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, Chief Plumbing Inspector, City of Omaha Planning Department

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

II. Approval of Minutes from August 24th, 2011

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

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

Motion carried 6-0-1.

III. August Examination Reviews

Master Plumber Examinations

Daniel L Tevis
15210 Douglas Cir
Omaha NE 68154

Plumbers Local 16
4801 F St
Omaha NE 68117
IV. *Apprenticeship Agreements*

Aaron Grell  
924 Redick Bd  
Carter Lake IA 51510

Vincentini Plumbing  
2308 S 16\(^{th}\) St  
Omaha NE 68108

8/24/2011:
Aaron Grell and Peter J Vincentini of Vincentini Plumbing appeared before the Board with a request to register Aaron as an apprentice plumber.

According to the file, Mr. Grell has completed his schooling at ABC Education Center. Mr. Grell explained that he was working for a shop which promised to register him as an apprentice, but failed to do so. He eventually left this company and went to work for another shop. This shop also failed to register him. Mr. Grell returned to his first employer after being told that he would be registered with the City. This did not happen. Despite this, Mr. Grell has completed school, and has filled out his time sheets as required. Mr. Grell’s previous employer currently has his time sheets and refuses to release them; however, Mr. Grell was able to submit payroll summaries as proof of his employment. Mr. Grell is now working for Vincentini Plumbing and would like to get his apprenticeship in order.

The Board reviewed the submitted materials. According to the requirements of the 2010 plumbing code, Mr. Grell would be short on schooling hours. Mr. Barrett stated that these missing hours would need to be made up in order for Mr. Grell to be in compliance with the Code. Mr. Miller noted that Mr. Grell did not tally any of his hours, and would need to do so in order for the Board to consider his case.

Motion to hold this case over to the next meeting of the Board by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Barrett.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

9/14/2011:
Aaron Grell and Peter J Vincentini of Vincentini Plumbing appeared before the Board. Since his last appearance before the Board, Mr. Grell submitted proof of his on-the-job hours, as requested by the Board. Mr. Grell currently has completed a total of 591 hours of schooling. His on-the-job hours total up to 5,254. Mr. Grell stated that he has additional on-the-job hours; however, he was not able to obtain proof of those hours from the owner of the shop.

Based on the requirements of the 2010 plumbing code, Mr. Grell is short on his school hours. Mr. Grell stated that he has been in contact with Theresa Ptacek at ABC Education Center; he has made arrangements to take his remaining hours through their school.

Mr. Miller stated that the Board granted Mr. Grell a start date of August 1\(^{st}\), 2011 at their August 24\(^{th}\), 2011 meeting. This was done in order to allow Mr. Grell time to obtain the information that the Board requested of him, and to make it possible for him to work as a registered apprentice in Omaha until today’s meeting.
After some discussion regarding the information submitted, Mr. Wellendorf stated that because he needed to complete additional schooling hours, the earliest that Mr. Grell could possibly test would be May of 2012. Mr. Wellendorf suggested that Mr. Grell’s start date be modified to May 1st, 2008.

The Board Secretary stated that the Board meets to approve May examination applications at the end of April. Mr. Killian suggested that Mr. Grell be given a start date of April 15th, 2008, so that he would be eligible to apply for the May examination.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to change Mr. Grell’s start date from August 1, 2011 to April 15, 2008. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

V. *Cases*

11-8-82 From 8/24/2011
Mark Roseland
Backlund Plumbing
14920 Grover St
Omaha NE 68144

REQUEST: Variance of section 49-631, Unisex toilet rooms.

8/24/2011: Mr. Roseland was not present.

Motion to hold this case over to the next meeting of the Board by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem

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

Motion carried 6-0.

9/14/2011: Mr. Roseland was not present.

Motion to place this case on file by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.
REQUEST: Request for temporary Master Plumber License

John Sullivan appeared before the Board.

Mr. Sullivan requested that the Board grant him a temporary Master plumber’s license due to the death of his shop’s owner. Mr. Sullivan is a licensed journeyman plumber. Having a temporary master license will allow the company to finish jobs currently under way, and will give Mr. Sullivan time to take the master’s examination if desired.

Motion to grant John Sullivan a temporary master plumber’s license for a term of one year by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

REQUEST: Renewal of Approval of Provider

Peter J Vincentini appeared before the Board in order to request approval of continuing education classes for 2011. The Board Secretary stated that Vincentini Plumbing was approved as a provider in 2010.

