

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE PLUMBING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

February 14, 2013

The North Dakota State Plumbing Board met on February 14, 2013 at 1:15 p.m., in the Congress Room at the Ramada Hotel, 1400 East Interchange Avenue, Bismarck, ND, President Lon Drevecky presided.

Board members present were Jason Dirk - Journeyman Plumber, Lon Drevecky - President, Wayne Kern – Vice-President/State Health Department and Howard Wrigley – Master Plumber.

Board member Heather Jones – Consumer Member was absent.

Staff members present were Brent Beechie - Secretary/Chief Inspector, Kimberley Tomanek - Business Manager, Scott Samuelson – Field Inspector and Ken Dahl – Field Inspector.

Others present were Lon Lessard – North Dakota State School of Science, Ken Slag – Western Steel, Mike Fitzgerald – Western Steel, Logan Dochter – Mandan, Travis Gregg – HA Thompson & Sons, Dan Dietz – Mulcahy Company, Darrell Zaback – City of Minot, Jim Geer – City of Minot, Jeff Klemetsrud – Klemetsrud Plumbing & Heating, Clarence Kuntz – Mandan Northwest Pipe, Mike Birrenkott – Industrial Contractors, Jay Cofell – Cofell’s Heating Plumbing Excavating, Inc., Jim Fristad – Lunseth Plumbing & Heating, Mark Zander – Mandan Plumbing & Heating, Michael Marback – Advanced Mechanical, Mark Thompson – H.A. Thompson & Sons, Ron Lord – IAPMO, Gerald Richard – Metro Plumbing Company, Dean Staska – City of Fargo, Jack Skaley – Bismarck, Jerry Hoffarth – Lunseth Plumbing & Heating, Jordan Singer – City of Bismarck, Marvin Dahle – City of Bismarck, Brady Blaskowski – City of Bismarck and Ray Ziegler – City of Bismarck.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD MEMBERS, NEW STAFF AND REORGANIZATION

President Drevecky introduced each board member, providing a brief background of each individual and the position they hold. Mr. Drevecky also announced Jack Skaley’s retirement and explained the reorganization of the North Dakota State Plumbing Board staff.

President Drevecky continued by introducing the new Secretary/Chief Inspector, Brent Beechie, and the new Business Manager, Kimberley Tomanek.

Mr. Beechie discussed who the current field inspectors are and areas they currently cover. He also talked about the plans for possibly hiring another full-time Field Inspector in the next year or two.

Ms. Tomanek explained the plans for developing a website so licensees can apply, renew and request certificates online, purchase code books, access frequently asked questions, verify licenses and pay fees with a credit or debit card.

President Drevecky concluded by saying that Laurie Walcker remains as the Administrative Assistant for the North Dakota State Plumbing Board staff.

MINUTES

President Drevecky called for the consideration of the minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting.

MOTION: Howard Wrigley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting as received. Wayne Kern seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with board members Dirk, Drevecky, Kern and Wrigley voting in favor.

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND BUDGET

President Drevecky called on Ms. Tomanek to review the Financial Statements and Fiscal Year to Date Budget.

Ms. Tomanek presented the Financial Statements and Fiscal Year to Date Budget.

MOTION: Jason Dirk made a motion to approve the Financial Statements and Fiscal Year to Date Budget as presented. Howard Wrigley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with board members Dirk, Drevecky, Kern and Wrigley voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Proposed Minnesota Continuing Education Requirements

President Drevecky called on Mr. Beechie to explain the proposed Minnesota continuing education requirements.

Mr. Beechie said that Minnesota is currently in the process of adopting the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code. He went on to say that Minnesota licenses their plumbers on two-year cycles and are proposing to require sixteen hours of continuing education every two years, starting in 2014. Mr. Beechie stated that currently North Dakota honors reciprocity with Journeyman and Masters with Minnesota, and vice-versa, but they may require more than three hours every two years of continuing education, that is required by North Dakota. He added that the board has approved three online continuing education courses and will credit the hours.

REPORTS

Department of Health Lead Ban Update

President Drevecky called on Mr. Kern to provide an update on the Lead Ban.

Mr. Kern presented a brief summary of the history of lead, lead poisoning, the Safe Water Drinking Act, Public Water Supply and Federal Lead Ban. He explained that the reduction of lead in U.S. Federal Public Law 111.380 was signed into law on January 5, 2011. This law amends the current Lead Ban under Safe Water Drinking Act and becomes effective January 4, 2014. This law revises the definition of lead fee for pipe, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and

fixtures. Mr. Kern said it is proposed to go down from the current 8% to .25% and that it is based on the weighted average with respect to what it surfaces. This will primarily affect brass or bronze and could be the demise of those sorts of materials in current use. He stated that it is unclear on how these new provisions are going to be implemented. Mr. Kern went on to say that there should be some federal guidance in 2013 to answer questions. Beginning in January 2014, there will be some new limits in what can be used in plumbing and that applies to piping, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures and it has to meet the new lead free definition. He continued by saying that to prepare for this, now is the time to update product inventory with compliant products. Mr. Kern concluded by saying that the lead ban changes will continue to be implemented through the North Dakota State Plumbing Code and amendments have been provided to the North Dakota State Plumbing Board for consideration to make the code compliant.

Private Septic Systems

President Drevecky called on Mr. Kern to review the information regarding private septic systems.

Mr. Kern explained that currently there is not a regulated statewide program for onsite sewage disposal, instead, if it is regulated, it is done by the local public health units. He went on to say that there are several issues because there are 17 counties that are not covered by a local public health unit and this creates lack of uniformity of standards, training and certification of installers and creates an unlevelled playing field across the state. Mr. Kern added that the NDCC Chapter 62-03.1-03 is in need of updating to recognize new technology and current practices. He said that the State Health Department was asked to draft a bill that would transfer the authority and responsibility for dealing with private onsite systems to the State Health Department. The bill has been drafted with a fiscal note. Mr. Kern explained that the bill defines what a septic system is, differentiates small and large septic systems and defines septic system installer. It would also require that the State Health Department develop and implement a statewide program to certify and train installers. He went on to say that it also requires the State Health Department to review and approve all large septic systems and the local jurisdiction would be required to review and approve all small septic systems. There are also some provisions for inspections, authority, fees and enforcement allowed for the State Health Department to administer the program. Mr. Kern stated that it is Senate Bill 2307 and the hearing was held on February 7, 2013 and is currently with the Committee on Appropriations.

Inspectors from Local Jurisdictions

Mr. Drevecky called on attendees, Mr. Dean Staska – City Fargo), Darrell Zaback (City of Minot) and Brady Blaskowski (City of Bismarck) to report on plumbing issues and work within their jurisdictions. Mr. Lon Lessard, North Dakota State College of Science, shared information on the schools program. Mr. Drevecky thanked the State and City Inspectors and Mr. Lessard for the information provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Drevecky recognized Jack Skaley for his dedication to the State of North Dakota and the North Dakota State Plumbing Board and presented him with a plaque.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Howard Wrigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Dirk seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with board members Dirk, Drevecky, Kern and Wrigley voting in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m., to meet again in June, 2013.

Attest _____

President

Vice-President

Master Plumber

Journeyman Plumber

Consumer Member