MINUTES
OMAHA PLUMBING BOARD
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 12, 2014
1:30 pm – City/County Building – 1819 Farnam Street
Jesse Lowe Conference Room – Third Floor

I. Roll Call

Members Present:
Jeff O. Estabrook, Vice-Chairman
Brian Feyerherm
David W. Miller, Chairman
Christopher P. Reed
Terry Salem
Amy L. Schaap

Members Absent:
Brian A. Barrett

Others Present:  James Wonder, City of Omaha Planning Department
                  Mike Connor, Douglas County Health Department

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 26, 2014

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2014,
meeting.  Second by Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0

III. *Apprenticeship Agreements

Joshua R Blasingame                             Carmody & Sons Services
15925 Emiline Street                           641 South 150 Street
Omaha NE 68137                                  Omaha NE 68154

Mr. Blasingame appeared before the board requesting apprenticeship status. He works for
Carmody & Sons Services. Mr. Miller reviewed the file. Ratios are in order. He is requesting a
2-17-2014 start date. He will provide the plumbing board secretary with documentation proving
that he was working at that time.
Mr. Estabrook made a motion to approve the 2-17-2014 start date with the stipulation that documentation is received affirming employment at that time.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap
Motion carried 6-0.

After the motion was passed, Mr. Blasingame mentioned he has completed schooling in 2008 and has been out of the field for five years requesting to come back as a fourth year apprentice. He will have to come back before the Board after getting all his documentation for work record hours and schooling documentation. At present, he is registered as an apprentice with this start date.

Kyle R Zaback
15812 Josephine Street
Omaha NE 68136

Carmody & Sons Services
641 South 150 Street
Omaha NE 68154

Mr. Zaback appeared before the board requesting apprenticeship status. He works for Carmody & Sons Services. Mr. Miller reviewed the file. Ratios are in order. He is requesting a 2-19-2014 start date. He will provide the plumbing board secretary with documentation proving that he was working at that time.

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to approve the 2-19-2014 start date with the stipulation that documentation is received confirming employment at that time.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. *Cases

14-3-58
Pat Leddy
Plumbers Local 16
4801 F Street
Omaha NE 68117-1406

REQUEST Approval of class for continuing education 49-215

Mr. Leddy appeared before the Board requesting approval of continuing education classes. This is a state certification class to be licensed as a grade VI operator. This is a 40-hour class. Jeff Vogel is the instructor for this in the past and approved to teach backflow classes also. Mr.
Leddy is asking for eight hours for this brand new class. The dates will be determined at a later date.

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to approve this eight hour continuing education class for the Plumbers Local 16 for backflow continuous education. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0.

14-3-59
Ed Huffman
Big Rivers Marketing
12818 Jones Street
Omaha NE 68154

REQUEST Approval of renewal of provider, instructor, & classes for continuing education

49-215

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to hold over case 14-3-59 until the March 26th plumbing board meeting.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0.

14-2-48 Held over from 2/26/2014
Tom Fields – TRK Construction
8350 North St Clair Avenue #200
Kansas City MO 64151

REQUEST Waiver as regards drinking fountain
Location: 6212 N 73 Plaza

49-636

2/26/2014
Mr. Estabrook made a motion to hold case 14-2-48 over until the next Board meeting on 3/12/2014. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 7-0.
3/12/2014
Ms. Laura Boler appeared before the Board requesting a waiver as regards drinking fountain at 6212 N 73 Plaza. This is a dialysis center. Dialysis patients are discouraged from drinking water prior to their treatments; therefore, as part of their standard operation procedure, all DaVita Dialysis Clinics provide bottled water for all individuals entering the facility unless the patient is restricted from drinking water. This is a tenant finish in a blank space. This is just under 5500 sq. ft. There will be a break room with a sink. There are no objections from the City.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve this waiver. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0.

