

IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Thursday – October 6, 2016 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2016 MEETING

NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Matt Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m. (MDT)

Board Members Present:

Matt Gardner, Chairman
Gilbert Pond, Vice-Chairman
Rick Garrett
Debbie Oberhofer

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator, Administration
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Fred Sisneros, Financial Manager
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Chris L. Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Supervisor
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Support

◆ **Open Forum**

CWU Attendance – Steve Bennett, Plumbing Program Coordinator, College of Western Idaho (CWI), stated there are 240 plumbing apprentices currently enrolled in the CWI Plumbing Apprenticeship Program. The number reflects both classroom and on-line students.

Cross Connection – Bill Arnold, Cross Connection Specialist, City of Lewiston, was concerned should the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) be adopted, contractors would not be able to install double check valve assemblies in irrigation boxes. For clarification, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) manual can be used for the next year and double checks will still be allowed.

Another concern is a valve open in the ground would be subject to flooding without any backflow device other than a meter and possibly a dual check. If approved at the 2017 legislative session, section 603.5.17 *Potable Water Outlets and Valves* will be removed from the new code and contractors will be able to use stop and waste valves underground.

City and County Concerns – Brian Peltzman, Meridian Plumbing, questioned why a city would require two permits, one for plumbing and one mechanical for venting, to change out a tank-style water heater to a tankless water heater. In statute, a plumber can run all associated venting to the water heater if doing the entire job; however, through an ordinance, a city may elect to implement a plumbing enforcement program greater than what is required by the state of Idaho. The Division does not have jurisdiction over the city in question; therefore, Mr. Peltzman will need to contact the city directly.

◆ **Approval of October 6, 2016 Agenda**

The Compliance Program Supervisor had a training session in the early afternoon. Therefore, a request was made to move agenda item seven *Compliance Program Report* in front of agenda item five *Automated CEU System*.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the agenda with the change. Rick Garrett seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of July 19, 2016 Minutes**

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Debbie Oberhofer seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of August 25, 2016 Special Minutes**

MOTION: Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Gilbert Pond seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Schedule 2017 Board Meetings**

The 2017 Idaho Plumbing Board meeting dates are as follows: February 16th, May 18th, July 27th and October 12th.

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to approve the following 2017 board meeting dates: February 16th, May 18th, July 27th and October 12th. Gilbert Pond seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The 2017 Plumbing Board meeting dates will be placed on the Division's board calendar and website.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Supervisors and inspectors were acknowledged for assisting with complaints. The Compliance Program Supervisor continues to search social media for non-compliant individuals and check licenses at job sites.

◆ **Automated CEU System**

The Division is in the process of automating continuing education units (CEUs). An outside carrier will keep track of licensee's CEUs at no cost. The identity of each individual will be by license number only.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Statute Rewrite – For 2017, the Plumbing Program Manager would like to discuss the following statute rewrites: 1) Idaho Code § 54-2602 *Exceptions*, 2) License fees and 3) \$2,000 bond requirement.

Backflow Prevention – This issue was addressed earlier in the meeting under the title *Cross Connection*. It was suggested to get rid of the AWWA manual since the standard for backflow prevention on plumbing systems is already in the Idaho State Plumbing Code. There will be discussions throughout next year on the backflow side of the UPC.

Schooling Requirements – The Division has discussed with the Career and Technical Education (CTE), formally known as Professional Technical Education, on how they manage components of the plumbing education programs. In statute, the Board has control of standards and procedures, rules for examinations, qualification and certification of plumbing contractors, journeymen and apprentice plumbers and continuing education requirements for journeymen and plumbing contractors.

Rather than continue to come to the Board for permission to make changes to curriculums, etc., the CTE will approach the Division over the course of the next year in hopes there will be statutory provisions to address this situation.

Contractor Exam – Board Member Pond has received numerous complaints that the contractor exam is based on business-related topics only. It is Board Member Pond’s desire to revisit this issue and for the exam to have more questions specific to the trade.

Board Member Garrett requested a copy of the current exam. The Division is unable to provide the test; however, the Plumbing Program Manager will get a copy of the *Contractor’s Business and Law Reference* manual to Board Member Garrett.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager will provide Board Member Garrett with the *Contractor’s Business and Law Reference* manual.

IAPMO Conference – In September, the Plumbing Program Manager attended the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials 87th Annual Education and Business Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Reports – The following reports were reviewed: 1) Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts, 2) Plumbing Notice of Violations/Civil Penalties Issued and 3) “Verification” Inspections by Inspectors.

◆ **Operational Report**

Legislation – The following proposed statute and rule changes will be presented at the 2017 legislature: 1) Board pay from salary to honorarium, 2) Standardization of HVAC and electrical provisions, 3) Contractor civil penalties, 4) Refunds and transfers of permits, 5) Idaho Plumbing Code updates and 6) 16,000 hours of work experience in lieu of 8,000 hours and four years of schooling for out-of-state plumbers.

A temporary rule on shower/threshold requirements was not allowed by the Governor's office; however, it will move forward as a pending rule.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – Financial Manager Fred Sisneros reviewed the Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 financial statement, as of August 30, 2016. Board Member Garrett noted an absence of revenue for June (FY16). The Financial Manager explained the revenue, approximately \$300,000.00, was in the Division's general "holding" account; however, the Division missed the end of the calendar month deadline to transfer the revenue into the Board's fund. The revenue was posted in July. There was further concern this error would impact fiscal year-end and future projections. The DBS has discussed this issue with The Division of Financial Management and changed its procedures to ensure this does not happen again.

Personnel - The Division has requested an additional compliance officer in the budget proposal. If approved, the individual will be located in the Meridian office.

A Tale of Two Cities – A comparison of the FY 2008 and FY 2018 budgets was provided. The approved budget in FY 2008, and the requested budget for FY 2018, was/is a little over \$14 million dollars. Compared to 2008, the Division is doing more with less employees.

◆ **Old/New Business**

There was no old/new business to discuss.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. (MDT).

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

02/28/2017rb