

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Tom Burke
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **January 7, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

The meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers was held on **January 7, 2013** and was called to order at **3:45**.

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.		x
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

Meeting minutes from the 12/3/12 meeting were reviewed. Bob Handzel motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Art Monaco. Approved 5 – 0.

Old Business:

Tom Costello confirmed \$2.300 was budgeted for moving future plumbing exams through Prometric and the item is now closed.

Discussions continued on changing classifications of plumbing licenses and the review of the State-Wide Texas code. Both items discussed at the November meeting still remain open.

The reduction of board member's pay was discussed. Art Questioned what the cut was. Tom Costello was asked to let the Board know.

The letter to the licensed plumbers in regard to rescinding reciprocity of Oneonta licenses will remain shelved until the board establishes a uniform standard for all three boards.

New Business:

The Board discussed qualifications for those applying for a Master Plumber's license. The Binghamton Board was asked to establish said qualifications to be reviewed and accepted by the Johnson City and Endicott boards so all three would work from the same standard. It was agreed that our requirements would be amended as follows:

Applicant to serve a five (5) year New York State approved apprentice program and prove one (1) year Journeyman experience

Or

Prove seven (7) years experience in plumbing field and pass a Journeyman's exam.

Bob Handzel motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was accepted by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for **February 4, 2013 at 3:45.**

There being no further business before this Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing Inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
 From: Tom Burke
 Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **February 4, 2013**
 Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

The meeting of the Examining Board of Plumbers was held on February 4, 2013 and was called to order at 3:50. The meeting was moved to the DPW conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, to accommodate additional Licensed plumbers in attendance. Additional sign in sheet attached.

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel	x	
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke	x	

The minutes from the 1/7/2013 meeting were reviewed. Fred Meagher motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Art Monaco. Approved 5-0.

Old Business:

The reduction of the board member’s pay was discussed. The revised rate is established at \$33.33 and the revised pay vouchers were handed out.

Discussion will continue on changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas code.

The letter to the licensed plumbers in regard to rescinding reciprocity of Oneonta Licenses was discussed at length and subsequently proved to be the main topic of the meeting due to the large number of plumbing contractors in attendance

Collectively this group of contractors, who are also licensed Master Plumbers in the City of Binghamton, have requested the immediate suspension of these licenses held by Christopher Bodek (License #906), Kevin Sheldon (License #908), and Tom Testa (License #907). Their request is based on the way that each licensee obtained their initial license from the City of Oneonta and subsequently used that license to obtain a license in the City of Binghamton.

Tom Costello explained that he had been advised that legal considerations may preclude this action. He went on to explain, however, that the City of Binghamton Board is currently drafting an amendment of current local law that will address deficiencies and strengthen various aspects of the licensing process.

During discussion, the Board reiterated their consensus that a standardized approach, similar to that used in the state of Texas code, will improve the qualification and testing process. When a draft has been completed by the Board, it will be reviewed and amended with Endicott / Johnson City's boards to establish a uniform standard for all three municipalities.

The group of contractors, which included Rick Holden, Joe Leto, John Piccirilli, Karl Eschbach, and Bob Auchinachie, asked why Binghamton didn't follow suit with Oneonta's letter to our plumbers stating their licenses for Oneonta would not be renewed.

In response, the Board explained that said letter from office of the Oneonta City Clerk was dated October 5, 2012. Because the renewal date in Binghamton is September 30th, each of those licenses, that had originated in Oneonta, had already been renewed prior to the above-described action.

Tom Burke stated that it was his understanding that said licenses would not be renewed for 2014 following suit with Oneonta's letter. Tom Costello replied it was his understanding that Corporation Counsel would support this type of action.

Tom Burke brought up that at last month's meeting the board established qualifications for taking the master plumbers test were as follows.

Applicant to serve a five (5) year New York State approved apprentice program and prove one (1) year Journeyman experience

Or

Prove seven (7) years experience in plumbing field and pass a Journeyman's exam.

Karl Eschbach wanted it clarified that if the applicant takes said journeymen's exam a full year of work under such title would be required prior to taking master plumbers exam.

New Business:

Renewal of Brad Davis's License #71 (attached) was brought to the board per section 109.3 of our local law (attached). His license was originally issued 11/10/87 and was renewed once on 12/6/88. Brad said he didn't renew his license because he's been steadily employed by union contractors since 1988 and never had any need to obtain work under the license. L.N. Picciano and Son requested that Brad renew his license in the event that Wayne Howard stepped down they could continue to work under Brad's license. The board agreed to grant said renewal if Brad would re-apply for a license and provide a list of his employment since 1988. After receipt of said information the board would set a fee for the renewal cost.

Tom Burke presented (Attached) a response from Cheryl A. Fischer, P.E., Assistant Director for Code Interpretation regarding connection of pex tubing directly to a gas fired water heater. .She listed several responses. Mainly that per the manufacture 18” of hard piping is required between Pex™ tubing and the top of the heater and that manufactures specs will trump code. The Board requested this information be sent to all licensed plumbers.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was accepted by Art Monaco and approved 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 4 2013 at 3:45**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004

Building Examining Board of Plumbers
Inter-Department Correspondence

To: Plumbing Board Members
From: Art Monaco
Subject: Minutes of Meeting of **March 4, 2013**
Copies: Mayor Ryan, Corporation Counsel, Luke Day, and File

Member	Present	Absent
Rudy Gaspar	x	
Frederick J. Meagher, Jr.	x	
Robert Handzel		x
Art Monaco	x	
Tom Costello	x	
Tom Burke		X

The minutes from the 2/4/2013 meeting were reviewed. Fred Meagher motioned for their acceptance. Motion was seconded by Rudy Gaspar. Approved 4-0. Meeting minutes were not sent to the additional guest (Licensed plumbers) in attendance.

Old Business

Additional information requested by the Board at the February meeting was reviewed in regard to Bred Davis's request to renew his license (C.O.B. #71). It was agreed to allow 5 years in arrears to make up license renewal. $\$55.00 \times 5 = \275.00 would be set. Tom Costello to check with the Corporation Counsel to verify it's legal.

Discussion will continue on Binghamton's Board standardizing qualifications for master plumber License testing for review and eventual acceptance by the Endicott / Johnson City boards.

Discussions will also continue on Changing classifications of plumbing licenses, and review of the state-wide Texas Code

New Business:

Tom Costello stated future meeting minutes are to be made public and will be posted on the new web page.

Prometrics will be approved by Binghamton City Council and will be offered in Binghamton. The joint board has not formally agreed to use Prometrics.

Tom Costello will ask Tom Burke to call other municipalities to see if they have a practical fit up test for the plumbing exam.

Tom made motion to specify that we consider Prometrics to provide a Master License Test. The motion was seconded by Fred Meagher and approved 4 – 0. Formal discussion will be at next meeting.

Fred Meagher motioned for a meeting adjournment. The motion was seconded by Tom and approved 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

The next meeting is scheduled for **April 1 2013** at **3:45**

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Burke
Plumbing inspector
772-7004