

**PLUMBING COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**April 17, 2024**

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

**Members Absent:**    **Jeff Ferguson**  
                              **Vic Kibec**  
                              **Jim Scardina**

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

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

**Review of Minutes from March 20, 2024**

The Minutes were found to be acceptable.

**Review of Exam Applications**

No new exam applications were submitted for review.

Brendan Dowd passed the April 10 Utility Exam.

**County Utilities**

Tewey reported Kirt Shockey, was selected to fill the inspector position. He comes from Infrastructure and has years of experience in that area.

Infrastructure hired a new Utility Administrator from WSSC to replace Larry Parsons.

**Utility Contractors**

Nothing to report.

**Health**

Gruver reported that wet season perc testing will end on May 3. Typically, wet season perc testing does not get extended. When the trees bloom the water level lowers.

**Disposal Contractors**

Beall reported that Howard County is no longer accepting out of county grease. There is hope they will open it back up, otherwise; loads will need to be taken to Philadelphia again.

**Inspections & Permits**

Bunker reported that calls are down. There were 223 in February and 164 in March.

Legislation was submitted to the County Council to adopt the 2021 International Codes. It is expected to be heard the first part of May. Inspectors will be trained in the new code. While reviewing the new code, Bunker discovered an approval for

### **Master Plumbers Association**

Heidler and Knapp were both unable to attend the most recent meeting. Knapp did speak with a few attendees.

The Maryland Plumbing & Mechanical Inspectors Association (MPMIA) met in Ocean City last week. Inspectors from local jurisdictions get together with vendors, presentations and networking. Bradford White did a presentation on their new water heater. Joe from the State went over some of the Bills at the state level. CSST and PVC being banned may not pass this year but will be picked up next year and most likely ban the product.

### **Complaints**

Bunker shared that the sewer issue that was recently discussed has one of the repairs in process and monitoring the situation.

Knapp shared that there are no updates regarding the complaint against Len the Plumber. He will be reaching out to Michele Lefler.

### **Code Updates/Questions**

Bunker shared an update during the Inspections & Permits report.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Old Business**

Velez shared a situation where a customer wanted to apply for an inactive license and provided a Maryland state license that stated Master uninsured. County Code provides two licensing options – active or inactive. If the license is inactive, the licensee cannot perform the work associated with the license. To perform the work, you must have an active license. The state has a Master Uninsured classification, which is what I would like to consider adding the Plumbing Code Section of the County Code. Discussion took place and Heidler would like to look into this and discuss further at the next meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held virtually on May 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Without further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.