

**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING  
BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Date:** February 18, 2016  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** 500 N. Calvert Street  
Room 302  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Members Present:**

Michael Kastner, Chair  
Jon Garner, Board Member  
Gregory Schott, Board Member  
Joseph Radtka, Board Member  
Charles Kruger, Board Member

**Absent:** Keith Horton, Board Member

**DLLR Officials & Staff Present:**

Robin Bailey, Executive Director, Mechanical Boards  
Sloane Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
Raquel M. Meyers, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Diane Kastner, MDPHCC  
Dick Wagner, J. Richard Wagner PE LLC  
Jon Sargeant, Joyce  
Jim Berndt, Jim's PTH  
Dale Troll, Local Union 486  
Ron Lord, IAPMO

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair, Michael Kastner, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to Order at 10:47 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA**

Upon Mr. Radtka's Motion, and Mr. Garner's second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon Mr. Kruger's Motion, and Mr. Garner's second, the Board unanimously entered into Executive Session, pursuant to § 3-305 (b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, at

10:48 a.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, in order to consider advice provided by Counsel regarding license applications. Upon completion of the session, the Board convened to the public meeting at 11:10 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The members reviewed the findings of the minutes of the Executive Session held on February 18, 2016. Upon Mr. Radtka's Motion, and Mr. Schott's second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the findings of the Executive Session minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on January 21, 2016. Upon Mr. Schott's Motion and Mr. Garner's second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

The members reviewed the minutes of the Executive Session held on January 21, 2016. Upon Mr. Kruger's Motion and Mr. Schott's second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the findings of the Executive Session minutes as written.

### **COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Radtka presented the following report on behalf of the Complaint Committee:

#### **PLUMBING COMPLAINTS**

<b><u>Closed Complaints</u></b>	<b><u>Investigation</u></b>
Plum-150061	Plum-160010
Plum-150073(63)	Plum-160026
Plum-150097	Plum-160031
Plum-150100	Plum-160034
Plum-160029	Plum-160040
Plum-160037	Plum-160052
Plum-160038	Plum-160053
Plum-160044	Plum-160054
Plum-160045	
Plum-160047	
Plum-160049	
Plum-160050	
Plum-160051	

Upon Mr. Schott's Motion, and Mr. Garner's second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Complaint Committee report.

### **REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for January, 2016:

<b>Plumber</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	5	3	2	60%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	10	2	8	20%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	0	0	0	0%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	12	7	5	58%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>44%</b>

Ms. Bailey reported that 27 candidates were tested in January, 12 passed, 15 failed with a 44% passing rate. Since January 2016, the passing rate is 44%, and since the inception of the test the overall passing rate is 36%. There are currently 12,860 active licensees.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Tracer Wire Update**

Mr. Schott stated that he requested comments from the Board regarding questions submitted at the January 21, 2016, meeting regarding tracer wire legislation. After a brief discussion of the questions and answers, Mr. Kastner asked Mr. Schott whether it is his intent to have these questions and answers posted on the Plumbing Board website. Mr. Schott responded “yes” and AAG Kinstler urged the Board not to refer to SB 401 any longer because the legislation passed in a previous legislative session and, instead, to refer to the affected statutory provision as set forth in Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, § 12-129. Mr. Schott stated that he will revise the questions and answers and redistribute at the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Kastner thanked Mr. Schott and Mr. Radtka for their exemplary work on this project.

#### **B. Plumbing Code Review Update**

Ms. Bailey stated that the concept paper for the 2015 Plumbing Code update is currently being reviewed by the Secretary’s Office. She will keep the Board updated as to the status of the regulations.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. MPMIA**

Mr. Radtka stated that he attended the Maryland Plumbing and Mechanical Inspection Association (MPMIA) training on February 17, 2016, in Annapolis, MD. Mr. Radtka provided the names of individuals who attended the seminar, 2016, as follows:

Darrell Smith	Vic Hines	Larry Schuyler
Dave Herwig	Tom Buckley	Joseph A. Radtka
William Funk Jr.	Steve Fox	Bruce Henkle

Upon Mr. Radtkas’ Motion, and Mr. Schott’s second, the Board unanimously approved the 2.0 hours of CEU’s for the February 17, 2016, MPMIA training seminar.

Mr. Radtka stated that the following topics were discussed at the MPMIA training, including:

1) The James Wenham Scholarship - since 2013, there have not been any applicants applying for the scholarship, which affords individuals interested in the plumbing trade the opportunity to obtain apprenticeship and training school. Mr. Radtka urged those interested to apply for the scholarship.

