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DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Illinois State Board of Plumbing Examiners

FROM: Brian W. Cox, P.E., Manager, Plumbing & Water Quality Program

SUBJECT: Illinois State Board of Plumbing Examiners Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2020

Attendance and Meeting Location

The meeting began at 1:36 p.m. on January 14, 2020 at the UA Local 137 Springfield Plumbers & Steamfitters Training Association, 2880 East Cook Street, Springfield, Illinois.

The following were in attendance:

IDPH Staff

Brian W. Cox, P.E., Manager, Plumbing & Water Quality Program
Rhonda Hawkins-Jackson, Plumbing & Water Quality Program
Darrah Dunlap, Plumbing & Water Quality Program
Ben Collette, Plumbing & Water Quality Program
Tina Cordova, Plumbing & Water Quality Program
Jeremiah Deakin, State Plumbing Inspector
Richard Hughes, State Plumbing Inspector
Greg Hunt, State Plumbing Inspector

Examining Board Members

Robert Schafer, Chairman
James Brinkman
Robert Dennison
Thad Ellet
Doug Pursell
Phil Roknich

Guests

Andy Fuchs – Springfield Plumbers & Steamfitters
Bev Potts – IL PHCC
David Dertz – Public – IPIA
Reginald Coutant – Public – IPIA

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Schafer introduced himself and welcomed everyone. A roll call was performed, and quorum established.

Motions

- No motions made.

Discussion Items

- Robert Schafer opened the floor for public comment; individuals from the Public introduced themselves (Bev Potts, David Dertz, Reginald Coutant).
- Two previous examinees (apprentices) and their sponsor met with the Board earlier in the day to discuss failure of previous exams. Discussed how having the individuals meet with the board at 8:30 a.m. worked well and the next meetings will be scheduled at that time also.
- Exam results and statistics for retakes of individuals whom have met with the board were discussed.
- A request to have the Illinois Plumbing Exam Dates loaded to the IDPH events page has been submitted for approval and processing.
- Discussed how the provided no hub cast iron fittings for examinees were a success. The Board discussed the supply list will need to be changed from having a footnote noting that the cast iron fittings will be provided to removing the fittings from the list to avoid confusion by examinees. Would like to start the explanation of exam instructions to the examinees five to ten minutes earlier (7:10 a.m.) to accommodate time to pick out fittings as needed to complete their project. Once the examinee completes the exam they were asked to disassemble a project and remove the fittings for the next exam.
- Illinois State Board of Plumbing Examiners By-Laws discussed. IDPH suggested the following items be added to the by-laws:
 - Clarify roles of IDPH staff assisting with proctoring of exam.
 - Incorporate requirement that Board Members be selected to represent the different regions of the State, i.e. all IDPH regions should be represented with at least one board member residing in each region.
 - Continuing education sponsor criteria for approval of sponsorship.
 - Examiners prohibited from grading exams for individuals associated with their organizations, i.e. their employees, their apprentices, etc.
 - IDPH representatives must be present during board review with examinee
 - Documented procedure for removing a board member, via recommendation to the Director, due to ethics, etc.
 - Close meetings. IDPH attorney has been asked to clarify if/when an exam board meeting can be closed.
 - Detailed guidelines for approval of non-state of Illinois apprentice time (out of state) applicants to take exam.
 - Establish examination dates for a calendar year, vote to approve, and post to the IDPH public calendar of events and Plumbing site (Plumbing site will also show next available seating date due to applications received).
 - Grading guidelines/procedures.
 - Determine how public comments will be received – amount of time allowed, at what point in the meeting, if/when industry experts warranted, etc.

- Plumbers Licensing Code (750) SB1166 (20 ILCS 5/5-725) Licensure, Immigration Status – passed June 3, 2019 and the code must be changed. Discussions for additional changes as well:
 - Continuing Education of plumbers who sponsor apprentices:
 - Education at initial sponsorship of an additional four hours each year, topic specific. Example: Job Safety, Plumbing Design, Plumbing Code, etc.
 - IDPH will contact legal department to determine if possible.
 - The validity of in-person versus online courses acceptance/availability along with their requirements.
 - A statistical analysis of continuing education requirements in comparison to Illinois was presented. Illinois was the lowest of all states requiring continuing education. Other states have online continuing education courses.
 - Address whether it is acceptable for an apprentice to own a plumbing contractor company.
 - Suggested that the completion of OSHA 10 Construction (10-hour online course) be a requirement to take the Illinois Plumber Examination. Noted that this would need to be reviewed by the Department's Legal Department.
 - Proper amount required continuing education for Certified Plumbing Inspector. Is fourteen hours of continuing education enough or too much?
 - Standardizing CE by having Department produced materials or courses that can be presented through Continuing Education Sponsors.
 - Requirement of photographs on licenses to be passport quality.
 - Require an affidavit from the sponsor certifying the hours worked by apprentice prior to acceptance to exam.
 - Consideration of no longer offering the retired plumber license, or modifying to a one-time commemorative hard card with beginning and ending dates of their plumber career with the statement of not valid to perform plumbing.
 - Requirement of all plumbing must be inspected by a Certified Plumbing Inspector.
 - Standard operating procedure for disciplinary action to be taken for plumbers who continually disregard the code. Action/steps to consider:
 - Counseling/meeting with Department
 - Criteria for licensure denial, suspension, or revocation
- Board discussed proposal of Plumbing Code updates:
 - Recent proposals to make changes to the code detailed below:
 - December 28, 2018 proposals and comments were received
 - Multiple, changes were made including but not limited to:
 - Water temperature
 - Water pressure
 - Caulked joints
 - The Department sent revised Code amendments to JCAR for second notice to receive comments; December 17, 2019 the Department met with JCAR (Joint Committee on Administrative Rules). JCAR opted to not vote on the proposed Code revisions and let the proposal expire. Representatives of JCAR noted the

- proposed package should be simplified by reducing the number of items being modified at one time.
- The proposal expired December 28, 2019, therefore the process must be started over again; reevaluating how to go forward to address and simplify proposed changes.
 - IDPH is taking JCAR's guidance into consideration and is restarting the process to modify the Plumbing Code with a focus on the single occupancy restrooms to incorporate changes to the Equitable Restrooms Act (410 ILCS 35/) which took effect January 1, 2020. Every single-occupancy restroom in a place of public accommodation or public building and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use shall be identified as all-gender. Each single-occupancy restroom shall be outfitted with exterior signage that marks the single-occupancy restroom as a restroom and does not indicate any specific gender.
 - Language to address Lead In Water and Legionella concerns in the Illinois Plumbing Code.
- Revisited the idea of a refresher Examiners training session (previously held June 2016) to determine if needed and the schedule of reoccurrence. Would like to add industry experts with exam development to help us better mirror other states. This training would be held at an additional time, not during schedule exam, and when the industry is in a slow time of year.

Meeting Adjourned

Robert Dennison motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug Pursell. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 3:59 p.m.