

# MINUTES

## OMAHA PLUMBING BOARD

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
9:00 am – 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

#### Members Absent:

#### Others Present:

James Wonder, City of Omaha Planning Department  
Randy Nickeson, Douglas County Health Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

### II. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2011

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

### III. \*Approval of apprenticeship program

11-6-58 From 6/22/2011

Tom Eyman  
Eyman Plumbing Inc  
8506 S 117<sup>th</sup> St  
LaVista NE 68128-5560

REQUEST: Renewal of approval of apprenticeship program.

49-244

#### 6/22/2011:

The Board Secretary received word from Eyman Plumbing Inc that they wished to place this request on file.

Motion to file the above listed apprenticeship agreements by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**9/28/2011:**

Karli Meisinger asked the Board's permission to appear for Mr. Eyman at this meeting. The Board consented to this request. Mr. Miller reviewed the file. Eyman Plumbing has not had its own approved apprenticeship program previously, because they were covered under Plumbers Local Union 16's program. Mr. Estabrook inquired as to where Eyman apprentices will be attending school. Ms. Meisinger stated that they will be sent to Plumber's Local 16 for schooling.

Mr. Wonder stated that the forms created by the City for apprenticeship standards do not require a shop to list the name of the school that they intend to send their apprentices to. He added that Eyman Plumbing has the option to use any of the three schools currently available in the City.

Ms. Meisinger explained that when this paperwork was originally filled out in June of this year (see above), their contract had run out with Local 16. They had originally planned to send their apprentices to Metropolitan Community College. However, now that the contract with Plumber's Local Union 16 has been renewed, they intend to send their apprentices to the union's school.

Mr. Wonder stated that although Eyman Plumbing has an agreement with Plumber's Local Union 16, the Code still allows them to create and register their own apprenticeship program, providing that they meet the requirements of schooling and training hours. He stated that the document provided by the City for the creation of apprenticeship programs requires the applicant to affirm that they will send their apprentices to school; however, it does not require the applicant to identify which school their apprentices will attend. School information is provided later, on the apprentice plumber's application to receive a start date. Mr. Wonder concluded by stating that the Plumbing Division had no objection to this waiver. He recommended that the Board approve this request.

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

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

Motion carried 7-0

**IV. \*Apprenticeship Agreements**

Casey Bonham  
8706 Read Street  
Omaha NE 68122

Eyman Plumbing Inc  
8506 S 117<sup>th</sup> St  
LaVista NE 68128-5560

Casey Bonham appeared before the Board with Karli Meisinger of Eyman Plumbing Inc. Ms. Meisinger asked the Board's permission to appear for Mr. Eyman at this meeting. The Board consented to this request.

Mr. Miller reviewed the application file. He stated that the line showing requested start date, and asked Mr. Bonham what date he would like the Board to consider. Ms. Meisinger stated that Eyman Plumbing wasn't certain as to what date to request due to the fact that they just received the Board's approval for an apprenticeship program, and this is why they left this part of the form blank.

Mr. Wonder asked Mr. Bonham how long he has been working for the company, and to describe the type of work he has been doing during this time. Mr. Bonham replied that he started with Eyman Plumbing February 16, 2009. He has been working as a helper; his duties included moving pipe around, helping put up hangers, and assisting the plumbers.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to whether Mr. Bonham is in school right now. Mr. Bonham stated that he attended school at Metropolitan Community College for one year. These records were not provided to the Board.

Mr. Wonder suggested that the Board hold this case over in order to allow Mr. Bonham to obtain his school records. The Board could then possibly grant Mr. Bonham credit for his completed schooling hours. Mr. Bonham stated that this would be agreeable to him.

Ms. Meisinger asked whether Mr. Bonham is allowed to work as an apprentice until the next meeting of the Board. After some discussion, Mr. Wellendorf suggested that the Board could grant Mr. Bonham a temporary start date of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This start date would allow Mr. Bonham to work as an apprentice until the next meeting of the Board in October.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Casey Bonham as a registered apprentice with a start date of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This start date and Mr. Bonham's school records will be reviewed at the October 12, 2011 meeting of the Board. At that time, the Board may decide to modify Mr. Bonham's start date. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Jay Dollison  
3650 Orchard Av  
Omaha NE 68107

WP Plumbing, LLC  
15405 Warehouse Rd  
PO Box 18  
Bennington NE 68007-5519

Mr. Dollison was not present.

Motion to hold this case over to the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

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Mr. Dollison arrived later in the meeting. Motion by Mr. Estabrook to reopen this case file for review. Second by Mr. Wellendorf.

