

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & TRAINING
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PLUMBERS**

1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg 70, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Cranston, RI 02920

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

9:00am

In attendance:

Lionel Bernardino

Larry Giorgi

Jeffrey Hutton

Michael Newman

Michael Raposa

William J. Riley, Chair

Anthony Cardarelli and Richard Mandarinini were not in attendance.

Also in attendance were E. Patrick Luther, Chief Plumbing Investigator; Ron DiAmbruoso, Administrator; Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director, and Sean Fontes, Executive Legal Counsel.

1.) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:09am by William J. Riley, Chair.

2.) Minutes of December 18, 2012: Michael Newman made a motion to accept the minutes of last months meeting; seconded by Larry Giorgi and passed unanimously by the Board.

3.) Conflict of Interest: Sean Fontes, Executive Legal Counsel, reminded the Board of their responsibility to disclose conflicts of interest. There is a brief discussion.

4.) Violation Appeal Hearings: None

5.) Legislation: The Board, along with Ron DiAmbruoso, Administrator; Joseph Degnan; Assistant Director; and E. Patrick Luther, Chief Investigator, discuss legislation.

Continuing Education: The Board has a discussion on Continuing Education in Rhode Island. Michael Newman addressed the Board regarding a conversation with Jack Leyden, Building Commissioner for the State of Rhode Island, regarding continuing education for plumbers who had no objections and thought it a good idea. The Board is exploring adding Continuing Education. There were many issues discussed: number of continuing education hours; submitting of legislation; process of introducing the legislation; time frame to introduce legislation; process of continuing education (ie sponsors, classes).

Michael Raposa addressed the board regarding Massachusetts use of

IAPMO with Continuing Education. Discussion continues.

Leo Bernardino recommends contacting Connecticut regarding their program.

Ron DiAmbruoso states there will probably be a lot of discussion on the topic and recommends a subcommittee be formed to look into the matter. Mr. DiAmbruoso believes the legislation would need to be by February 14th. Due to timing, it may be too late for this year but should be started now if that is what the Board wishes to do.

Bill Riley addressed the Board regarding Massachusetts and IAPMO and recommended reaching out to Massachusetts.

ICC code revisions are discussed and when the education would be done referring to the three year code cycle. Timing is a concern. The new code change should take affect July 2013.

Pat Luther recommends forming a subcommittee. Michael Newman recommends the Board try to expedite it as best they can as there are a lot of code changes this year.

Pat Luther also recommends using Mr. Riley's contacts and have Gordon MacEwan of IAPMO addressed the Board at a later date to see what their process entails. Larry Giorgi inquires of Legal Counsel if there is a need to contact more than one company for input. Sean

Fontes recommends the board use due diligence and get the broadest and most information they can. Since this is an exploratory stage, Mr. Luther recommends reaching out to the gentleman from IAPMO first, and then reach out to other states at a later date.

There is a discussion regarding instructors and how they will be determined and their requirements. Discussion continues.

A motion was made by Larry Giorgi for Bill Riley to contact Mr. MacEwan, IAPMO, and seconded by Leo Bernardino. There is a discussion. Michael Newman makes an amendment to the motion to form a subcommittee either today or in the near future. There is a discussion. Pat Luther recommends hearing Mr. MacEwan before a subcommittee is formed as there are board members not present at today's meeting. For clarification Larry Giorgi restates the motion. Larry Giorgi makes a motion to have Mr. MacEwan, IAPMO, come and advise the Board on the parameters of setting up a curriculum for continuing education for journeymen and master plumbers in the State of RI. Mr. Giorgi also adds irrigators to the motion. The motion is seconded by Leo Bernardino. The motion passes unanimously by the Board.

Michael Newman withholds his amendment until Mr. MacEwan comes in.

Discussion continues. Mr. Riley inquires if a subcommittee should be

formed now. Leo Bernardino expressed concern for fairness to those board members not present to listen to Mr. MacEwan as it affects the entire industry without the entire Board present. For the sake of informational purposes, Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director, recommends the Board have Mr. MacEwan come to an official Board meeting where it is put on the agenda and all members have official notice and an option to come. Discussion continues. Bill Riley asks if he should ask if he should also ask someone from Massachusetts or Connecticut to come as well. Discussion continues. It was recommended to look at information from other states first.

Apprenticeship Program: Currently there are two apprentice programs for plumbers; one administered by Patrick Luther and one administered by the State Apprenticeship Council (SAC). There are differences between the two programs. Apprentices in Mr. Luther's program working on Prevailing Wage projects need to be paid journeyman wages. Verification of schooling is not required upon renewal under Mr. Luther's program where the SAC requires enrollment in schooling at registration and upon renewal.

Discussion continues. Mr. Luther recommends researching the number of current apprentices in his program to see how many would be affected. It may be advantageous to eliminate the program administered under RIGL 5-20 and have it turned over to the SAC. The program Mr. Luther administers was originally created through the Department of Health before licensing was moved to this

department.

Mr. Riley inquires if this will require legislation to move the apprentice program under RIGL 5-20 to the SAC.

Sean Fontes addressed the Board. Discussion continues. Legal will take a look at the legislations to see what avenues are possible.

Leo Bernardino suggests researching the difference between the two programs to assist the Board. Mr. Luther refers the Board to the Departments website regarding the SAC law.

Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director, recommends Bernie Tremi, Supervisor of Apprenticeship, be put on the agenda for next month to speak to the Board and have Mr. Luther and Mr. Tremi prepare the program differences.

6.) Testing Questions: Pat Luther addressed the Board and recommends tabling the matter until the new code takes affect and then ask the board members for input on compiling an item bank of test questions. There is a discussion. Leo Bernardino asks Michael Newman to be a liaison to Jack Leyden for the board members and Mr. Luther to attend a class on the new code changes.

7.) Apprentice Approvals - Apprentice Registrations

„X Ethen Cruz Joe Delicio MP002225

„X Haashim Bee Guy Clermont MP001377

E. Patrick Luther confirms that all apprentices are in order. Michael Newman made a motion to accept the apprentice approvals / registrations; seconded by Michael Raposa and passed unanimously by the Board.

8.) Adjournment: Michael Newman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jeffrey Hutton and passed unanimously by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 10:07am.