

## MINUTES

### FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS WORK EXAMINING BOARD

JANUARY 23, 2007

The meeting was called to order by David J. Waskowicz, Acting Chairman, at 9:31 a.m. in Room 117 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present: David J. Waskowicz, Acting Chairman - Unlimited Journeyperson  
Robert W. Hollis, III – Contractor  
Kevin Wypychoski – Contractor  
Anthony D. Moscato - Fire Marshal  
Ralph Carl Miller - Fire Marshal  
William Zisk, Sr. - Public Member  
Luis A. Coreano - Public Member  
James M. Barry, Public Member

Members Absent: George DeVincke - Unlimited Journeyperson

Board Vacancies: None

Board Counsel Present: None

DCP Staff Present: Nelson Leon, Board Secretary  
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director

Public Present: Ignatius Kapalczynski  
Paul Lunney  
Michael R. Livingstone  
Bill Rhodes

**Note:** The administrative functions of this Commission are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information, call Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135.

**Agency Web site:** [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Board voted unanimously to approve minutes of the November 28, 2006 meeting with amendments on page-2 under “Minutes of Previous Meetings” to reflect Board member Ralph Carl Miller reporting that State Fire Marshal, Ignatius Kapalczynski will appearing before the Board at their 11/28/06, page-2 under “Applications” concerning Michael K. Gomes, to reflect Board member James M. Barry opposed, on page-3 under “Late Arriving Applications” concerning Barry W. Costa, to reflect Board member Anthony D. Moscato and James M. Barry opposed, on page-4 under “New Business”, paragraph-2, to reflect that a representative of the Board will be attending the 12/7/06 public hearing concerning proposed regulation establishing an (F-7) & (F-8) Fire Protection Sprinkler Work license category, and on page-5 under “DCP Trade Enforcement Division Report”, to reflect DCP Trade Enforcement Director, Richard Maloney reporting 14 pending investigations.

### **APPLICATIONS**

#### **Bernard J. Simpson, Cumberland, RI – (F-2) Unlimited Journeyman Application – Approved**

The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Simpson’s application, contingent upon verification that Mr. Simpson has completed the Massachusetts apprenticeship program.

## CORRESPONDENCE

1. List of registered Apprentices in the State of Connecticut as of November 28, 2006.
2. List of Pass/ Fail test results for the month of December 2006.

Board member Luis A. Coreano asked how often the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work examination gets revised. Mr. Hurlburt said it gets done with the Board's participation, and was last reviewed by the Board October 2003. Board member Robert W. Hollis, III said no changes took place during the last review due to the intergrading of possible code changes that were coming up. Mr. Hurlburt said that the examination review is done as often as needed, that the current contract with PSI is expiring June 2007, and that the RFP will be going out to vendors for bidding. Mr. Hurlburt said that after the new contract is awarded, the Board can schedule a workshop to review the examination. Board Chairman David J. Waskowicz asked if the examination information on hand with the current vendor is forwarded to the new vendor, or is the new vendor responsible for establishing their own examination. Mr. Hurlburt said that the new vendor is responsible for establishing its own examination. Mr. Hurlburt said that some of the contracts have language that allows DCP to keep certain items, however, in this particular contract, DCP does not keep any items. Mr. Hollis asked if the current vendor is eligible to bid, in light of difficulties in the past. Mr. Hurlburt said the current vendor had no difficulties, just individuals who worked for the vendor, who have acted on their own. Mr. Waskowicz asked if the current vendor is liable for the actions of its employees. Hurlburt said the vendor has no control of its employees actions. Mr. Waskowicz said that there is no accountability. Mr. Hurlburt said it can happen to anybody. Mr. Hurlburt said that by June 2007 or before, DCP may know who the successful bidding vendor is. Mr. Hollis asked how long the current vendor, PSI has had the current contract. Mr. Hurlburt said since March 2003. The Board expressed the need to sit down with the new vendor in order to discuss the examination. Mr. Coreano asked if the Board can meet with the new vendor for examination review and input prior to the development of the examination, which would be the best approach. Mr. Livingstone said that there were several complaints concerning PSI, who were not adhering to the percentages, which were way out of wack. Engineering problems, joint chemicals, and layout issues were some of the issue the Board had concern with as it relates to the examination that was put together by PSI. Mr. Hollis asked what are the criteria for choosing the successful vendor. Mr. Hurlburt said proposals are provided by each bidding vendor along with their credentials as an examination vendor. Mr. Hurlburt said DCP and the appropriate Board reviews the examination. Mr. Coreano asked if there can be an initial process for reviewing the examination. Mr. Hurlburt said the Board will be notified as soon as the new vendor is chosen in order to sanction the questions that could be asked on the examination.

