

CITY OF AUBURN PLUMBING BOARD
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 5:00 PM, MEMORIAL CITY HALL

Present: Frank Siracusa, Greg Gallinger, Joe Donofrio, Steve Bianco

Staff: Brian Hicks, Sr. Code Enforcement Officer

Guest: Brian Honors, candidate for plumbing test.

Frank Siracusa asks for a motion to accept the minutes of September. So moved by Steve Bianco, seconded by Greg Gallinger. All members vote approval. Motion carried.

Questions Brian Honors on ownership of plumbing business.

Brian Honors: Discusses the fact that he has 51% ownership.

Frank Siracusa: States that license cannot be sold. You must personally do the work for any permits issued under your license. Cannot draw permits if someone else is doing the work.

Questions number of employees.

Brian Honors: Seven at this time.

Frank Siracusa: If you pass the test we will need a list of all your employees. These employees must be on any job you pull a permit for.

Joe Donofrio: Asks about partners.

Brian Honors: Greater Syracuse Plumbing is partnered with Mr. Rooter.

Frank Siracusa: States the board will break to discuss the application. Also, Mr. Honors must provide official proof of 51% ownership of the company. Something with the City seal.

Brian Honors: By law I could not activate a master's license without proving 51% ownership.

Frank Siracusa: You have only provided a notarized statement. This does not prove through the City that it's true. Anyone could write this up.

Brian Honors: Bond, Schoeneck and King drew up the corporation papers.

Joe Donofrio: That is what we're looking for.

Frank Siracusa: When you come back for the test bring those papers with you. We need something better than this copy, there is no letterhead here, no seal, nothing official.

Joe Donofrio: Something that comes from the attorney who set up the business, not just a notarized statement that anyone can draw up.

Brian Honors: I should be on record as a journeyman with Joe Cheney.

Joe Donofrio: This statement only notarizes your signature, it's not proof that you own the business.

Frank Siracusa: When was the business formed?

Brian Honors: In July.

Frank Siracusa: For the purpose of sewer repairs and water service?

Brian Honors: Yes.

Frank Siracusa: We need a statement from Onondaga that you are the owner.

Joe Donofrio: The qualifications are not in question, we need proof of your ownership.

Frank Siracusa: Provide the proof at the test. We will notify you of the time.

Steve Bianco: I have received complaints from Class B license holders concerning water installations; workmanship has not been up to par.

Frank Siracusa: Find out if Carl inspected them and go from there.

Steve Bianco: Class B installed the water line and it's leaking. City installed the water meter. The owner was told to have a plumber fix it. The owner won't let the plumber back in the house. It's leaking at the connection before the meter. Could not have been a licensed plumber. It's a very poor job. Address is 4 Howard St.

Joe Donofrio: Questions contractors signing permit prior to issuing building permits – contractors have to be listed.

Brian Hicks: Often the problem is funding which won't be released until the permit is issued. Also, they may not have hired sub-contractors yet. We do explain that these need to be provided once known. Legally we can't hold a permit if the plumber or electrician is not listed at the time.

Joe Donofrio: What can we do to increase fines?

Brian Hicks: We need to get Council approval.

Frank Siracusa: Carl spoke with you concerning Empower?

Alicia McKeen: Someone did come in for a permit, I'll have to look it up. (permit issued to O'Connor-Lane 9/11/14)

Joe Donofrio: How did it pass inspection? No backflow was installed.

Brian Hicks: Will look into it tomorrow.

Steve Bianco: Who did Oak Creek?

Greg Gallinger: Me, I need to pull the permit still.

Joe Donofrio: People come in to clear drains who are not registered. If there's a problem there is no recourse.

Brian Hicks: Drain cleaners are not required to have a license and insurance. They really need to be registered so we know what work is being done in the city. There is so much that should be changed. Codes and requirements are constantly evolving. We spend 90% of our time chasing people down. It is hard to be pro-active. Our current staffing does not allow it at this time.

Joe Donofrio: It is also our responsibility to turn anyone in who is working without benefit of a permit.

Brian Hicks: Others require licensing and registration. It would be easy to add drain cleaners.

Greg Gallinger: They should also have to pay a registration fee.

Brian Hicks: Agrees.

General discussion of permits and requirements.

Frank Siracusa: Will check with Carl to set up the exam.

Next meeting is December 9, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Recorded by Alicia McKeen