

City of Cortland
Examining Board of Plumbers

Minutes Approved

7/6/11

Examining Board of Plumbers Regular Meeting
Code Enforcement Office, City Hall
Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 4:00 pm

Members of the Board:

Mark Baranello, Chairman	present
James Romer, Master Plumber	absent
Gary Howe, Journeyman	present
Chris Bistocchi, DPW Superintendent	present
Deputy Fire Chief William Knickerbocker, Plumbing Inspector	present

Meeting Called to Order: 4:20 PM

Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from the January 25, 2011 Meeting. **Motion by Gary Howe to approve minutes. Seconded by Mark Baranello. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**
- Franklin Cowles, Heating Technician Applicant. Discussion regarding if this application is for one job in particular. The completed application and all other required information has been provided to the Board. **Motion by William Knickerbocker to accept this application for Heating Technician. Seconded by Mark Baranello.**
- Flood Heating: Discussion ensued relative to Mechanical code requirements for upgrading heating systems in flood prone areas. Board is concerned over ability to meet minimum standards. Plumbing Inspector will add review to application.

Discussion regarding the Flood Heating item on Agenda. Chairman Baranello states that he received calls regarding this situation. Some of it related to whether or not the Examining Board will basically protest these requirements. He states that he would like to make the following points: "Number one it is not in our Powers and Duties anyway (to get this type of issue 'thrown out"). It's our job to interpret and enforce the law and generally we do not make the law. Point number two is that the Examining Board is a professional organization that tries to fairly interpret gray areas of the law and tries to administer the law as its written in the most effective and fair way possible and that the Examining Board stands up for plumbers in the sense that it is a professional organization and when the plumbers behave the way professionals behave, then they will find that the Board is on their side all the time. Because the Board stands for fair and just interpretation of the law and when plumbers are acting in that vein, if they are fair and they are just and they are taking the law into consideration, then the Board is automatically standing up for them by

definition. And the idea of the Board as an advocacy group that exists to look up for plumbers, I don't think that is what the Board is about. I think the Board is here to administer the law as it relates to the profession of plumbing. And the guys that think we are here to scream every time some new regulation is imposed on us, that we are supposed to brawl over it, they are coming at from an entirely wrongheaded viewpoint, that is a legislative thing. If there is a big objection to the law as its written, the Examining Board isn't the person you go to; you go to your legislators to complain about something like that. The Board is here to make sure that those laws are administered as fairly as possible and I think a lot of these complainers would find that if they were making themselves aware of the laws and making themselves aware of all the different things they could do to comply to, do the best job they can do, the professional thing, that is expected of a licensed professional, then they would find the Board was backing them up and doing the right thing."

Discussion regarding the new flood regulations and that they are from the International Code adopted by the State of New York. All licensed plumbers should have the new code books and keep up to date on the changing regulations.

- Final Draft of the Plumbing Code Will be presented to the legal department once determination as to clear definition of "owner" is complete.
- **Motion by William Knickerbocker to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Mark Baranello. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Shelley A. Knickerbocker