

**IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Wednesday - July 22, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. (MT)

**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
1118 F Street, Lewiston (DEQ)
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls (DEQ)
900 North Skylines, Suite B, Idaho Falls (DEQ)**

*NOTE: The following report is not 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 9:34 a.m. (MT).

Board Members Present:

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

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
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Supervisor
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Chuck Knapp, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Kevin Gellings, Regional Supervisor, Region 2
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

◆ **Open Forum**

Water Pump Specialty License - Baldomero Guzman's, Guzman Mechanical, application for a water pump plumbing specialty contractor license was originally denied by the Division as he did not provide the necessary documents required in the special grandfathering provision. Therefore, Mr. Guzman came before the Board to ask for approval.

The special grandfathering provision, in rule, was read. A Customer Resource Team (CRT) member apprised the Board of the Division's documentation on file for Mr. Guzman. No decision was made by the Board.

Continuing Education - Kenny Calkins, Treasure Valley Master Plumbers Association (TVMPA) Representative, once again asked the Board to reconsider business-related

continuing education classes for plumbing contractors. Mr. Calkins suggested courses be offered through association meetings and/or classrooms rather than online.

The Chairman acknowledged Mr. Calkins frustration on this issue; however, the Board's position will not allow business-related classes to be approved for continuing education courses.

Water Pump Specialty License (Cont'd) - Lya Guzman stated they have the necessary documentation. It was suggested Mrs. Guzman contact The Deputy Administrator-Operations to discuss and review the paperwork.

License - Gas Pipe Installer - Jeff Patten, Meridian Plumbing, inquired whether a plumbing contractor can permit and install gas piping. The answer is yes; however, some cities might require the plumbing contractor to pull a mechanical permit rather than a plumbing permit.

City and County Concerns - No items or concerns were brought forth.

◆ **Approval of July 22, 2015 Agenda**

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dan Long seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of May 21, 2015 Minutes**

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

◆ **Idaho Statute 54-2608 Revocation of Certificate of Competency--Suspension--Refusal to Renew**

A rewrite of the proposed statute change, to transfer the responsibility for imposing civil penalties and disciplinary matters from the Administrator to the Board, was included in the board packet.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to approve the proposed legislation with the caveat the language, as it pertains to the authority of the Board in Idaho Code § 54-2606(f), be reviewed and refined for clarity. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Water Softener Licensing**

A revised proposed rule, to create a water conditioning and treatment specialty license, was distributed. The proposal allows the water conditioning industry to perform a limited amount of plumbing.

Opposed to the second paragraph in section 07 *Scope of Work Permitted*, Board Member Pond suggested the following verbiage: "The water softener should only be installed from the stub-out that the plumber provides and any alteration to domestic water, drain, waste and vent system must be done by a plumbing contractor as currently states in statute."

MOTION: Debbie Oberhofer made a motion to move forward with the revised proposal distributed at today's meeting. Dan Long seconded. Four ayes and one nay, motion carried.

◆ **School Curriculum**

Daniel Summer, Interim Campus Director, Brown Mackie-Boise Campus; and Christine Knouff, National Director of Strategic Operations, Brown Mackie College-Central Services, made a presentation on a diploma program in plumbing. The one-year program is designed to provide graduates with the skills necessary for entry-level positions in the plumbing and gas piping trades.

At the request of the Board, the topic *School Curriculum* will be further discussed at the October Plumbing Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *School Curriculum* will be placed on the October 16, 2015 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Code Changes -- 2009 UPC vs. 2015 UPC**

The Plumbing Program Manager addressed several changes/additions in both the 2012 and 2015 Uniform Plumbing Codes (UPC). The Board agreed to move forward with the 2015 Code.

Currently, the Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) references the 2009 UPC. To incorporate the 2015 UPC into the ISPC, a proposed rule change is required. The deadline has passed to submit proposals to the 2016 legislature. Therefore, the earliest the revised ISPC would become effective, if approved by the Governor and 2016 legislature, is July 1, 2017.

