

City of Auburn Plumbing Board

Wednesday, Oct 27 at 4:00 PM, Memorial City Hall

Present: Seth Jensen, Joe Donofrio, Scott DeJoy, Greg Gallinger, Joe Sliwka

Seth Jensen: Calling this meeting to order, is there are any edits to the minutes of Wednesday September 18, 2021? There being none, the minutes are accepted and approved.

Seth Jensen: No Public to be heard so we can move on with Old Business. One of the questions we had from the last meeting was that you had to be a Journeyman to do work on a project.

Joe Sliwka: Yes, I found it in the code under P810-2. We had a gentleman here last meeting and had a question about this.

Seth: So the answer is yes, the person does need to be in possession of a Journeyman's licensing.

Joe S.: Journeyman should be on all jobs is my understanding. So basically you can't send 3 Apprentices on a job to do work if the Master can't be there. There has to be a next guy in charge if the Master can't be there. That is the answer I was going to give Mr. Stafford if he was here today.

Seth: Have you reached out to Mr. Stafford?

Joe S.: I assumed he was going to be here today, I will touch base with him by the end of the week.

Seth: New Business will be Mr. Lovetts application for review. Joe S. have you had a chance to review it?

Joe S.: I have not had a chance to review his application in full. Since I am new to this I was going to ask the board for some assistance regarding a new Master Plumber candidate for the city.

Seth: Currently the name of the company he works for is Erie Mechanical.

Joe Donofrio: I spoke to the owner of Erie Mechanical, and he is more than qualified for this as he has his 5 year Apprenticeship and 5 year Journeyman.

Scott DeJoy: I'm sure he is qualified, but we need to double check his paperwork and make sure he has all documents attached for approval.

Seth: In order to allow Mr. Lovett to take the exam he will need to provide two more years of apprenticeship. Once he provides us with the information we can move forward and schedule the exam. Has there been anyone else interested in the exam?

Joe S.: I did hear Isaac was going to be but haven't seen an application come through, so not at this time.

Scott: Going back to old business about the Journeyman, I don't see how a Master Plumber could not rely on an Apprentice to do such a job. The code in my opinion states if you are a Journeyman you will need to prove it.

Greg Gallinger: I always thought an Apprentice had to be with a Journeyman

Seth: To me it's saying you can't send someone to a house without a Journeyman license.

Scott: I think you can send out an Apprentice plumber to do service work without a Journey man. Since a service guy is a one man show.

Joe D: Agreed, I think that is the way that it is written but that person should be a registered Apprentice.

Joe S: Another question was do you have to be a Journeyman to perform work under a licensed plumber?

Joe D: False, because you can be an Apprentice under a Master Plumber. In the future we should probably change our code to follow other cities on the way they approach Apprentices and Journeymen. Also another change that should be made to the plumbing code is when a Master Plumber is deceased and you should not allow the deceased Master Plumber pull permits up to two years. It was changed and voted on by the board in the past. This time span should be six months not two years. The biggest complaint was having a Master Plumber out there that is no longer with us pulling permits for two years.

Seth: If that is validated, Joe S. double check with Corp Council because I am not sure if the Plumbing Board has the authority to change the Plumbing Code. We may have to bring this up as recommendations to City Council to approve.

Seth: With the respect for an Apprentice, it should fall on the Master Plumber in whether or not it stands up properly as long as they are registered.

Joe D.: Both the Journeyman and Apprentice should be registered with the City of Auburn.

Joe S.: Every January you put together a list of all the Master Plumbers, Journeymen and Apprentices to be registered with the City of Auburn per Codes Department.

Joe D: I think starting January 1st the Plumbing Inspector should start asking Journeymen and Apprenticed for their registration card.

Joe S: I will relay this information back to Mr. Stafford.

Seth: Under new business we have a new Water Meter Service Worker, Tim Clark. He will be certified in Backflow coming in Dec 2021. Joe has been working with Tim to bring him up to speed.

Joe S.: As of right now I am working with Tim Clark and Hairlooms to get a backflow device installed. Once I get the application back I will show Tim how to design it for it to be approved. Side note, I just went a got recertified as a Backflow tester. If Tim Clark is ever out sick I will be able to fill in for him.

Seth: Next on the list, Terms of office.

Joe S.: I will just like to know how the Terms of Office works.

Joe D. Well you get appointed by the mayor.

Seth: You can speak with Rhonda Miller as she is the one that keeps this information which will include when the Plumbing Board Member's term is coming up. Also, I will like to talk about Residents taking a test to be able to do their own plumbing in their home. Has there been a test in place for Residents?

Joe S. Yes, I found the test after I cleaned out my office.

Joe D.: When Joe S. and I sat down about a week ago we discussed the Master Plumber Exam, Journeyman Exam and the Residential Plumbing Exam. The Master Plumber exam is ready to go, as for the Journeyman and the Residential Plumbing Exam they need to be redone as the test is over 35 years old. The code information is also outdated. Joe S. and I are working on updating the 2 tests to 2020 standard code.

Seth: Is that something you both can have done by the middle of next week?

Joe D.: Yes, I think so

Motion to adjourn made by Seth, seconded by Joe. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion Carried

Recorded by Crystal Nevidomsky