MINUTES
OMAHA PLUMBING BOARD
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, May 23, 2018
1:30 pm – City/County Building – 1819 Farnam Street
Jesse Lowe Conference Room – Third Floor

Board Members:
Brian A Barrett
Jeff O. Estabrook, Vice-Chairman
Steve Johnston
David W. Miller, Chairman
Christopher P. Reed
Terry Salem
Amy L. Schaap
Russell Hadan, Douglas County Health Department (non-voting)
Jim Wonder, Chief Plumbing Inspector, City Planning Department (non-voting)

A current copy of the Open Meeting Act is posted in a white binder on the north wall of the Jesse Lowe Conference Room. The secretary certifies publication in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on May 14, 2018.

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

I. Roll Call

Brian Barrett
Jeff Estabrook
David Miller
Christopher Reed
Terry Salem
Amy Schaap

Others Present:
Jim Wonder, Chief Plumbing Inspector
Autumn Drickey, Board Secretary

II. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2018

Motion by Mr. Jeff Estabrook to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Terry Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

III. Review Exams

David Barnes, Burke Clausen, Luke Spielman, Jeffrey Wegner, Kyle Zaback

IV. *Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Number</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
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<th>Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-5-57</td>
<td>Universal Plumbing</td>
<td>14724 Borman St</td>
<td>Request for approval of apprentice program</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Omaha, NE 68138</td>
<td>49-252</td>
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No one appeared for this case. Mr. Miller stated that the paperwork is in order.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Universal Plumbing as an approved apprentice program. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved
Mr. Spencer Tiller appeared requesting reinstatement of his Sewer Layer license. He stated that he thought the office was renewing his license. Mr. Miller stated that his continuing education is current.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to reinstate Mr. Tiller’s Sewer Layer license. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Jacob Drewes appeared requesting reinstatement of his Sewer Layer license. He stated that he thought the office was renewing his license. Mr. Miller stated that his continuing education is current.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to reinstate Mr. Drewes’ Sewer Layer license. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Kaleb Drewes appeared requesting reinstatement of his Sewer Layer license. He stated that he thought the office was renewing his license. Mr. Miller stated that his continuing education is current.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to reinstate Mr. Drewes’ Sewer Layer license. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Steve Nelson appeared requesting reinstatement of his Sewer Layer license. He stated that he thought the office was renewing his license. Mr. Miller stated that his continuing education is current.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to reinstate Mr. Nelson’s Sewer Layer license. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved
Mr. Shane Thomas appeared requesting approval of an instructor for Excavation Safety – Competent Person and the approval of that class for Sewer Layers. He stated that they are approved as a provider and they previously had a third party approved as the instructor, but he has recently completed the educator class.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Mr. Thomas as an instructor for Excavation Safety – Competent Person for Sewer Layers. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Thomas stated that the class is 8 hours long, but he is asking for 4 hours of continuing education credit.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve this class for 4 hours of continuing education with the stipulation that they complete all 8 hours of the class. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Thomas appeared requesting approval of an instructor for Confined Space Entry and approval of that class for Sewer Layers.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve this class for 2 hours of continuing education for Sewer Layers only. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved
Mr. Mark Sanford appeared requesting to add a unisex staff restroom in lieu of adding two staff restrooms at the above location. He stated this project was originally permitted by another firm and once he took over the project he re-permitted it using the original plan, without the unisex and two staff restrooms, and they were written up upon inspection. He stated the population of the location and that they have more restrooms than required. He stated that he would prefer not to need either the unisex or the two staff restrooms, but is hopeful to have the unisex.

Mr. Brian Barrett asked how many staff members there are. Mr. Sanford stated under four. Mr. Estabrook asked if the location is under construction. Mr. Sanford confirmed. Mr. Jim Wonder stated that he would recommend that they deny the request because Mr. Sanford knew he needed this requirement. Mr. Estabrook asked if they have the space to get the restrooms in. Mr. Sanford stated that they are on the final stage. Mr. Christopher Reed asked when the project was originally permitted. Mr. Sanford stated a couple years ago. Mr. Reed stated that they have already been permitted and it was not tagged before. Mr. Wonder stated there is a stamp on the back of plans that they need to fulfill the requirements in the field.

