

IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD MEETING

Thursday – October 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene
155 North Maple Street, Blackfoot

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2021 MEETING

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

Chairman Matt Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. (MDT)

Board Members Present:

Matt Gardner, Chairman
Gilbert Pond, Vice-Chairman
Rick Garrett
John Kierce
Bob King

DBS Staff Members Present:

Ron Whitney, Administration
MiChell Bird, Bureau Chief
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General, Telecon.
John Nielsen, Plumbing Program Manager
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Josh Nyman, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

There were no new concerns from the industry, cities, or counties to address under open forum.

◆ **Approval of the October 28, 2021 Agenda, May 20, 2021, and June 9, 2021 (Special) Meeting Minutes**

On the May 20, 2021 draft minutes, third paragraph on page two, Board Member Gilbert Pond noted the minutes reflect the questions asked regarding finances; however, does not reflect the answers. Administrative Assistant 2 Renee Bryant will review that portion and include the answers in the minutes.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 minutes with the exceptions noted, and June 9, 2021 special minutes as written. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to approve the October 28, 2021 Agenda as presented. Bob King seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Schedule 2022 Board Meetings**

The proposed meeting dates for 2022 are: January 20, March 17, May 19, and September 15, with the understanding once the Division moves to the Chinden Campus, any conflicts between the Building, Construction, and Real Estate Bureau board meetings will be rescheduled. Board Member Rick Garrett suggested in addition to the proposed 2022 meetings, the Board tentatively schedule meetings the third Thursday in February, April, June, and July, to work on the board's

rules through Zero Based Regulations and negotiated rulemaking process. The Administrative Assistant 2 will schedule meeting invites with the Board and staff.

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to approve the proposed regularly scheduled meetings, as well as the additional tentative meetings on February 17, April 21, June 16, and July 21, 2022. Bob King seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Zero Based Regulation**

Plumbing Program Manager John Nielsen explained Zero-Based Regulation is a measure to look at every rule and ask whether it's overly restrictive, is it creating an unnecessary burden or duplicative of statutes and are the benefits of the rule being realized. In addition, Plumbing Program Manager provided a summary of the nine zero-based regulation townhall listening sessions held throughout the state of Idaho in August 2021. Transcripts of the nine meetings are posted on the Division's website. Topics discussed were:

- Permit Expiration and Fees – Basically, every permit becomes null and void if work has not commenced within 120 days and a contractor or homeowner would pay half the amount for a new permit. Ideas were to make a permit good 365 days and if expires after that will pay a \$65 reactivation fee.
- Continuing Education Units (CEU) – Industry is 50/50 on whether to eliminate CEUs.
- Practical Exams
- One Year Apprentice Registrations – Electrical & HVAC went back to a one-year registration for tracking purposes.
- Instate Vs. Out-of-State License Requirements – Provide instate people the same options as out-of-state people.
- Direct Supervision of Apprentices – Some contractors want direct supervision while others want to be able to let their apprentices go out on their own.
- Testing Requirements – Currently, if someone does not pass the journeyman exam after six months, they are required to go back to school and take fourth year over.
- Idaho State Plumbing Code Amendments

Plumbing Program Manager Nielsen made it perfectly clear journeyman and contractor licenses, as well as apprenticeship programs, will not be going away.

Although the townhall listening sessions have concluded, the Division is still accepting comments, as it wants to hear from industry, board members, and various stakeholders on anything within the rules that are overly restrictive or unnecessary.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

NOV Activity & Journeyman First Exam Reports – Steve Bennett, College of Western Idaho asked, and Plumbing Program Manager Nielsen explained, Treasure Valley Community College is

on the report but combined with Idaho State University. The two colleges will be split and have their own columns in future reports. As far as the NOV activity, the Plumbing Program Manager is in discussion with a sprinkler person up north that has \$15,000 worth of fines for not having his backflows tested.

Inspections – In July, August, and September, the Division had 12,661 plumbing inspections throughout the state of Idaho.

Clearwater County Fire-Permits – In September 2020, the Board moved to waive the permits fees with the understanding the property owners would still need to take out a permit, get inspections and meet all life safety standards for the trades. At this time, no one has claimed a permit for plumbing; however, two have been taken out for electrical and one for HVAC.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Permit Activity – The Division’s permit activity continues to be 19 percent above 2020 activity.

Retirement – Former Administrator Ron Whitney announced his retirement at the end of December 2021.

DOPL Update – It is estimated the move to the Chinden Campus will be July 1, 2022.

Financial Report – Currently, DOPL is in the process of putting together their financial team. It is anticipated team members will attend board meetings in 2022 and provide a full update on where it stands with the board’s financials. Board Member Garrett’s concern is it’s been almost a full quarter into FY 2022 and with all the vast resources the Board has not received any reports on its funds. The Division has been reassured the funds are accounted for and are not going away.

◆ **Adjournment**

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Gardener asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: John Kierce made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Gardner adjourned the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

MICHELL BIRD, BUREAU CHIEF
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

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