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

Motion carried 7-0

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Jay Dollison appeared before the Board with Thomas Walz of WP Plumbing LLC. Mr. Miller reviewed the case file and stated that everything appeared to be in order with the application. Mr. Dollison requested a start date of August 23, 2011.

Motion to approve Jay Dollison as a registered apprentice plumber with a start date of August 23, 2011 by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Arlyn S Neuhaus  
15640 Howard Lane  
Omaha NE 68007

WP Plumbing, LLC  
15405 Warehouse Rd  
PO Box 18  
Bennington NE 68007-5519

Arlyn Neuhaus appeared before the Board with Thomas Walz of WP Plumbing LLC. Mr. Miller reviewed the case file and stated that everything appeared to be in order with the application. Mr. Neuhaus requested a start date of August 23, 2011.

Motion to approve Arlyn Neuhaus as a registered apprentice plumber with a start date of August 23, 2011 by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Heath Allen Requenez  
153 E 5<sup>th</sup> St  
Wahoo NE 68066

WP Plumbing, LLC  
15405 Warehouse Rd  
PO Box 18  
Bennington NE 68007-5519

Heath Requenez appeared before the Board with Thomas Walz of WP Plumbing LLC. Mr. Miller reviewed the case file and stated that everything appeared to be in order with the application. Mr. Requenez requested a start date of August 23, 2011.

Motion to approve Heath Allen Requenez as a registered apprentice plumber with a start date of August 23, 2011 by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

## V. Cases

11-9-91

Tom Eyman  
Eyman Plumbing Inc  
8506 S 117<sup>th</sup> St  
LaVista NE 68128-5560

REQUEST: Waiver to allow the installation of an irrigation well.

Location: 5850 Country Squire Plaza  
49-1510

Karli Meisinger of Eyman Plumbing Inc and Steve Stapp, owner, appeared before the Board to request a waiver to allow the installation of an irrigation well.

Mr. Miller reviewed the case file and stated that according to an opinion received from Mark Masek of the Metropolitan Utilities District, MUD is opposed to this waiver at this time. Mr. Miller stated that MUD currently has a 16 inch main nearby which supplies water to this area. MUD requested the Board deny this request, and require the applicant to use MUD water for irrigation.

Mr. Wonder gave some background information on this area. Mr. Wonder stated that there are other wells in this area which the Board approved. He suggested that the Board lay this case over to their next meeting in order to allow him time to pull these files and research previous cases in the area.

Mr. Wonder asked the applicant where he currently gets his potable water from. Ms. Meisinger stated that Mr. Stapp has MUD water for his home. Mr. Reed asked the applicant whether his home is currently under construction. Mr. Stapp replied that his home already exists on the property.

Mr. Nickeson stated that the Health Department has not received an application from Mr. Stapp to put a well on this property. Mr. Miller restated that MUD currently opposes this waiver application. Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Stapp to identify the hardship which prevents him from using MUD water for irrigation.

Mr. Stapp added that the requested irrigation well is for the purpose of raising woody florals – dogwood, curly maple, and other plants used in landscaping and for decorative purposes. He explained that his daughter, a horticulturalist, is starting a business, and would act as his consultant in this venture. Mr. Stapp stated that extending MUD's main for irrigation purposes would be very cost-prohibitive for him. Mr. Wonder asked the applicant whether he knew of any reason why MUD's water would be detrimental to the plants that he intends to grow. Mr. Stapp replied that he doesn't need chlorinated and fluoridated water for these plants. Mr. Wonder asked whether Mr. Stapp's daughter could provide the Board with an analysis of why treated water would hurt the plants that he intends to grow, citing the fact that this could be grounds for a waiver. Ms. Meisinger replied that she and Mr. Stapp could look into this if the Board wished them to.

Motion to hold this case over to the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

11-9-92

Jeremy Neill  
United Rentals Trench Safety  
14515 Meadows Bd  
Omaha NE 68138

REQUEST: Renewal of approval of Provider  
Renewal of approval of Instructors (2)  
Renewal of approval of CEU classes (2)

49-215

Jeremy Neill of United Rentals appeared before the Board. Mr. Neill requested renewal of his approval for two continuing education classes. Mr. Neill stated that his company will use the same instructors and the same materials that were approved in previous years. The Board Secretary confirmed that the Board has approved these classes and instructors for the past three years.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to grant requested renewals; specifically, to approve United Rentals as a Provider, to approve Jeremy Neill and Eric Juhl as Instructors, and to approve two continuing education classes. These classes will count towards four hours of continuing education credit for sewer layers, and two hours of continuing education credit for journeyman and master plumbers. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion carried 7-0

Following approval, Mr. Neill stated that United Rentals has recently developed an online class. He asked the Board if they would be willing to approve online classes as well as his other two classes. After some discussion, it was determined that Mr. Neill should bring the online class materials to Mr. Wonder, who will review the materials and report back to the Board. At this time, online classes are not approved by the Board for continuing education credit.