Motion by Mr. Salem to deny the request. Second by Mr. Miller.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Denied

V. Apprenticeship Agreements

Mr. Samuel Clements appeared requesting a start date of January 8, 2018 to the Omaha Apprentice Program. Mr. Miller stated that his hours are verified by his employer.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Mr. Clements to the Omaha Apprentice Program with a start date of January 8, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

Mr. Angel Mas did not appear but was requesting a start date of April 26, 2018 to the Omaha Apprentice Program. Mr. Miller stated that his paperwork is in order.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Mr. Mas to the Omaha Apprentice Program with a start date of April 26, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved
Mr. Ryan Reed did not appear but was requesting a start date of April 26, 2018 to the Omaha Apprentice Program. Mr. Miller stated that his paperwork is in order.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to approve Mr. Reed to the Omaha Apprentice Program with a start date of April 26, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Approved

VI. *Suspension/Revocation Hearings

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<tr>
<td>Andy W Roseberry</td>
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<td>6408 S 177 St</td>
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<td>Omaha, NE 68144</td>
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Mr. Andy Roseberry appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017. He stated he made up 4 hours last week and will have 4 more by Friday.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to hold over to June 13, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Extended to June 13, 2018

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dain Lundvall</td>
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<td>23050 Norris Ave</td>
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<td>Glenwood, IA 51534</td>
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Mr. Dain Lundvall appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017. He stated he made up 4 hours in January

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to hold over to August 22, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Extended to August 22, 2018
Mr. Gerald Bogatz appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017. He stated that his wife had some health concerns and it made it difficult for him to attend classes. He stated he is scheduled for classes in June. Mr. Wonder stated that the Board has the ability to waive his continuing education requirement based on a medical hardship if they were so inclined.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to waive the remainder of Mr. Bogatz’s 2017 continuing education hours and penalty due to a medical hardship in the family. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Filed

Mr. Gilbert Balboa appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017. He stated he is short 2 hours for 2017. Mr. Miller stated he would need 6 hours to make it up.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to hold over to June 13, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Extended to June 13, 2018

Mr. Richard Crapser appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to hold over to August 22, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Extended to August 22, 2018
Mr. Andy Roseberry appeared in regards to the potential suspension or revocation of his license due to lack of continuing education during 2017. He stated he is having a hard time finding the classes. Mr. Estabrook clarified how many hours Mr. Simms owed for 2017.

Motion by Mr. Estabrook to hold over to August 22, 2018. Second by Mr. Salem.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Extended to August 22, 2018

VII. Discussion
Apprentice Schools
- ABC
  - Ms. Theresa Ptacek appeared for ABC.
- Metro Community College
  - Mr. Nathan Barry appeared for Metro Community College.
- Plumbers Local 16
  - Mr. Robert Woodard appeared for Plumbers Local 16.

Mr. Wonder stated that the Board needs to sum up the concerns, discussing the pass rate of 22-23% for first time Journeyman testers. He stated that last year the Board supplied the breakdown of scores to the schools. He stated that the pass rate for second time testers is 22%. Mr. Barrett emphasized that that is with them only having to take the sections they did not pass the first time. Mr. Wonder stated the other thing is to ask if they are getting their total hours and education in plumbing. He stated that he has more of an insight because he puts on classes that are attended by students from the different schools and gives practice tests to each of the schools. He stated the last practice test he gave had 52 people and then each school was given their breakdown and how they compared to all testers. He was disappointed in the scores that he received, especially after they had been in school for four or five years. He stated that there are areas that were clearly taught better than others. He continued that looking at the curricula from the schools that a lot of it is aimed at teaching to the Journeyman test. Mr. Barrett stated that teaching to the 20 mistakes doesn’t help them be better plumbers but it helps the Board to see if the testers understand plumbing. Mr. Wonder stated that it is apparent that those taking the exam are looking for mistakes. He stated that in teaching his classes it is evident that they don’t know a number of things. He did say that the bright side is that the last test had over 50% of first time testers pass the exam. He stated that the Omaha Municipal Code Chapter 49 requires that they have 300 schooling hours on the code book and that is not evident that the schools are meeting this requirement.

Mr. Woodard stated that they have embedded teaching the code in their other classes prior to them receiving their code book in their fifth year. He stated that they try to teach them plumbing in general instead of just hitting the Omaha Code. Mr. Miller stated that individuals at Plumbers Local 16 get more than the required 300 hours of code in their program. Mr. Barrett stated his opinion is that the code book should be given prior to the fifth year, but understands how it is incorporated.

Mr. Wonder stated he was looking at the hours and wanted to question the attendance of the classes because perfect attendance and low scores doesn’t make sense. He recalled the issue with water pipe sizing being added to the test and other complaints about the exam. He stated that there is a lot that is left out of their education. He continued that he could take the UPC and create a class that compares the UPC to the OMC. He suggests the possibility of changing the specification of the OMC to just plumbing codes so it is an all-encompassing education for the area. Mr. Barrett stated that is something that the Board could do to make the plumbers better-rounded.

