



**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 18, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1100 N. Eutaw Street
First Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(In person for Board Members and Staff)
Held via Video Conference
meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo
By Phone via Teleconference
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

Members Present: Joseph Radtka, Chairman
Gregory Schott, Industry Member
Robert Parker, Industry Member
Leif Hancock, Industry Member
Hayward Hinkhaus, Industry Member

Absent: Keith Horton, Vice-Chairman, Industry Member
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

LABOR Officials & Staff Present: John Bull, Executive Director, Mechanical Licensing Unit
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General
Johnston Brown, Administrative Officer III

OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Sargeant, Omega Plex
Wayne Fishpaw, Pipe Trades Technology

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joseph Radtka called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:36 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Hinkhaus to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024, Plumbing Board meeting without amendment, seconded by Mr. Schott, and, by a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

PLUMBING COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Schott reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

<u>Closed Complaint</u>	<u>Under Investigation</u>	<u>Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge</u>	<u>Criminally Charged</u>
23-0032		23-0051	24-0022
23-0038	24-0010	24-0012	
24-0047		24-0019	
24-0049	23-0050	24-0023	
24-0050	24-0052	24-0024	
24-0051		24-0025	
23-0047			
23-0048			
24-0020			

Upon a Motion by Mr. Hancock’s, and a second by Mr. Parker’s, the Board voted unanimously, by a roll call vote, to approve the Complaint Committee’s report.

REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for February 2024:

Plumber	Candidates Tested	Passed	Failed	Pass %
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	10	5	5	50%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	34	11	23	32%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	3	1	2	33%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	27	10	17	37%
TOTAL	74	27	47	36%

Director Bull provided a written report stating that since January 2024, 193 candidates were tested, 70 candidates passed, 123 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. Since the inception of the test, 11,368 candidates were tested, 4,111 candidates passed, 7,257 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 13,656 active licensees.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Legislation

SB 585

This Bill for Corrugated Tubing did not pass.

SB 175

This Bill regarding criminal background checks did not pass.

HB 1241

This bill regarding PVC/HPVC piping has been withdrawn by the sponsors.

HB 269

This bill regarding expungement did not pass.

HB 841

This bill regarding bottle refills for the water fountains did not pass.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Bull noted new Board member Craig Stokes has been approved but not yet sworn in.

The Records Management position has been filled by Katrina Hunter who will start on April 26, 2024.

The Investigator position closed with three applicants. The Board will look to hire one of the applicants by next month.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

None.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chairman announced that Mr. Keith Horton is still in recovery.

CLOSED SESSION

The State Board of Plumbing convened in a closed session to review license applications at 10:49 a.m., via Google Meets, pursuant to § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of license applicants and to obtain advice provided by Counsel regarding the license applications.

REVIEW OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS:

License Applicant #01

Counsel presented the application submitted by an applicant for the issuance of an original apprentice license. Counsel stated that the applicant had been convicted of two counts of 1st degree Assault in 2017, which he received 20 years suspended and received credit for 249 days served, in addition to use of a firearm in a violent crime, he was sentenced to five years without parole for the gun charge and five years' probation. The applicant was only 18 years old at the time of his crimes. The applicant wrote an explanation letter to the Board.

Mr. Schott motions to request more information from the applicant regarding his current employment status, seconded by Mr. Parker, motion passes unanimously.

A motion to return to the business meeting was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Hinkhaus, and unanimously approved by the Board at 10:56 a.m.

Mr. Parker motion to adopt the findings of the Closed Session, seconded by Mr. Hinkhaus, and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Mr. Hinkhaus' Motion, and Mr. Schott's second, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.



John Bull
Executive Director

5/16/24

Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on: 5/16/24