2) Backflow course providers - Mr. Radtka inquired as to how many jurisdictions have a backflow program. Mr. Kastner stated that backflow programs are handled by each County and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Mr. Schott stated that Cecil County and Hartford County do not have a backflow program but the local townships have a backflow program. Mr. Kruger stated that Worcester County has a backflow program. Mr. Kastner suggested that Ms. Bailey contact MDE regarding the requirements for Counties to have a backflow program. Mr. Kastner stated to Ms. Bailey that he will assist her with the language to send correspondence to MDE. Mr. Kruger suggested the language can be found in the Safe Water Drinking Act.

3) Reciprocity with the District of Columbia - Mr. Radtka inquired on behalf of a local jurisdiction why the Board does not reciprocate with the District of Columbia (DC). AAG Kinstler stated that, in the past, the Board contacted the DC Board to inquire about its interest in reciprocal licensing with Maryland, but did not receive a response. Mr. Radtka suggested to the Board to reconsider sending correspondence to the DC Board in the near future. AAG Kinstler also suggested that staff contact the WSSC to ask whether the WSSC has reciprocal licensing with DC.

4) Legionnaire's in plumbing systems - Mr. Radtka stated that there was a brief discussion about the potential sources of Legionnaires' disease bacteria (LDB), which included primary sources of exposure to contaminated water in commercial and industrial facilities that are water-cooled, heat transfer systems such as cooling towers and warm water sources such as domestic hot-water systems.

In conclusion, Mr. Radtka announced the next MPMIA training seminar, which will be held May 6 – 8, 2016, in Ocean City, MD.

## **B. Senate Bill 831/Senate Bill 643**

Ms. Bailey informed the Board about two bills that have been introduced in Annapolis. Senate Bill 831 - State Board of Plumbing – State Plumbing Code – Adoption and Enforcement, would require the State Board of Plumbing to adopt the National Standard Plumbing Code as the State Plumbing Code. Senate Bill 643 – State Board of Plumbing – State Plumbing Code – Adoption International Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes would require the State Board of Plumbing to adopt as the State Plumbing Code the 2015 International Plumbing Code and the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code.

It is unclear at this time whether the Department will take a position on these bills.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Backflow Course Approval**

Ms. Bailey stated that correspondence was received by Scott Schott regarding completion of the 32 hour course of backflow instruction for Jeff Kossiakoff on February 1, 2016. Mr. Schott asked the Board to allow the course to be approved for the continuing education hours required for Plumbing Inspectors. Upon Mr. Kruger's Motion, and Mr. Radtka's second, the Board unanimously voted to accept the 32-hour course completion for the required CEU's for Jeff Kossiakoff.

**B. Backflow Course Provider**

Ms. Bailey stated that correspondence dated January 29, 2016, was received from Scott Dickens asking to be approved and placed on the list of cross connection and backflow education providers. Mr. Dickens stated that he received his instructor certification as of January 29, 2016, from the University of Florida TREE Center. Mr. Dickens included a copy of his certification for the Board to review. Mr. Kastner requested Ms. Bailey to provide Mr. Dickens with a copy of the backflow regulations and to inform him that he will be required to send additional information for the Board to review before he can receive final approval as an instructor.

**C. Working in Maryland**

Ms. Bailey stated that correspondence was received on January 29, 2016, from Jim McElroy, COO of Mason Dixon Contractors, LLC, regarding working in Maryland. Mr. McElroy stated that Mason Dixon Contractors is a Pennsylvania site contractor and underground utility contractor looking to work on a few private property projects in the Hunt Valley, MD area. They would be required to install 6” ductile iron water line and 6” sewer line on private property. Mr. Kastner stated that Mr. McElroy should contact Baltimore County for a response. Mr. Kastner requested Ms. Bailey to inform Mr. Elroy that the Board does not have jurisdiction over the project.

**D. Water pump/well disinfection procedure**

Mr. Garner addressed the issue of plumbers changing a water pump without disinfecting the well. The Board discussed issue and said that local health departments require a well to be disinfected after the pump has been replaced.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

There is no Counsel’s report offered.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

There is no Chair’s report offered.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

There is no Director’s report offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon Mr. Garner’s Motion, and Mr. Kruger’s second, the Board unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 11:57 p.m.

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Michael Kastner, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Without Corrections \_\_\_\_\_

With Corrections \_\_\_\_\_