

PLUMBING COMMISSION MINUTES
January 17, 2024

Members Present: **Steve Heidler, Chairman**
 Justin Beall
 Tom Gruver
 Paul Kingston
 Greg Mahon
 Jim Scardina
 Mike Tewey

Members Absent: **Jeff Ferguson**
 Vic Kibec

County: **Tom Bunker**
 Bryant Knapp
 Holly Velez

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Review of Minutes from December 20, 2023

The Minutes were found to be acceptable with the exception of one correction noted under the Code Updates/Questions, which should read Gas test for gas piping at 20 psi and hold for 10 minutes without a drop rather than ...10 minutes with a drop. This will be corrected.

Review of Exam Applications

There were four applications received for the Disposal and Utility Contractor Exams. One applicant for the Disposal Contractor, Perry Scott Sullivan who had failed to renew his license within 30 days of expiration and is qualified to take the exam. There were three applicants for the Utility Contractor Exam. Two new applicants, Shane Newman and Jerome Stephens and one retest, Colin Wilson. Colin Wilson passed the exam and the remaining three failed.

County Utilities

Start interviews for Construction Inspector to fill a vacant position. Completed 76 taps for 2023 under the Tap Permit process.

Utility Contractors

Nothing to report.

Health

The heavy rain providing for a good wet season. Nothing is confirmed but looking at starting Perc testing January 29th or February 5th. A Press Release will be going out shortly.

Disposal Contractors

Business as usual. Howard County is closed for grease. Expecting it to open back up today for a test run.

Inspections & Permits

December calls were down from November. There were 2,044 calls in November and 1,843 in December. Most likely due to the holidays, leave, etc.

The changes for the 2021 Code were submitted to Andrew McCarra for approval. It included the new fixture flow rates the State has a law for now. It is lower than what the Federal Government now requires. Instead of a 1.6 gallons per flush toilet it is now 1.28 gallons per flush, commercial lavatories are only allowed to have a half gallon per minute flow, and urinals can only have .5 gallon flush. Residential kitchen sinks are 1.8 gallons per minute flow with a maximum of 2 or 2.2 gallons per minute temporarily.

Master Plumbers Association

Discussions around the State Plumbing Code and the changes outlined above.

Bryant asked Joe from the State about grease licensing and if they were going to put a board up for that but sounds like EPA may take over guidelines

Complaints

Knapp provided an update on the Michele Lefler's Len the Plumber complaint. He reviewed the complaint for the State and determined it would be best to come directly from Ms. Lefler. He met with her and went over the form. She had a good grasp on what was needed and will be submitting it to the State and following up with him when she receives a response to her submittal.

Code Updates/Questions

None.

Correspondence

None.

Old Business

None.

Adjourn

The next meeting will be held virtually on February 21, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Without further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:53 a.m.