
LaVista NE 68128

REQUEST: Variance of section 49-614, Garage Drains.
Location: 9909 Fieldcrest Avenue
49-614

12/1/2010:
Karli Meisinger of Eyman Plumbing appeared before the Board to request a variance of section 49-614, garage drains. Ms. Meisinger brought with her for the board’s viewing a gravel stop drain identical to one that has recently been installed at a job site. Ms. Meisinger stated that she had ordered this drain from her supplier, and found out after this item was installed that the drain was not allowable per Omaha plumbing Code. Ms. Meisinger asked that the Board consider allowing this drain to remain in place. She stated that the floor for this residential garage has already been poured, and there is in-floor heating to contend with that would make cutting into the garage floor difficult and costly.

Mr. Killian inquired as to the size of the garage; Ms. Meisinger replied that this is a three-car garage. Mr. Wonder stated that if this garage did not have in-floor heating, the Plumbing Division would be against approval of the requested variance. However, the heating element presents a hardship. Mr. Salem agreed with this statement, and added that this case appears to be one where Eyman Plumbing was misinformed by the supplier.

Mr. Barrett inquired as to whether the homeowner was aware of this problem, since they may not be aware that their drain is not up to Omaha Code. Mr. Miller inquired as to whether Eyman Plumbing could obtain a letter from the homeowner stating that they were aware of the situation and had no objection to having this type of drain in their garage. Ms. Meisinger stated that this should not be a problem.

Motion to lay this case over to the December 15, 2010 meeting of the Omaha Plumbing Board by Mr. Estabrook in order to allow Eyman Plumbing time to obtain a letter from the homeowner. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

ABSTAIN: Reed

Motion carried 6-0-1.

12/15/2010:
Mr. Miller stated that the Board received an email from Ms. Meisinger that she would not be able to attend today’s meeting. She requested that the Board hold this case over to their next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to hold this case over to the January 12, 2011 meeting of the Board. Second by Mr. Killian.

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

Motion passed 7-0.
REQUEST: Variance of section 49-624(g) and section 49-1406.
Location: 306 S 93rd Ave
49-624(g), 1406

Troy Meyerson, Dave Radden, and Shervin Ansari appeared before the Board. Mr. Wonder stated that this case is in regards to a toilet fixture that the homeowner, Mr. Ansari wishes to install in his home. Mr. Wonder stated that the fixture does not conform to standards used by the City of Omaha Plumbing Division; however, after researching the fixture and meeting with the contractor and homeowner, he felt that this fixture would be acceptable. There will be seven of these fixtures installed in the home.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to the weight that the carrier for the fixture could support. Mr. Radden stated that the carrier was rated up to 880 pounds. Mr. Salem inquired as to whether there would be an access panel installed in order to access the tank if needed. Mr. Ansari replied in the affirmative.

When asked, Mr. Ansari stated that his reason for wanting to install this particular fixture is that he wishes to have a national energy star rated home. After review of the submitted photos and some discussion, Mr. Wellendorf made a motion to approve waiver of section 49-624(g) and section 49-1406 at 306 S 93rd Ave. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

REQUEST: Waiver of 49-636, Table 3, Note 9 and Section 49-636, Table 5.
Location: 5138 N 156 St
49-636

Mr. Killian recused himself from voting on this item. George Killian, Robert Krause and Julie Gonzalez appeared before the Board. Mr. Killian stated that the requested waiver is in regards to the number of fixtures required in a strip mall-type business. Ms. Gonzalez wishes to rent Bay 10 of this building and open a small coffee shop. Bay 10 currently shares ADA-compliant, men’s and women’s common restrooms with Bay 9. Mr. Killian stated that Ms. Gonzalez would like to be allowed to continue to share the existing restrooms with her neighbors, rather than install new restrooms within her bay. Plumbing Code requires separate facilities for restaurants. Mr. Killian concluded that Ms. Gonzalez’ neighbors in Bay 9 is an insurance company. The terms of the lease for Bay 9 state that should the bay change from a business occupancy to another type of occupancy, then the new inhabitants of Bay 9 would be required to upgrade the restrooms. Ms. Gonzalez stated that the insurance company next door in Bay 9 had occupied that space since shortly after the construction of the building and has no intentions of moving.

Mr. Wonder stated that the rule prohibiting common restrooms in the Omaha Plumbing Code was put in place due to complaints regarding restrooms being locked. However, Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division had no objection to this waiver being granted.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve requested waiver, so long as the adjacent bay remains a business-type occupancy. If either bay changes occupancy, this waiver of fixture count must be revisited with the codes in place at that time. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

ABSTAIN: Killian

Motion passed 6-0-1.
Michael Shonka and Lyle Hendrickson appeared before the Board to request approval of a continuing education class to take place during 2011. Mr. Shonka recently appeared before the Board to request approval of additional solar classes for the Metropolitan Community College apprentice program curriculum. Mr. Shonka would now like to offer a condensed version of these classes for 2011 CEU credit for Omaha license holders.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to approve Metropolitan Community College as a Provider for 2011. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

The Board examined Mr. Shonka’s credentials. After some discussion, Mr. Killian made a motion to approve Michael Shonka as an Instructor for domestic hot water associated with solar applications. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Finally, the Board reviewed Mr. Shonka’s class materials. Mr. Shonka stated that he would like to offer five 4-hour classes. The day classes would cover installation practices. The evening classes would cover theory. Mr. Wonder suggested that the Board stipulate that Omaha licensees may only attend one of these classes for credit. Mr. Miller agreed with this statement, adding that although licensees may attend all of Mr. Shonka’s classes for their own benefit, the Board does not wish Omaha licensees to get all of their continuing education for the year in solar water applications.

Motion to approve five 4-hour continuing education classes, with the stipulation that Omaha license holders may only receive CEU credit for attendance at one of these classes. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Wonder stated that City Plumbing Inspector Bob Horan be approved as an Instructor for Plumbing Code for 2010. Mr. Horan plans to assist Mr. Joseph Virgil at his plumbing code class on December 29, 2010.

Mr. Wonder requested that the other requests on the agenda, specifically, the request for approval of 2011 Instructors and 2011 Continuing Education Class be tabled at this time.

Motion to approve Bob Horan as an Instructor for Plumbing Code by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.
Motion to approve above-listed apprenticeship renewals by Mr. Wellendorf. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Discussion

The Board discussed continuing education, and the changes that were made to the application process. Mr. Wonder stated that he had been complimented by a third party on the changes made to this process, who stated that the classes offered seem to be of better quality. The Board thanked Mr. Wonder for this report.

VII. Adjourn

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

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

Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.
* = 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 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 12th are due no later than 9:00am on Thursday, December 16th.

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