

**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING
BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

Date: March 17, 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

Absent: Keith Horton, Board Member
Charles Kruger, 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
Dale Troll, MDPT

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair, Michael Kastner, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to Order at 10:38 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon Mr. Radtka'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 10:43 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 11:08 a.m.

APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The members reviewed the findings of the Executive Session held on March 17, 2016. Upon Mr. Radtka’s Motion, and Mr. Garner’s second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the findings of the Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The members reviewed the minutes of the Business Meeting held on February 18, 2016. Upon Mr. Radtka’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 February 18, 2016. Upon Mr. Radtka’s Motion, and Mr. Garner’s second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Executive Session minutes as written.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

PLUMBING COMPLAINTS

<u>Closed Complaints</u>	<u>Investigation</u>	<u>Pre-Charge</u>
Plum-130016	Plum-160052	Plum-150038
Plum-160036	Plum-160055	Plum-160010
Plum-160040	Plum-160057	Plum-160031
Plum-160053	Plum-160058	Plum-160028
Plum-160054	Plum-160060	
Plum-160056	Plum-160062	
Plum-160059	Plum-160063	
Plum-160061		
Plum-160064		
Plum-160065		

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 February, 2016:

Plumber	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	2	0	2	0%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	15	6	9	40%

Master Natural Gas Fitter	2	0	2	0%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	11	1	10	9%
TOTAL	30	7	23	23%

Ms. Bailey reported that 30 candidates were tested in February, 7 passed, 23 failed with a 23% passing rate. Since January 2016, the passing rate is 33%, and since the inception of the test the overall passing rate is 36%. There are currently 12,877 active licensees.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Tracer Wire Update

Ms. Bailey stated that the Board had previously made revisions to the responses to tracer wire questions during the February 18th Board meeting. On February 22, 2016, Mr. Schott forwarded the revised responses to the Board via e-mail. Ms. Bailey stated she would post the questions and answers on the Board website. AAG Kinstler advised Ms. Bailey to reference the existing provision, Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, § 12-129 on the website instead of the prior session bill number because the legislation passed last session. AAG Kinstler requested that the Board revise two statutory references, question #8 should be § 12-129(b)(3)(i) and question # 9 should be § 12-129(b)(3)(ii).

Upon Mr. Radtka’s Motion, and Mr. Schott’s second, the Board unanimously voted to approve the revised tracer wire responses for publication on the Board website.

B. Plumbing Code Review Update

Ms. Bailey stated that there was a hearing held in the Senate on February 25, 2016, regarding Senate Bill 831 and Senate Bill 643. There was no update on either bill at this time. Ms. Bailey suggested that Board staff put this topic on the agenda under old business for next month’s Board meeting.

C. Backflow Course Providers

Mr. Kastner stated that the topic of annual backflow testing and training conducted at the county level was discussed during the February Board meeting. Mr. Kastner asked which agency had authority to conduct county backflow inspections and training. Mr. Radtka stated that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Anne Arundel County have programs and that Charles County requires all testable backflow assemblies (including those used on irrigation systems) to be tested annually. Charles County has a list of plumbers registered with the County to perform backflow testing. Mr. Kastner asked Mr. Radtka how an owner receives backflow reports from Charles County. Mr. Radtka stated that the installer is expected to report to the owner and the owner may obtain a report through the County. Mr. Schott stated that Harford County only requires backflow testing for new construction or renewals. Harford County does not require any annual inspection, generally. Mr. Kastner expressed concern about the importance of regular inspections and enforcement and cross connection/backflow provisions to avoid serious injury. Mr. Kastner requested that further discussion be deferred to next month’s meeting.

D. Reciprocity

Ms. Bailey stated that Maryland does not currently have a reciprocal licensure agreement with the District

of Columbia. Ms. Bailey stated that the Board had requested that she follow-up on this matter at the previous Board meeting. She stated that she could pursue reciprocity if the Board has an interest. Ms. Bailey further stated that the Maryland State Board of Plumbing does not reciprocate a reciprocated license. AAG Kintsler clarified that an applicant's verification letter should state that the individual had passed a substantially equivalent license examination upon demonstration of compliance with substantially equivalent pre-license requirements to qualify for an examination waiver and a State license through reciprocity. Mr. Kastner asked Ms. Bailey to add a question to the online application asking the applicant to confirm that he or she had taken a license exam in the jurisdiction from which the applicant seeks a license exam waiver for a reciprocal license. Ms. Bailey stated that she will ask the DLLR IT Department if such a change will be possible and what the cost would be. After a brief discussion, the Board determined not to pursue reciprocal licensing with the District of Columbia at this time.

E. Grind2Energy Product Approval

Ms. Bailey stated that Grind2Energy provided the Board with a response regarding the Board's request for additional information in order to evaluate the company's request for permission to install their system in Maryland. After a brief discussion, Mr. Chastener suggested that the company should contact the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Health Department. He also opined that the water connection would require a plumbing permit. Mr. Kastner referred to Ms. Bailey to contact Grind2Energy to inform them that this request is not within the Board's jurisdiction.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business offered.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence offered.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

There was no Counsel's report offered.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's report offered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bailey stated that she did not have any report, but wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Mr. Garner's Motion, and Mr. Schott's second, the Board unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Michael Kastner, Chair

Date

Without Corrections _____

With Corrections _____