Motion to approve Vincentini Plumbing as an approved Provider by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Next, the Board reviewed Mr. Vincentini’s teaching credentials. The Board Secretary commented that Mr. Vincentini was approved as an Instructor in 2010. Mr. Wonder stated that after viewing the recording of Mr. Vincentini’s class from 2010, he has no problem with Mr. Vincentini being re-approved as an Instructor for 2011; however, he did have some comments on how this class was conducted last year.

Mr. Estabrook expanded upon Mr. Wonder’s statement, explaining that some of the information that Mr. Vincentini gave out in his class last fall was inaccurate. He asked Mr. Vincentini if he would be willing to bring in one of the City’s code inspectors to teach part of this fall’s class. Mr. Vincentini indicated that he had no objection to Mr. Estabrook’s proposition. Mr. Wonder added that he would also be willing to go over Mr. Vincentini’s class materials before the class takes place to make sure that his information is accurate. He also requested that the Board require Mr. Vincentini to record this fall’s continuing education class, so that the Board could see that the mistakes made last year were rectified. Mr. Vincentini postulated that some of the inaccuracies could be attributed to “old-school” plumbing as compared to “new-school” plumbing. Mr. Salem disagreed with Mr. Vincentini on this point, stating that when teaching your employees about the Omaha plumbing code, it is vital that you give out the most up-to-date information. To do otherwise indicates that Mr. Vincentini does not regularly brief himself on the Code.
Mr. Vincentini asked the Board if they could give him more specific information regarding his inaccurate information. Mr. Estabrook presented some notes that had been taken while watching the video of Mr. Vincentini’s class from last year. The Board members reviewed some of these notes with Mr. Vincentini. Mr. Wonder apologized for not having a copy of these notes for Mr. Vincentini; however, the Board had been notified that Mr. Vincentini would not be able to make today’s meeting. He added that he would be happy to go over these notes in further detail with Mr. Vincentini when they met to discuss this year’s class information. Mr. Wonder concluded by stating that most of the mistakes that Mr. Vincentini made last year were minor; however, they need to be corrected so that his employees are receiving the correct information.

Mr. Vincentini stated that he likes to hold continuing education classes for his employees because he feels that it takes the burden off of them to find continuing education hours, and to find the money to pay for such classes. Mr. Reed stated that he has no issues with approving Mr. Vincentini to teach continuing education classes in 2011, so long as his presentation is reviewed by Mr. Wonder before the class takes place. Mr. Miller agreed with Mr. Reed’s statement. Mr. Vincentini indicated that he would be willing to submit his class information to Mr. Wonder so that it could be reviewed.

Mr. Wonder complimented Mr. Vincentini on last year’s continuing education class, remarking that he gave out a lot of good information and had some good visual aides. Mr. Vincentini thanked Mr. Wonder, stating that he was satisfied with how last year’s classes went. Mr. Miller stated that he feels that Mr. Vincentini puts a great deal of effort into making sure that he puts on a good class for his employees.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Peter J Vincentini as an Instructor for Omaha Plumbing Code. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Finally, the Board reviewed the submitted class materials.

Motion to approve two 4-hour classes as submitted for employees of Vincentini Plumbing by Mr. Reed with the following stipulations; Mr. Vincentini must meet with Mr. Wonder before the class takes place to ensure that the information he is teaching is accurate, and he must videotape both classes and submit these recordings to the Board for review.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

11-9-86
Jeff Estabrook
Heimes Corporation
9144 S 147 St
Omaha NE 68138-3671

REQUEST: Variance of Section 49-631, Unisex toilet rooms.

Location: 3601 N 129th St

49-631

Mr. Estabrook recused himself from voting on this case.

Jeff Estabrook appeared before the Board. He explained that his client wishes to open a bakery. The business has only one employee, and there is an existing unisex restroom in the space. Mr. Estabrook estimated that this space is less than 1,000 total square feet; minus the kitchen and bathroom, the floor space available to customers totals less than 600 square feet. There is no drive up window, and no dining space for customers. Mr. Estabrook explained that his client will have one table in the shop that will be used for wedding cake consultations.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the existing unisex restroom at 3601 N 129th St for this business and this business only. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

ABSTAIN: Estabrook

Motion passed 6-0-1.
Pat Shearman recently passed away; his son, Matt, appeared before the Board today to request that they allow him to teach his father’s continuing education classes. The Board Secretary noted that Paragon Sales & Marketing was approved as a Provider in 2010.

Motion to approve Paragon Sales & Marketing as a Provider by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

The Board reviewed Matt Shearman’s teaching credentials. Mr. Shearman stated that he will comply with whatever stipulations the Board wishes to place on him as a new instructor. He stated that he is willing to meet with Mr. Wonder before his classes take place, and to videotape these classes and submit them to the Board for review if necessary.

