

City of Auburn Plumbing Board

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 4:00 PM, Memorial City Hall

Present: Seth Jensen, Greg Gallinger, Joe Sliwka, John Sanford, and Vinny Klino

Seth Jensen: Alright we will open up to the Public to be heard.

Public: A recent company did all this work and they never pulled a permit.

Seth: This the location on Chapel St?

Joe Sliwka: Yes, I did discuss this with Codes and we have not been able to get there as of yet to go there and do an inspection. It is on our list to go there and look.

Seth: I know that we found that this address has a sewer lateral that is going to a storm drain. We have extended the sewer on Chapel St. This has always been going that direction since it was a nunnery. Lets hope they get a permit to tie into that soon so we can get the work done properly.

Public: No Backflow there either.

Joe: Ok, I will look into that.

Seth: Lets approve the meeting minutes. All those in favor, approved.

Joe: Old Business, Greg and myself reviewed Graeme's exam and he received a passing grade of 70. Never heard from Greg Stevor. He has not called me back to review his test. Graeme will be in the next couple weeks to sign papers for his license. As for the oil separators I talked to the DEC and they said it's our jurisdiction for oil separators, like a FOG program. We have not had a plan for this so I want to give the Town of Sennett a call and see what they do for oil separators.

Seth: I wonder if Steve Selvek has any input on this as he works on these types of projects with the City. Before we have a program created, we need to have this incorporated into the City Code.

Greg: Even in a house, if you want a floor drain you need to add a grease separator in there as well.

Joe: Lastly, I was comparing fee schedules to other Cities/Towns and we have some fees that are spot on and other fees we are behind on fees schedules. I will like to work on this for next budget year. Also, I printed off the new Plumbing Code books which include the council approved changes. That's all I have for old business.

Seth: If I was to go online will I be able to find the updated Code Book on there?

Joe: It should be but I will double check with Chuck Mason.

Joe: I also think that we should keep the date for October for when we give the Plumber Exams, that way Greg and I can plan for the future.

Seth: That sounds good to me.

Joe: New Business, The Master Plumbing Test Number 1 needs review. We need to either remove some questions that are incorrect or pick one answer that is the correct answer. I did reach out to the Plumbing Inspector for Ithaca and he gave me some ideas for our Master Plumbers Exam.

Seth: Have you heard any update on the CAD drawings for the Master Plumber Exam?

Joe: I will get in touch with Engineering and see where they are at with that.

Joe: 74 Mary St, we had an issue with a gentleman digging his own ditch and cutting their sewer line. Did not pull a plumbing permit. Told them they need to pull a permit. They said ok, so I left and came back and the ditch was put back together. Not sure what they did, but basically, we are going to ask them to re-dig so I can inspect. I have the DIG Safe ticket and it states a sewer lateral replacement. The owner stated they would get a permit and they still have not pulled a permit.

Seth: Two pieces to this, one they have to pull a permit which the fine has now doubled. The second piece that this board needs to talk about are fines that were assessed as part of this violation. The other fine was a \$1,000 fine for the owners doing the work and not being a Master Plumber. The owner asked me since the owners did the work can we reduce that \$1,000 fee.

John: The only problem with that is that Joe gave them the opportunity to do the right thing and they chose not to.

Joe: I stopped there at 1:30pm in the afternoon and told them to stop what they are doing and told them they need a licensed drain layer. He stated okay I will take care of it. The homeowner's name was on a DIG safe ticket.

Vinny: He disregarded everything you told them.

Seth: Does it seem the board wants to let it stand as is for the \$1,000 fine? Also, I will like to discuss the regarding the fee schedule is to have it more clearly define that the \$1,000 fine is for the contractor that is portraying themselves as a master plumber. Then if a homeowner does their own work the fine should be less then a \$1,000.

Joe: There is another party like 74 Mary St, which is 21 Grove Ave. This property has a shared service line with 19 Grove Ave. as one house is behind another. I had to put a stop work order in as he his digging his own trench for a new water and sewer line. I told him he needs to pull a permit and dig the drench to be 4ft deep. Currently he has not pulled a Permit and he did not call in a DIG safe ticket. 19 Grove Ave has called a contractor and is splitting their own lines. We are trying to eliminate the shared services within the city.

Joe: Lastly, I want to talk about pex and shark bites. We had a homeowner call a "contractor" and this owner put all this money into his house where this "contractor" used pex and shark bites. The homeowner gave me the evidence that this person did this work and we will be able to fine this "contractor" a \$1,000 fine. I didn't know if we wanted to add pex and shark bites into our code.

John: Manufacture for a shower states that you have to use copper.

Joe: Maybe in the future we can add this into the code where people should not be using pex and/or shark bites and it has to be copper in an enclosed wall.

Seth: Are we ready for Homeowner's to come in to take the exam?

Joe: Yes, anyone can come in and ask to take the exam.

Motion to adjourn made by Greg, seconded by John. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion Carried

Recorded by Crystal Nevidomsky