The following individuals will meet to review the 2015 Code: DBS Plumbing Program Manager; Board Member Pond; Steve Bennett, College of Western Idaho; and Eric Strole, Boise City Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to move forward with providing information on the ISPC adoption of the 2015 UPC. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: The Plumbing Program Manager, Board Member Gilbert Pond, Steve Bennett, College of Western Idaho; and Eric Strole, Boise City Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector will review the 2015 UPC; bringing their findings to the October 2015 Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *Adoption of the 2015 UPC for the ISPC* will be placed on the October 16, 2015 agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Water Pump Specialty Education Requirements**

One of the requirements to become a water pump specialty journeyman is to complete 12-hours of Idaho Plumbing Board-approved, related training classes. At this time, there are no board-approved classes. Therefore, the following ideas were suggested: 1) Rewrite the rule; eliminating the education requirement, or 2) Accept continuing education units (CEUs) related to the trade.

MOTION: Rick Garrett made a motion to allow the Plumbing Program Manager the authority to establish and approve appropriate training. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Specialty Grandfathering**

One of the requirements to become an Appliance Plumbing Specialty Journeyman and Water Pump Plumbing Specialty Journeyman is to complete 72 and 24 hours, respectively, of Idaho Plumbing Board-approved related training. When the Special Grandfathering Provisions were added to the rule in 1999, the training requirements were transposed and the Appliance Plumbing Specialty Contractor and Water Pump Plumbing Specialty Contractor were required to attend school.

The reason behind grandfathering provisions was explained. Board Member Pond is in favor of removing the clauses from the rule.

MOTION: Gilbert Pond made a motion to take the necessary steps to remove the grandfather clauses from the rule. Rick Garrett seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Plumbing Program Manager Report**

Training - In June, the Division provided training to contractors in eastern Idaho.

IAPMO Conference - At the end of September, the Plumbing Program Manager will attend the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) 89th Annual Education and Business Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Reports - The following reports were in the board packet for the Board's review: 1) Plumbing Journeyman Survey; 2) Plumbing Journeyman First Exam Attempts; 3) Plumbing NOV Cases, 2nd Quarter, 2015; 4) "Verification" of Inspections by Inspectors, 2nd Quarter, 2015; 5) "Verification" of Inspections by Inspector Table, 2nd Quarter, 2015; and 6) "Verification" of Inspections by Inspectors Table, Plumbing Only, 2nd Quarter, 2015.

◆ **Operational Report**

Reorganization - The deputy administrators have traded with each other several of their responsibilities within the Agency. The Deputy Administrator, Operations now supervises the program managers and CRT. The Deputy Administrator, Administration oversees the Safety Program, as well as school and government facilities.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Videoconferencing - The concept of using other state agencies' equipment to videoconference throughout the state of Idaho is great; however, the technology is not up-to-speed. The Administrator suggested future board meetings, beginning with the November 12th HVAC meeting, be held via videoconference at the Division's Meridian, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello offices only.

Permits and Revenue - The percentages, year-to-date, for the state HVAC, electrical and plumbing permits and revenue versus the city of Meridian permits and revenue were provided.

Residential Construction - There has been a 14.4% increase in residential construction in the state of Idaho this calendar year versus the previous calendar year. On a per capita basis, Idaho is the fastest growing residential construction area in the United States.

Financial Report - The Idaho Plumbing Board Fund, FY 2015 financial statement as of June 30, 2015, was reviewed.

Reorganization (cont'd) - The Administrator further elaborated on the deputy administrators' role reversals and responsibilities.

Compliance Program - The Compliance Program Supervisor is currently traveling throughout the state meeting with inspectors, local jurisdictions and supervisors; ensuring everyone is notified and on-board with the Division's new program.

◆ **Adjournment**

MOTION: Dan Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gilbert Pond seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. (MT).

MATT GARDNER, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO PLUMBING BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

09/22/2015rb