

MINUTES

FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS WORK EXAMINING BOARD

AUGUST 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order by David J. Waskowicz, Acting Chairperson, at 9:35 a.m. in Room 117 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

Members Absent: William Zisk, Sr. - Public Member

Board Vacancies: One Sprinkler Fitter Journeyperson

Board Counsel Present: None

DCP Staff Present: Nelson Leon, Board Secretary
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director
Anthony Santoro, Administrative Hearings Attorney
Jim McCann, Administrative Hearings Attorney
Helen Hillman, Consumer Information Representative

Public Present: Michael R. Livingstone

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/dcp

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Board voted to approve minutes of the May 27, 2007 Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board meeting with amendments to page-1 under "Minutes Of Previous Meetings", to reflect that the letter from Barrieau Oil Company, Inc. claims doing fire protection work and letter does not reflect a fire protection contractor license number on it, under "New Business", paragraph-2, to reflect Mr. Hurlburt asking if a fourth examination can be granted to applicants failing their examination three times, and that the Board said "we cannot re-write state statutes", and paragraph-4, to reflect that the Board asked about Fire Protection applications not coming before the Board, and that Mr. Hurlburt referenced a letter from the CT Department of Labor, and that the Board's response was that DCP cannot circumvent the Board. Board member Thomas E. Booth abstained due to not yet being sworn-in as a member of the Board.

SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

Appointment letter dated June 27, 2007 from the Honorable Governor M. Jodi Rell, concerning the appointment of Thomas E. Booth to the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board, as a Journeyman / Sprinkler Fitter, in succession to George DeVincke.

Thomas E. Booth was sworn-in today by Attorney Anthony Santoro, as a Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board Journeyman / Sprinkler Fitter member.

APPLICATIONS

Ralph Diaz, New Windsor, NY – (F-2) Unlimited Journeyperson Application – Approved

The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Diaz's application.

Mark C. McCullagh, Whitman, MA – (F-2) Unlimited Journeyperson Application – Denied

The Board denied Mr. McCullagh's application at their 3/27/07 meeting due to lack of required occupational related experience.

The Board voted unanimously at today's meeting to deny Mr. McCullagh's application due to conflicting information provided concerning his occupational related dates and duties of employment, and are requiring that Mr. McCullagh appear before them in order to expand on his occupational related training and experience.

James T. O'Neill, Narragansett, RI – (F-2) Unlimited Journeyman Application – Denied
The Board voted unanimously to deny Mr. O'Neill's application due to submittal of an incomplete application (Statement of Experience).

LATE ARRIVING APPLICATIONS

(The Board voted unanimously to review the following late arriving application)

Herbert Lopes, New Bedford, MA – (F-3) Limited Contractor Application – Denied

The Board voted unanimously to deny Mr. Lopes' application due to lack of a required (F-4) Limited Journeyman license for a minimum of two years.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. List of approved Fire Protection applications.
2. Correspondence dated 12/21/06 from the American Health Care Association (AHCA), regarding proposed rule for Fire Safety Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities.

COMPLAINT

In the Matter of Warren Alexander Docket No. 07-816

Mr. Alexander did not appear today. This matter concerns a Final Decision and Order of September 23, 2003, Docket No. 03-7, ordering the Respondent, Warren Alexander to pay a Civil Penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00. To date, despite demand, Mr. Alexander has neglected and refused to pay said Civil Penalty, and said is due and owing in full. After further review and discussion concerning this matter, the Board voted unanimously to suspend Mr. Alexander's (F-1) Unlimited Contractor license until such time Mr. Alexander pays the Civil Penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Hurlburt reports that PSI was awarded the occupational trade testing contract, and that the testing fees have been reduced from \$62.00 to \$52.00 per exam portion.
2. The Board is requesting monthly fire protection examination pass/fail report, to include pass/fail rate for each test question.
3. The Board would like to arrange a PSI test information review workshop for the Board to review the fire protection examination questions in order to provide their input and/or suggestions.
4. The Board is requesting that DCP Trade Enforcement Director, Richard Maloney, provide them with a report detailing all fire protection complaints, status of each compliant and complaints being currently worked on.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board discussed suspensions and revocations of licenses, and penalties for violators, in addition to the collection of unpaid fines and civil penalties assessed following investigation of a complaint. Attorney McCann informed the Board that he is pursuing individuals that have outstanding unpaid fines and/or civil penalties, with a goal of requesting the Board to suspend their fire protection license until such fine and/or civil penalty is paid in full. The Board expressed concern regarding stipulated agreements that did not come before the Board for their denial or approval, in addition to license applicants seeking credit for unregistered apprenticeship time. Attorney McCann informed the Board that stipulated agreements are subject to the Board's approval, and that the issue of unregistered apprentices would be up to the respective Board. Attorney McCann informed the Board of new legislation, Substitute House Bill No. 6983, effective October 1, 2007, making it a Class B misdemeanor for any person who engages in or practices the work or occupation for which a license or apprentice registration is required.
2. Mr. Miller reports being heavily involved in state projects, with many community colleges expanding their labs and looking into sprinkler programs. Mr. Miller further reports on horrible quality of work out there. One example was a job consisting of plastic piping, with 450 heads that have contamination from the flue, shop fabricated piping being a foot too long upon arrival at the job site, and a fire pump installation that would have never worked. The result is a stop work order from the Building side and corrective action to be taken from the Fire Marshal side, wherein they cannot move on until the corrections have been made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Leon
Board Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 117.