When asked, the Board Secretary commented that Pat Shearman was approved by the Board in 2010 to teach classes on Rinnai tankless water heaters, Red/White valves, Liberty pumps, Spears manufacturing products, irrigation products, and water softeners and filtration. Mr. Miller commented that Mr. Matt Shearman worked side-by-side with his father, and should be familiar with these classes. Mr. Shearman confirmed Mr. Miller’s statement, but added that he would not feel comfortable teaching classes on Red/White valves or water softeners and filtration at this time. He stated that he will be the main instructor for these classes; however Doug Fities, a factory representative from Rinnai will be coming in to assist him on one of the classes. He stated that he would be happy to provide the Board Secretary with Mr. Fities’ credentials if the Board would like him to do so.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Matt Shearman as an instructor for irrigation equipment, Spears Manufacturing products, Rinnai tankless water heaters, and Liberty pumps. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Doug Fities as an instructor for Rinnai tankless water heaters, contingent upon the receipt of Mr. Fities’ credentials to the Board Secretary. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

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

Motion passed 7-0.
The Board reviewed the submitted class materials. The Board Secretary indicated that only the 4 hour Liberty pumps class is new; the remaining classes were approved by the Board in 2010 for CEU hours. The Board decided to review those classes that were approved in previous years first.

Motion by Mr. Reed to renew approval of a Rinnai Level I & II CEU Class, a Rinnai Level III CEU Class, and a Liberty Pumps/Spears Manufacturing CEU Class for four hours of continuing education per class. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

After review of the materials submitted for Mr. Shearman’s proposed Liberty Pumps class, the Board felt that there was not enough material presented to fill a four hour class. Mr. Shearman stated that he would be willing to make this a two hour class.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve this class for 2 hours of continuing education credit, with the stipulation that this class must be videotaped. This recording must be sent to the Board for review. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

George Merithew
7422 N 59 St
Omaha NE 68152-2335

REQUEST: Variance of section 49-624, water closets

Location: 7422 N 59th St
49-624

George Merithew appeared before the Board. Mr. Merithew wishes to install a wall-hung water closet system in his home. This fixture and the carrier that it sits on is not currently included in the 2010 Omaha Plumbing Code as approved fixtures; therefore, Mr. Merithew must obtain the Board’s permission to install these items.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Board has dealt with several such cases in recent months, and has typically stipulated that these fixtures must be vented in accordance with the intention of the current Omaha plumbing code.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the use of a Grohe wall-hung water closet and carrier as requested, with the stipulation that this fixture be vented in accordance with the intention of the 2010 Omaha Plumbing Code for water closet venting, and that the plumbing contractor review this venting with the Omaha Plumbing Division prior to installation. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion passed 7-0.
REQUEST: Variance of section 49-636, Tables 5A & 5B
Location: H&H Chevrolet, 4645 S 84th Street

Mr. Killian recused himself from voting on this case.

George Killian appeared before the Board with Richard Vale of Construct Inc. Mr. Killian stated that H&H Chevrolet currently has a service building that they use as a detail shop. This building has existing restrooms that meet current fixture count requirements. Mr. Killian explained that the company is planning an extension of this building, and requested that the Board grant his client a waiver of the fixture count ratio for restrooms for females, adding that this is a work environment that is predominantly male. Mr. Wonder stated that the Plumbing Division supports this request.

Mr. Vale explained that this building is used as a detailing shop - for preparing new and used cars to be placed on the floor. His company is currently bogged down in their service department, and would like to use the building expansion to do oil and lube changes, which will relieve some of the pressure on the service department. He added that this building is not open to the public – cars will be dropped off at the main building, and then returned to the main building once service has been completed. Mr. Vale stated that the service building’s manager is the only female employee.

Mr. Barrett disagreed with Mr. Vale’s statement that this is a male-dominated industry, commenting that the last time he went to Jiffy Lube, the staff was half men, half women. Mr. Vale pointed out that there might be more females in the building once they complete the expansion, however, the detailing work is generally male-dominated. Mr. Reed pointed out that the applicant could accommodate up to five women with this variance before being required to install more fixtures.

Motion by Mr. Reed to waive the ratio of men-to-women at 8201 J Street, for the purpose of calculating fixture counts at twelve men, five women. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

ABSTAIN: Killian

Motion passed 6-0-1.

VI. Discussion

- The Board discussed changes to their plumbing board policies. This item will be up for further discussion at the September 28th meeting.

VII. Adjourn

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

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

Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned @ 2:21pm.
* = 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, September 28th are due no later than 9:00am on Thursday, September 15th.

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