14-2-60
Shawn Podraza
2861 South 93 Plaza #8
Omaha NE 68124

REQUEST Waiver to allow additional time to complete 2013 continuing education requirements

49-215

Mr. Podraza appeared before the Board. He is requesting extra time to complete the 2013 continuing education requirements. He had some personal issues and did leave town for a while. There is a penalty of four extra hours. The Board discussed giving Mr. Podraza six months to make up the 12 hours. He will then need eight more hours for 2014.

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to grant Mr. Podraza an extension until 9/1/2014 to get his eight hours plus four hour penalty for a total of 12 hours of continuing education hours for 2013. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0

14-2-61
Matthew M. Heebner
3302 Woolworth Avenue
Omaha NE 68134

REQUEST Appeal LSC Examination
Mr. Heebner took the lawn sprinkler contractor exam back in November 2013. He waited for the results and never heard back because it had not been graded. Mr. Wonder graded it last week but because he got the results back late, he could not register for February. Springtime is very important for lawn sprinkler contractors. The hardship is for the time frame he would have to wait for the May examination. He would like to appeal for special circumstance to sit for the examination immediately. Mr. Dickes mentioned the state law regarding the 90-day rule cannot be changed. If Mr. Heebner would fail this test, he would have to wait until August to retest. Mr. Heebner agreed to this statement.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Mr. Heebner’s request to take the lawn sprinkler contractor reexamination at the convenience of the City inspector. Second by Mr. Reed.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0

14-3-62
Erik Dickes
1819 Farnam Street
Omaha NE 68183
REQUEST Approval of renewal of provider, instructor, & classes for continuing education

49-215

Mr. Erik Dickes appeared before the Board requesting renewal of approval of provider and instructor for continuous education for sewer layers, journeymen and master plumbers for 2014. Mr. Dickes has been approved in the past.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve the renewal of Mr. Erik Dickes as a provider for continuous education for sewer layers, journeymen and master plumbers. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve the renewal of Mr. Erik Dickes as an instructor for continuous education for sewer layers, journeymen and master plumbers. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0
Mr. Dickes is requesting approval for eight hours for his one-day classes for plumbing code. He will do two separate four-hour classes on the same day with different topics.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the renewal of Mr. Erik Dickes 2014 continuing education classes for two four-hour classes each. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0

V. DISCUSSION

Fire protection installers requested to be included in the private fire hydrant testing program. The plumbing code states that a licensed master plumber is required to pull a permit regarding installation, repair, and testing of the fire hydrant after the work.

Our interpretation to do that work would fall under the Omaha plumbing code, and it is required that have a licensed plumber do that work. The City of Omaha is neutral on this. We are a state board, and I feel that should fall under our jurisdiction.

If we allow fire sprinkler contractors to test a hydrant, the companies have employees who are sprinkler installers who are not licensed. We would basically be allowing anyone the company hires to test a hydrant. If we limit it to a sprinkler installer’s license, they are licensed to install fire sprinkler piping which has nothing to do with fire hydrants. They are not protected from backflow or anything to create a nonpotable system. Again, to install potable water, you need a licensed plumber to do this.

There is no licensing involved if we allow this. If it fails, you need to call a licensed plumber to fix it and then the licensed plumber has to retest it. Someone is paying double then to have it repaired.

Mr. Estabrook made a motion that any work on a water main fire hydrant, testing or repairing, due to code 49-1518 and the state law 18-1910 be done by a licensed plumber from the City of Omaha. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap

Motion carried 6-0
VI. Approval of Apprenticeship Renewals (6)

Joshua R Blasingame
William O’Connor
Chad M Petersen
Kyle L Smith
Jeffrey Witt
Kyle R Zaback

Carmody & Sons
Mr. Rooter
Carmody & Sons
The Waldinger Corp
J&R Mechanical
Carmody & Sons

Metro
Metro
Metro
Local 16
Local 16

Motion to approve the total six apprenticeship renewals for 2014 by Mr. Estabrook. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap.

Motion carried: 6-0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Estabrook made a motion to adjourn at 2:13 pm. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Estabrook, Feyerherm, Miller, Reed, Salem, Schaap.

Motion carried: 6-0.

* = 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.

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