



**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Date: July 18, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1100 N. Eutaw Street
First Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(In person for Board Members and Staff)
Held via Video Conference
meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo
By Phone via Teleconference
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

Members Present: Joseph Radtka, Chairman
Gregory Schott, Industry Member
Leif Hancock, Industry Member
Hayward Hinkhaus, Industry Member
Craig Stokes, Industry Member

Absent: Keith Horton, Vice-Chairman, Industry Member
Robert Parker, Consumer Member
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

LABOR Officials & Staff Present: John Bull, Executive Director, Mechanical Licensing Unit
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer III

OTHERS PRESENT: Wayne Fishpaw, Pipe Trades Technology

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joseph Radtka called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:33 a.m.

By Mr. Hancock's motion, and a second by Mr. Schott, the Board of Plumbing unanimously adopted the July 18, 2024, meeting agenda by a roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Hancock to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024, Plumbing Board meeting without amendment, seconded by Mr. Hinkhaus, and, by a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

PLUMBING COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Schott reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

<u>Closed Complaint</u>	<u>Under Investigation</u>	<u>Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge</u>	<u>Criminally Charged</u>
23-0050	24-0030	24-0038	
24-0063	24-0034		
	24-0040		
	24-0041		

Upon a motion by Mr. Hinkhaus, and a second by Mr. Hancock, the Board voted unanimously, by a roll call vote, to approve the Complaint Committee’s report.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for May and June 2024:

May:

	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	1	0	1	0%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	41	19	22	46%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	3	1	2	33%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	19	10	9	53%
TOTAL	64	30	34	47%

June:

Journey Natural Gas Fitter	135	4	1	80%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	37	18	19	49%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	2	1	1	50%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	15	5	10	33%
TOTAL	59	28	31	47%

Director Bull further reported that since January 2024, 400 candidates were tested, 157 candidates passed, 243 failed, for a pass rate of 39%. Since the inception of the test, 11,575 candidates were tested, 4,197 candidates passed, 7,378 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 13,762 active licensees.

CORRESPONDENCE

None to consider.

OLD BUSINESS

Climate Solutions Act of 2022:

Chairman Radtka reintroduced a discussion on the Climate Solutions Act of 2022 (“Act”), stating the Secretary Wu issued a report on the Dept. of Labor’s stance regarding the Act and asked if any of the Board members had read it. Chairman Radtka encouraged the Board members to read the report and stated that he would try to distribute it to the members.

Code Adoption:

Chairman Radtka noted that the Board had voted to approve the 2021 codes and questioned when they would go into effect. Counsel stated that the Board would need to wait until Director Bull returned for the next Board meeting to obtain an answer. Chairman Radtka question when the PSI exam would be changed to reflect the adoption of the new codes, and Counsel again stated that Director Bull would need to provide that update.

Counsel stated that regarding code adoption, the Complaint Committee to use caution when reviewing complaints alleging code violations, and possibly allow discretion, if warranted, when an action was permissible under the 2018 code but not the 2021 codes. Chairman Radtka stated that he would bring her recommendation up at the next Complaint Committee meeting.

CSST:

Chairman Radtka informed the Board that he and Director Bull attended a meeting with Frederick County on CSST. He requested that the item be placed under Old Business on the August meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Radtka introduced Ms. Kimmya Crawford, the new investigator for the Mechanical Licensing Unit. He welcomed her to the Board.

Mr. Hancock raised a concern brought to his attention alleging that Wicomico County may not be inspecting gas piping, with County or third-party mechanical inspectors and is leaving inspection to the gas purveyor. Mr. Schott referred Mr. Hancock to the International Fuel Gas Code §104, pertaining to duties and powers of a Code Official, requiring such inspections.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Thornton read Director Bull’s report stating that he wished to inform the Board that PSI, Inc. had approved a Spanish language version of the exam and that he would inform the Board when the exam was available.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

Counsel did not offer a report.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Chairman Radtka informed the Board that he would keep the Board of any CSST updated and asked everyone to stay safe in the heat.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not convene in a Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Mr. Hinkhaus’ Motion, and Mr. Hancock’s second, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Signature on File

8/15/24

John Bull
Executive Director

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on: 8/15/24