

City of Auburn Plumbing Board

Wednesday, September 13th 2023 at 4:00 PM, Memorial City Hall

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

Seth Jensen: Calling this meeting to order.

Seth Jensen: Is there any Public to be heard? Yes.

Public (1): My name is Anthony Cliampi and I received a letter stating a fine that I received from the City for doing my own plumbing at my rental property at 41-43 Parker St. I am looking for a reduction as this \$1,000 fine for working without a license went to my taxes of 2022. I paid Bianco plumbing to come in and finish the rest of the work and he paid the permit fees.

Seth: How long did it take to come into compliance?

Public (1): 11 days later.

Seth: Thoughts?

Greg: He came in to compliance with it.

Vinny: He did the correct thing by taking care of the issue.

Seth: Thank you, the Plumbing Board will discuss and we will send you a letter in the mail with the verdict.

Public (2): Hi, my name is Lauren Lapp and Nick Schrader and we are with the Finger lakes Action Agency. We are here for the work being done at 12 Wallace Ave.

Joe: I did a stop work order for the house as there was not a Permit issued for the new water heater and furnace that was being installed by the Finger Lakes Action Agency. They did stop the work and call Bianco to complete the work. They are here to discuss the fines.

Public (2): We are a non-for-profit agency and we work in low-income family homes strictly. We are federally and state funded. We go into these homes and verify that they are eligible for the program and we look into any type of home efficiency savings that we can do. We do about 200 jobs a year. Are primary reason for replacing hot water tanks is when we run into health and safety issues with the tank. Unfortunately, it did not pass safety inspection so we had to replace it. We don't typically do plumbing but this one replacement came with a different type of grant. We received the stop work order and called a plumber to complete the work. We are just hear trying to help people.

Joe: The fine for them is \$1,150.

Seth: Do you guys traditionally do your work yourself or sub it out?

Public (2): Yes, that is correct we do it ourself unless if its something we cannot do.

John: Who pays the permit fee?

Public (2): We have the funding for the permit fee we just can't afford the fine. If we knew ahead of time, we could have billed the permit into the cost of materials or labor.

Joe: Thank you, the Plumbing Board will discuss and we will send you a letter in the mail with the outcome.

Public (3): My name is Carl Pipolo I will like to put an application in for a master plumbing test. I spent the last couple of months putting together what I do have. As for my documents all I have is my paychecks stubs from 2007 showing my hire date. W2's for 2012,2014 & 2016 and Journeyman cards for 2013,2015 & 2017. I also have a letter from the Ithaca Plumbing Inspector for my years from 2018-2022. My previous employer Halco can't send me any of my journeyman cards. I currently work for myself.

Joe: I told Carl to come today to plead his case since the Plumbing Board is very strict with having the journeyman cards. Any questions?

Seth: What type of plumbing do you do now?

Public (3): Currently residential only

Joe: Alright, the test will be given on Oct 30th at 8am at City Hall. I will let you know what the board discusses.

Seth: Please scan all your information over to Joe so the Board can Review it.

Public (4): Hi my name is Louie Yacht. I am looking to take the drain layers license. I worked many years with Fran Cunningham. I been there for over 20 years. I help Bianco out quite a few times as well.

Joe: The drain layers certification background is five years of being apprentice and experience required. Applicant must have proof of their insurances as well. Please have Fran send us documentation of your experience and your time at the job. Any questions you can also call the Codes Enforcement Office. Once all documents are completed, we can move forward.

Joe: That concludes Public to be heard.

Seth: Overview: Anthony Cliampi code violation for 2022, fixed the problem 11 days later. Thoughts?

John: He took care of it quickly, remove the fine but if he gets caught again, he will get fined the second offense.

Greg: He did fix it quickly.

Vinny: He stepped up and made that property up to compliance.

Joe: I will call him and tell him we will wave his \$1,000 fee but any additional incurred fees he will be responsible to pay those.

Joe: Onto the Action Agency.

Vinny: Bianco is the one who pulled the permit and completed the job. They didn't know so I say wave the fee.

John: I say we do it the same way with the previous one mail them a letter stating if this happens again, they will pay a fine of the second offense.

Joe: OK, we will waive the \$1,000 fine and the permit fee of \$150 will be on them. The letters for these will be attached to their file.

Joe: Carl for master plumbers' exam. Thoughts?

John: I know when I couldn't get my cards, I was able to verify it with my W2's.

Vinny: In this case you can verify he was doing the work.

John: I told Carl to get as much paperwork as he could.

Seth: I'm fine with it as long as we can see all his documents

Joe: I will reach out to Carl and email over his information once I receive it.

Joe: Next, Louie Yacht.

Seth: As long as he submits his information and proves to us that he has experience doing that work then he can take the drain layers exam.

Joe: Agreed.

Seth: Ok lets get a motion to approve our meeting minutes from last meeting. Motion by John and second by Greg. All those in favor. I. Pass.

Joe: Old Business, non-compliance/breakdown permits issues and stop work orders have been coming in regularly and if they don't comply, I send the homeowner a stop work order.

Seth: Have you had that conversation with Codes regarding the Kitchen/Bathroom Remodels where they would have to pull a plumbing permit?

Joe: Yes, Codes stated that other counties around here will not issue building permits without the permit pulled for the plumbing first. Our process is the owner just writes down the name of the plumber that should be doing the work. Codes stated we need to talk to Jeanie about it since we haven't done this in the past.

Seth: Yes, lets plan a meeting for that.

John: Agreed at least for a permit for kitchen, bath and/or whole house.

Joe: I did mail out the letter to the large apartment complexes here in the city.

Joe: Also, clear primer can be used under cabinets and purple primer can be used underground.

Joe: New Business, add floor drains to the sanitary line.

Seth: Not allowed to do.

Joe: Can we use the Foam Core PVC?

Vinny: Everything but underground but don't recommend.

Joe: I get a lot of questions about this as they sell it at Lowes and Home Depot.

Seth: What are your guy's opinions on small fixtures? If you don't have to do any plumbing you are just threading or turning the valves. They still have to pull a permit but the homeowner is able to do it their self. This was just a thought that we can revisit in the next meeting.

Joe: I rather lower the fine then give the homeowner the ability to install their own toilets.

Joe: I have so far 3 people interested taking the Homeowners Exam and Oct 30th Monday at 8am I will be giving the all 3 exams at City Hall.

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

Recorded by Crystal Nevidomsky