

Meeting Minutes: Plumbing Board

Date: April 17, 2018
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Minutes by: Lyndy Logan
Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55117-4344

Members

Tom Andresen
Jeff Brown – via teleconference
Michael Dryke – via teleconference
Grant Edwards (Vice Chair)
John Flagg
Mike Herman
Rick Jacobs (Chair)
Larry Justin
Phillip Sterner (Secretary)
Cathy Tran (DLI Commissioner’s Designee)
David Wagner
David Weum (DOH Commissioner’s Designee)

Members Absent

John Parizek

DLI Staff & Visitors

Suzanne Todnem (Gen. Counsel, DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
Jim Peterson (DLI)
Charles Olson (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
John Roehl (DLI)
Gary Thaden (MMCA)
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training)
Mike Johnson (J-Berd)
Tim Power (MNLA)
Gary Schick (City of Rochester)
Matt Marciniak (IAPMO)
Ryan Imel (AYPO) – via teleconference
Stephanie Menning (MUCA)
Gary Ford (Metro Testing)
Trevor Ogilvie (City of Minneapolis)
Jay Saari (Minneapolis Local 15)
Larry Johnson (MNLA)
Nate Blaylock (Hayes Mechanical)
Jim Gander (PHCC)
Brian Soderholm (Soderholm/WaterControl)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobs at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was taken by Secretary Sterner and a quorum was declared with 11 of 12 voting members present in person or via teleconference and one non-voting member. Introductions and housekeeping announcements were made.

2. **Approval of meeting agenda**

A motion was made by Justin, seconded by Sterner, to approve the agenda with the addition of item B as shown below in italics. The roll call vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor; the motion carried.

6. Special Business

- A. Review draft of proposed amendments to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4716 – Plumber Licensing and Apprentices Registration for possible rulemaking
- B. *Legislative Update*

3. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

- A. A motion was made by Sterner, seconded by Flagg, to approve the January 16, 2018, regular meeting minutes as presented. The roll call vote was 10 votes in favor with 1 abstention; the motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Justin, seconded by Herman, to approve the March 12, 2018, special meeting minutes as presented. The roll call vote was 8 votes in favor with 3 abstentions; the motion carried.

4. **Regular Business**

Approval of expense reports – Jacobs approved the expenses as presented.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. **Department Updates**

- Tran said the 2018 UPC was mailed to all of the Board members.
- Tran announced that this would be Jim Peterson's last meeting; he is retiring in July 2018. Tran and other members thanked Jim for his expertise.
- Todnem announced that Wendy Legge's last day at DLI will be May 1, 2018.

B. **Executive Committee**

The Committee met this morning and approved the Plumbing Board agenda with the changes noted above.

C. **Construction Codes Advisory Council**

Edwards said they have not met. Todnem said the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) met and will bring a report forward to the CCAC meeting scheduled for June 21, 2018.

D. **Inspection Uniformity Committee**

Sterner stepped down as Chair and recommended Edwards take the role. Edwards accepted and Sterner said he would stay on the Committee as Vice Chair. Edwards said he will be responsible for taking minutes and would set a meeting in May 2018. Edwards said the goal of the Committee is to explore the issue of having a different plumbing code for each jurisdiction in the state. Edwards will look into what can be done to provide consistency to inspections.

6. Special Business

A. Review draft of proposed amendments to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4716 – Plumber Licensing and Apprentices Registration for possible rulemaking. This item will be tabled until after the Ad-Hoc Code Review and Rulemaking Committee meets again. The Committee will bring this forward to the next Board meeting.

B. Legislative Update

Todnem said the Board previously voted to have Chair Jacobs submit a letter to legislators indicating that Board members opposed the proposed legislation that removed the requirement that backflow prevention rebuilders and testers be licensed plumbers. Chair Jacobs submitted the letter. The legislation has not moved forward; it is inactive but Todnem is still monitoring.

7. Complaints

Nothing to report

8. Open Forum

Gary Simmons, Pipe Masters, Inc., addressed the Board regarding uniform code enforcement.

There should be someone that can make an over-riding decision, or a form that can be submitted, in order to bring a complaint forward if there is a dispute with an inspector over a code interpretation. If the inspector or jurisdiction, whether a private or city inspector, is incorrect there should be a way to bring this forward to the Board.

Jacobs directed Simmons to submit a Request for Interpretation by visiting the Department's website at: <http://www.dli.state.mn.us/Pb.asp>. Jacobs said that the Board will respond within 30 days. Todnem noted that individual Board members cannot make interpretations – they can only give their opinion. When an RFI is received, the first part of the process involves consulting with the Department.

Gary Thaden, Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association, reminded everyone of Minnesota Statutes 1300, Board of Appeals, to hear local disputes regarding code interpretation.

9. Correspondence

The department received an incomplete RFI regarding access to expansion joints. The RFI was more of a request for an approval of a product. The RFI, once complete, can be addressed by the Board.

10. Board Discussion

None

11. Announcements

Next regularly scheduled meetings in 2018 – all meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Minnesota Room. The Executive Committee meetings occur at 8:30 a.m. prior to each regular meeting in the Minnesota Room.

- A. July 17, 2018
- B. October 16, 2018

The Inspection Uniformity Committee and the Ad-Hoc Code Review & Rulemaking Committee will meet prior to the next Board meeting.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Edwards, seconded by Justin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. The vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Sterner

Phil Sterner, Board Secretary