
**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING
BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

Date: September 15, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Held Virtually via Google Meet

Joining Info: By Video Conference
meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo
By Phone via Teleconference
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

Members Present:

Joseph Radtka, Chair
Michael Bowersox, Industry Member
Roland Mann Jr., Industry Member
Gregory Schott, Industry Member
Richard Small, Industry Member
Keith Horton, Vice Chair
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

Absent: None

LABOR Officials & Staff Present:

John Bull, Executive Director
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer I
Andrew Klausing, Investigator, Mechanical Licensing
Danielle Anderson, Web Coordinator and Outreach

OTHERS PRESENT:

Diane Kastner, Maryland Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association
William Sompayrac, Pipeline Training Institute

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mr. Joseph Radtka, called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:33 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Radtka asked that a Board member make a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022 Board meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022 meeting by Mr. Bowersox, seconded by Mr. Mann, and carried by the Board with five members voting yes and Mr. Bowers abstaining.

PLUMBING COMPLAINTS

No complaint committee report was offered.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for August 2022:

Plumber	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	1	0	0	0%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	32	12	20	38%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	3	0	3	0%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	5	1	4	20%
TOTAL	41	13	28	32%

Director Bull also reported that since January 2022, 454 candidates were tested, 176 candidates passed, 278 failed, for a pass rate of 39%. Since the inception of the test, 10168 candidates were tested, 3672 candidates passed, 6496 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 9,511 active licensees.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be considered.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Bull announced that the new investigator for the Mechanical Licensing Boards, Mr. Andrew “Andy” Klausung, began work on September 14, 2022. Mr. Klausung introduced himself to the Board by stating that he formerly served as an Anne Arundel County Police officer with 20 years of experience and has seven years of experience as a federal background investigator. He expressed his pleasure in having been hired and stated he is eager to being working.

Director Bull stated that meetings of the Complaint Committee should resume in October 2022. He stated that Board is currently trying to fill the Complaint Compliance Specialist Position and that Mr. Klausing would assume those duties until the position is filled.

Director Bull discussed an email that he sent to the Board members requesting that they provide their contact information, including email address and phone numbers. He stated that at the direction of Counsel Kinstler, he would include cautionary language on the list asking that Board members refrain group email messaging. He reminded the Board that having too many members of the Board communicating in an email string pertaining to Board business could constitute an electronic quorum of the Board, in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Director Bull asked the Board members to avoid such communications.

Director Bull advised the Board that he was still in the process of finding a temporary employee to assist the Mechanical licensing unit with various needs and duties.

Director Bull provided an update regarding the building closure at 1100 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore, MD. He stated that the building is now fully operational and open to the public. He went on to say that both in-person and virtual appointments were now available to the public and he looks forward to having an in-person Board meeting.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Counsel Kinstler asked, in the interest of the public, that any items that may be discussed under New or Old Business be sent to the administrative staff to be placed on the agenda posted to the website prior to the meeting. Chairman Radtka thanked Counsel Kinstler for her comment and stated that, in the future, the Board members should do so if they were able.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair did not offer a report.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Radtka stated that at the August meeting, Director Bull informed the Board that no new legislative proposals were being accepted at this time by the Secretary's office.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Radtka advised the Board on specific laws relevant to the industry that would take effect on October 1, 2022. House Bill 1052, regarding CSST piping; Senate Bill 259, regarding prevailing wages laws; and Senate Bill 528, regarding climate change solutions were reviewed.

Chairman Radtka informed that Board that WSSC and Harford County issued guidance on their handling of House Bill 1052 and asked that a discussion of such be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Schott asked that the Board review House Bill 1052, pertaining to MD Ann. Code, Public Safety, §12-206, specifically subsection (B)(2). He requested that the Board discuss its interpretation of language pertaining to the prohibition on the use of non-arc-resistant corrugated stainless-steel tubing (“CSST”) in renovations that that affect more than 50% of a home.

Counsel Kinstler read the section of the law and stated that, in her interpretation, the law focuses on a property renovation that affects more than 50% of the total square footage of the property. Chairman Radtka stated that he felt that if less than 50% of the total square footage of the property in a renovation, the existing piping could remain in place, but any new piping being added to the property would need to comply with the new law. Counsel Kinstler opined that the legislature intended that if the renovation affected more than 50% of the property, any piping that was replaced would comply with the law and the prohibition on CSST. She went on to say that the law does not specifically state that if a renovation does not affect 50% of the square footage of the property, that the contraband material cannot be used when replacing the piping system. She stated that that may have been the intent the bill, but the law does not specify. Counsel Kinstler further stated that, in specific instances or those involving exactly 50% of the property, she would need to examine the intent of the law to provide guidance to the Board regarding impact of the new statutory language. Mr. Bower expressed a concern about the connection of the new law to the movement away from the use of fossil fuels to electricity-based power supplies. Chairman Radtka stated that the bill was designed to address fire prevention.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not convene in a closed session.

APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF CLOSED SESSION

None necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Mr. Bowersox’s Motion, and Mr. Bowers’ second, and by a roll call vote, the Board voted to adjourn meeting, with five members voting yes and Mr. Mann abstaining, at 10:58 a.m.

Signature on File

11/17/22

John Bull
Executive Director

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on 11/17/22