Mr. Barrett asked if adding the extra hours makes it difficult to retain qualified instructors. Mr. Barry stated that it appears that less education is not necessarily the answer. He speaks to the motivation between the different years. Mr. Barrett stated that his apprentices are excited the first two years, bored the third, and then trying to get it done in the fourth year. Mr. Barry stated that they are trying to revamp the program: tracking student hours better, providing an educational space they are excited, and other things they are excited about. Mr. Barrett stated that he wants to know that the outline that is presented to the Board is not discarded once it was time for implementation. Mr. Barry stated that they are incorporating industry feedback to the program, increased staffing, academic advisors, and curriculum specialists, including having someone who is trained in how to teach math. He stated that they are completely changing and creating the lesson plans for all classes. Mr. Barrett asked if they will be auditing the system once it is in place. Mr. Barry stated that they will be utilizing BlackBoard. Mr.
Barrett asked if they have looked into a make-up day because they are a working trade. Mr. Barry stated they are implementing a waiver that if the employer and student sign they will be able to share information with the employer. He stated that they will be doing more hands on lessons. They are reinvesting in the faculty support and training. He stated that the data provided by Jim guides the direction they are going. He stated he would prefer having this conversation more than once a year.

Ms. Ptacek stated that she met with Jim then with the instructors and CEO/President and examined their program. They’ve come up with a variety of programs to help with their deficiencies. She stated that they’ve hired a Master Plumber to teach math for plumbers. They’ve looked at how to get them motivated and using Jim’s classes as hours through ABC so they have that option, thus improving how they do. They’ve hired a Master Plumber to teach ADA and someone to update their plans. Mr. Barrett asked if they incorporate computers in their program. Ms. Ptacek stated that they did in the past but not anymore that it was detrimental to the students because they miss classroom opportunities. She stated that in regards to MUD they hope to get someone from MUD in to teach the classes. They will be incorporating more hands-on activities and lessons. Mr. Wonder told her to describe how they plan on training the teachers. Ms. Ptacek stated they want to send their teachers to workshops or seminars on how to teach.

Mr. Estabrook stated that the Board has been in favor of reaching out beyond the trade to help with teaching as long as it supports what they will need to know as a plumber.

Mr. Woodard stated that they send their instructors to a seminar. Mr. Barrett asked that given that they have more advantages than the other schools, why they are not getting better outcomes. Mr. Woodard stated that they get other certifications as well so they are not teaching just to the Omaha Code.

Mr. Wonder stated that in his classes he will have some kids he can’t give enough information to and others who take more time. He recounted that someone couldn’t finish one part of a three part test as a fourth year student. He asked how a student like that gets to be in the fourth year. He asked if there are classes or opportunities to help those at different levels. Mr. Barry stated that in moving to the online system it will offer different opportunities to be successful.

Mr. Wonder stated that when he gave the exams, the only instructor that stayed with the group was Mr. Woodard. He stated that there was even time to go over the plans and what the code stated. Mr. Wonder stated he’s put classes on for instructors to teach them how to teach the Omaha Plumbing Code. While he understands other plumbing codes should be part of the curriculum, it should reflect that in the scores. Mr. Barrett stated that when Mr. Wonder is going above and beyond, to not even have an instructor there is disrespectful. Mr. Barry stated that he knows that the issues were there, but in September things will be different. Mr. Estabrook stated that he understands the frustration of wanting something done but that it needs time to be implemented. Mr. Barrett feels like they are being stolen from as employers paying for the classes. Mr. Barry stated that they had a meeting with their staff and addressed some things.

Mr. Barrett stated that he wanted to see a more detailed curriculum online. Mr. Woodard stated he can’t print out their curriculum as it is proprietary information.

Mr. Pat Wonder appeared asking about students being able to attend Jim’s class for credit towards their schooling. Mr. Barrett stated that he would have no problem, but that would need to be approved. Mr. Salem stated that they would need to approve ABC, since that is who proposed it, with Jim as an approved instructor for their school, not just approving Jim to teach classes for credit. Mr. Barrett stated he wouldn’t mind having Jim be an option as credit.

Mr. Woodard asked what happens when Jim moves on. Mr. P. Wonder stated that he has apprentices who double up their schooling hours by going to Jim’s class and school, causing him, as an employer, to pay even more for their education. Mr. P. Wonder stated he would send his apprentices to whichever school would allow for that. Mr. Woodard stated his concern is the stigma that you have to take Jim’s class to pass the test. Mr. P. Wonder took issue to that comment.

Mr. Wonder – CEU Sign-in sheets
- Mr. Wonder stated that he wants to put it in the board policy that the instructors for continuing education classes must supply a typed copy as the pages the individuals sign are illegible.
Motion by Mr. Salem to adjourn. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

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

Motion carried: 6-0, Adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

*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://www.cityofomaha.org/planning/boards/plumbing-board