3. 2007 schedule for Board, Commission and Council meetings.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

CT. State Fire Marshal, Ignatius Kapalczynski appeared before the Board today and gave a presentation regarding the new CT Fire Safety Sprinkler Code updates “NFPA-13 STD”, adopted December 31, 2005. Mr. Kapalczynski said he gave a presentation to the local fire marshals and building officials as well on this matter and reports a decrease on blatant type of errors, an increase in education levels, and local marshals picking-up on stuff much earlier on. Mr. Kapalczynski spoke on the following topics:

- Chapter Numbering Manual Style
- Technical Changes
- Skylights/Stepped Ceiling/Ceiling Pockets
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- Early Suppression Fast Response
- Sprinkler Identification Number
- Microbiologically Induced Corrosion
- Obstruction Rules
- Seismic Requirements
- Dry System Response Times
- Dry System Water Delivery
- Sprinklering Requirements – (High Rise, Schools, Hotel/Motel, Elderly Apartments, Special Occupancy Hazards, Health Care Nursing Home)
- Penalties
- Code Allowances for Completely Sprinklered Buildings
- Sprinkler Requirements Existing Occupancies – (High Rise, Underground, Assembly, Educational Day Care, Health Care, Lodging & Rooming, Hotels/Motels, Apartments, Board & Care, Mercantile, Business, Industrial, Storage)
- Sprinkler Requirements New Use Groups – (Use/Occupancy, Heights and Areas, Types of Construction, Fire Resistance Ratings, Interior Finish, Sprinklers, Mercantile, Moderate Hazard Storage, Repair Garages, Enclosed Parking Garages, All Occupancies Except R-3 & U, Other Hazards, Exempt Locations, Means of Egress)
- Sprinkler Requirements Enforcement Issues – (Listings, Hangers, Earthquake Protection, Stairs, Vertical Openings, Rack Storage, Special Situations, Voodoo Hydraulics, NFPA 13R Issues, NFPA 13D Issues, Buildings under Construction, Existing High Rise Business)
- Sprinkler System Maintenance – (Part V, UFC/NFPA 1)
- Sprinkler Requirements Guidance – (Interpretations, Recalls, Multiple Buildings-one system?, Obstruction Investigations, Violations Based on Contractor Inspections, High Rise Open Air Parking Structures, Concepts and Definitions, No MODS of NFPA 13)
- Sprinklers New Technologies
- New Code Concepts
- Health Care Concerns – (Health Care Locking, Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizers, Health Care Fire Plans)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Board Chairman, David J. Waskowicz provided the Board with a copy of a letter dated 11/28/06 addressed to DCP Commissioner, Edwin Rodriguez, reflecting the Board's opposition concerning a proposed regulation establishing an (F-7) and/or (F-8) license category and fragmentation of the existing (F-1) and (F-2) license category. Mr. Waskowicz also provided the Board with a letter dated 12/6/06 from Robert H. Barrieau, President of Barrieau Oil Company, Inc., endorsing the proposed new (F-7) Limited Residential Sprinkler Contractor license category. Mr. Waskowicz said that in attendance at the public hearing concerning this proposed regulation, were ten speakers, of which 2 were in favor and 8 were against the proposed regulation. Mr. Waskowicz said he testified as a Board member and as an individual, and that Kevin Kowalski, Simsbury Fire Marshal, stated at this public hearing that he represents 600-plus Fire Marshals from the CT Fire Marshal Association. Mr. Waskowicz would like to seek clarification of Mr. Kowalski's statement. Board member Ralph Carl Miller said he will go back to the CT Fire Marshal Association for verification as to Mr. Kowalski's statement. Mr. Waskowicz said he will be seeking a transcript of the public hearing for review. Mr. Livingstone said that the whole sprinkler industry is unified against this proposal, that the apprenticeship council recently met to discuss fragmentation of other licenses, and they can't apprenticeship such programs due to cut-backs. Mr. Livingstone said that the Board was never notified of a change and that state statutes state that the Board may recommend to the Commissioner, which has not taken place. Mr. Livingstone expressed concern over the process taking place and has provided written testimony reflecting the negative impact concerning the fragmentation of exiting license categories.

Board member Anthony D. Moscato expressed concern over Mr. Barrieau's letter, in which it states in the last paragraph the installation of limited sprinklers for primary egress areas which would afford consumers some type of protection. Mr. Moscato said that most fires start in a room, not in egress areas, and if a fire starts in a room, by the time the sprinkler in an egress area goes off, that person will probably be dead from the smoke if he didn't get out when the smoke detector sounded. Mr. Moscato said that Mr. Barrieau doesn't have a clue what sprinklers are about. Mr. Waskowicz made reference to partial systems in relation to Mr. Barrieau's statement concerning sprinklers in egress areas.

Mr. Waskowicz mentioned that Massachusetts does in fact have 23 registered spoke with John Rich at the department of training and public safety in Mass, who are cracking down on apprenticeship registration and have confirmed 23 various companies registered in Massachusetts with an apprenticeship training program, who have had applicants come before this Board, who have working with such company having a registered apprenticeship training program with Massachusetts, and have not provided an apprenticeship completion certificate. The Board expressed concern over this matter and are going to be looking more closely at all applications listing employers having a registered apprenticeship program in Massachusetts and lacking the production of an apprenticeship completion certificate. Mr. Livingstone said that the Massachusetts Labor Department handles the approval and monitoring of apprenticeship training programs, and that there are apprenticeship programs all over the country and you can register federally as well as locally in a bona fide apprenticeship program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board was asked if they would review several late arriving applications. The Board voted unanimously to table them for review at their next meeting.

Mr. Livingstone reported on the state apprenticeship council meeting with apprentices who fail their trade examination three times for review of their strengths and weaknesses, and affording them the opportunity to stay registered in the apprenticeship program in order to give them an opportunity to be re-trained and exposed in the identified areas of weakness.

## **FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

### **In the Matter of Thomas Charles Docket No. 06-1942**

The Board voted unanimously to grant a continuance on this matter to their next meeting scheduled Tuesday, March 27, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Leon  
Board Secretary

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 9:30 A.M. in Room 117.**