11-9-93

Jan Hygnstrom  
UNL Extension Office  
247 Chase Hall, UNL  
Lincoln NE 68583-0726

REQUEST: Renewal of approval of Provider  
Renewal of approval of Instructors (3)  
Renewal of approval of CEU classes (2)

49-215

Randy Nickeson of the Douglas County Health Department appeared before the Board for Jan Hygnstrom. He stated that the UNL Extension Office is seeking renewal of past approval for continuing education classes. The Board Secretary confirmed that the Board granted approval for these classes in the past, noting that the Board had limited attendance to master plumbers, journeyman plumbers and sewer layers who hold Grade VI licenses and have a certification in wastewater treatment from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Mr. Wonder stated that he has attended these classes in the past, and recommended that the Board renew their approval.

Motion by Mr. Wellendorf to grant requested renewals; specifically, to approve the UNL Extension Office as a Provider, to approve Jan Hygnstrom, Wayne Woldt, and Sharon Skipton as Instructors, and to approve two 4 hour continuing education classes for master plumbers, journeyman plumbers and sewer layers who hold Grade VI licenses and have a certification in wastewater treatment from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

11-9-94

Mike Huber  
220 N 89<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 201  
Omaha NE 68114

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

Location: 1036 S 74<sup>th</sup> Plaza  
49-631

Mike Huber and Mike Zabel of Prairie Mechanical Corporation appeared before the Board. Mr. Zabel stated that the business in question is called Edible Arrangements – they make flower arrangements using fruit. He stated that this space is less than 1,200 square feet, and is too small to install separate restrooms for both sexes. Mr. Zabel stated that his client would like to have one ADA restroom in lieu of the required two restrooms.

Mr. Estabrook inquired as to the total number of employees at this facility. Mr. Huber replied that this location has four employees, and added that most of the business is delivery only. Employees make the arrangements, and they are loaded onto a truck and delivered to various locations around Omaha.

Mr. Miller asked if the applicant would be willing to create a doorway separating the customers from walking through the food prep area. Mr. Wonder stated that customers would be walking down a hallway according to the plans – they would not be required to enter the food prep area in order to access the restrooms. He noted that there was an issue with the door swinging into the restroom – however; that would be a matter for the Building Board of Review to deal with.

Mr. Estabrook asked whether customers ever come in and sample food. To this, Mr. Huber replied that customers come in, pick up their arrangements, and leave (unless they have it delivered). Mr. Wonder stated that this request is similar to several waivers that the Board has granted recently. He added that the Plumbing Division had no issues with this request, and recommended that the Board make a motion to approve the applicant's variance.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve a variance of section 49-631(a)(4) as requested. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

## VI. Approval of Apprenticeship Renewals

Doug Campbell	Aksarben Heating & Air Conditioning Inc	Completed
Ronald A Mach Jr	Plumbers Local 16	Local 16
Christopher Peterson	Harris Plumbing	Completed
Douglas Roach	Eyman Plumbing Inc	Local 16

Motion to approve the above-listed apprentice renewals by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried 7-0

## VII. Discussion

- The Board discussed revision of their policies. One item discussed was possible changes to the number of times in which a person may retake only the failed portions of their examinations. This item will be placed back on discussion at the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. No changes to this policy have been made at this time.
- The Board discussed whether or not to allow Grade VI continuing education to count towards the required continuing education hours for plumbers. They discussed designating that Omaha license holders must have a certain portion of their completed continuing education hours cover Omaha plumbing code. This item will be placed back on discussion at the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. No changes to this policy have been made at this time.
- The Board discussed the recent 2010 continuing education make up class. Mr. Wonder reported on the total number of people who were missing hours, the number of people who attended the make up class, and the number of people that will be receiving a notice to appear before the Board for hearings. Mr. Wonder commented that there were far less people who were delinquent in their continuing education hours this year as compared to last year; a result, he thought, of the Board's reinstatement of plumbing revocation hearings for failure to complete their hours.

## VIII. Adjourn

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

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

Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM

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

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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, October 12<sup>th</sup> are due no later than 9:00am on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.**

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