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Minutes

**Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters
Department of Public Safety, Bldg B, 1380 Bay St., Taunton, MA 02780
May 21, 2014, 9:30 a.m.**

1. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 9:35 a.m., followed by roll call:

Board Members Present:

Henry Geryk, Chairman
William Gallagher
Pauline Lally
Jennifer Revill
John Viola
Mark Fortune
Frank Norton (Arrived at 9:50)
Brian Kelly (Arrived at 9:55)
Michael Torchio (Arrived at 10:05)

Board Members Not Present:

Leo Fahey
Dan Dumont

Guests Present:

Brett LaPlante, UA Local 51
Chuck Borstel, ABC
Doug Neveu, Notch Mechanical
Greg MacEwan, IATMA
Dan Kilburn, DPS
Holly Bartlett, DPS

2. The minutes from the last meeting on April 8, 2014, were reviewed by members present; **motion to approve these minutes was made by John Viola, seconded by Mark Fortune; motion passed by unanimous vote.** Following this vote, it was pointed out by John Viola that several items included in the minutes from the last meeting had been left pending further consideration as indicated:

a. Item 6: The matter of inclusion of grandfathering considerations in the pipefitting regulation was discussed briefly. Supervisor Kilburn informed the Bureau that nothing has changed regarding the regulation, and that it is the hope of the Department that the language regarding grandfathering will remain in the regulation as proposed.

b. Item 7: The requirement for a master pipefitter to run a business was addressed by Supervisor Kilburn; he explained that in order to have a business a pipefitter would have to hold the master's license.

c. Item 8: The matter of implementation of the new e-Gov system for license application/renewal was discussed, with possible implementation towards the end of the year. Mark Fortune asked about the policy of e-mailing renewal forms, as opposed to sending them via postal mail. Supervisor Kilburn clarified the difference between the new e-Gov system for licensing transactions and the policy of e-mail renewal forms, and informed the Bureau that renewal notices are currently being sent via postal mail.

d. Item 9: The matter of whether or not a person could retain their journeyman's license once they have been issued a master's license was briefly discussed. As follow up from the last meeting, Supervisor Kilburn clarified that there is nothing in the regulation that prohibits holding both a journeyman/technician and a master/contractor license in the pipefitter and refrigeration trades, nor is there any language requiring that the lower grade of license continue to be maintained once the higher grade has been achieved.

3. The following application for licensure was considered by the Bureau:
 - a. Application from Jeffrey E. Moran to sit for the Refrigeration Contractor exam was considered; Mr. Moran was not present at this meeting, the Chairman informed the Bureau that the applicant had been informed of this meeting. The fact that this applicant is qualified to examine for the Technician license, but not the Contractor license, was acknowledged. **Motion to approve this application for Mr. Moran to test for Refrigeration Technician was made by Frank Norton, seconded by Brian Kelly; motion passed by unanimous vote.**
4. Update on Review of Exam Questions: The Chairman informed the Bureau members that the Department will be reviewing the exam questions starting with refrigeration, then pipefitting and sprinkler fitting. Supervisor Kilburn informed the Bureau that the task group for this process has been identified, and that they plan to meet first in June, the specific date to be determined.
5. Update on 528CMR: Frank Norton asked what the status of the regulation review is. The Chairman informed the Bureau that he understands the grandfathering of applicants for process piping would be open to anyone with process piping experience.
6. Doug Neveu, from Notch Mechanical, spoke to the Bureau about the fact that the Massachusetts master licenses do not encompass business-related information, such as worker comp laws, liability insurance laws, apprenticeship laws, etc., and asked whether this Bureau could make changes to regulation that might include business-related information. The Chairman asked Bureau members to speak as to whether the regulation needs further clarification regarding the scope of work authorized by the level of license. Supervisor Kilburn pointed out that should there be questions on an exam that involved information not contained in applicable Mass law, either statute or regulation, an applicant who fails to answer such questions correctly on an exam would likely be granted an appeal of the exam results based on those questions. Brief discussion followed regarding the requirement by some municipalities that permit to be pulled to install air conditioners. At which point Supervisor Kilburn cautioned that it is not possible to memorize code/statute, and encouraged the members of the Bureau to review the applicable statute and code, and make note of any specific areas that they would like the Bureau to review at the next meeting. Mark Fortune then read from Section 88 of Chapter 146 regarding provisions relative to refrigeration work done at certain facilities by employees of said facilities. The Chairman said that the inclusion of some business-related questions in the master exam seems to be both reasonable and applicable, and that he would bring that up at the meeting of the task group reviewing the exam questions.
7. Frank Norton made comment regarding code in Boston that requires a firefighter to be on site whenever open flame is used indoors, and that the application process to meet this requirement can take several days. He also pointed out that other municipalities are also adopting similar requirements. Mark Fortune said that this is known as an 'impairment plan', and that some municipalities will not grant permits unless such a plan is in place.
8. **Motion to adjourn made by Mark Fortune, seconded by Frank Norton; motion passed by unanimous vote, meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM.**

The next meeting of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinkler fitters is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

List of Documents/Exhibits Used at this Meeting

- a. Draft agenda for today's meeting
- b. Draft minutes from meeting on 4/08/2014
- c. J. Moran, RC Application