

**MINUTES OF THE PLUMBING AND FUEL, GAS BOARD MEETING
PATUXENT BUILDING MIDDLE CONFERENCE ROOM * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND
Wednesday, March 9, 2011**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bernard Taylor at 1:10 p.m. Members present were Gerald Davis, Charles Downs, David Shapiro, and Mike Sullivan. Members excused were Daryl Calvano and Dwight Mason. Adam Knight, Jada Stuckert and Ken Herne were also present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 12, 2011 were approved with amendments.

Old Business

- **Membership**

Mr. Knight stated the County Commissioner have not yet made appointments to this Board however should consider appointments in June. Mr. Knight stated to date there are two applicants, Mr. Leo Bean and Mr. Donnie Johnson. Mr. Sullivan provided an application to Mr. Knight from Mr. Mason. It was the consensus of the Board to have Mr. Knight gather additional information from the new applicant and forward the application to the County Commissioners.

- **Plumbing Code Update**

Mr. Knight stated the County Commissioner have been busy with their regular schedule therefore this 2009 Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code has been put on hold until he can schedule a date for review by the County Commissioners.

- **Tri-County Forum Update**

Mr. Knight stated he is waiting to hear from the Electrical Board prior to moving forward with this item. Mr. Davis asked if we have contacted other Plumbing Boards from other County's to see if they're interested in participating. Mr. Knight stated he has not done this as of yet.

- **Mandatory By-Law Update**

Ms. Stuckert stated after the January meeting she received notice from the County Legal Department stating they would be taking over the by-law revisions. Ms. Stuckert stated she has confirmed that they will notify us and ask us to comment on the revisions prior to sending them to the County Commissioners for approval.

- **Website Update**

Ms. Stuckert stated the registration form has been posted to the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board page.

New Business

- **David Shapiro**

Mr. Shapiro stated the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board Mission Statement says "protect the health of the nation" and he feels the following motions will help to do so. Mr. Shapiro made a motion to institute manual J calculation inspections through the permitting process, require that dryers be ventilated and installed by the manufacturer's directions, and to require exterior gas lines to be painted unless made of copper.

Mr. Ken Herne stated exterior gas lines are already regulated and have to be identified with a yellow coating. Mr. Shapiro stated he knows of places where the exterior gas lines are not identified. Mr. Knight asked Mr. Shapiro to give him the addresses to these places. Mr. Davis stated black steel does not have to be coated however anything

outside must have the yellow coating. Mr. Shapiro agreed to withdraw this portion of the motion.

Mr. Taylor stated the dryer connections are also included in the code book. Mr. Taylor stated the code book indicates that dryers must be vented and installed in accordance with the manufacturers directions and then refers to NFPA 54. Mr. Herne stated MDIA has caught this before when inspecting appliances that are hooked up. Mr. Shapiro agreed to withdraw this portion of the motion.

Mr. Shapiro stated HVAC units are being installed oversized and are wasting energy. Mr. Shapiro stated SMECO support this and say that this is already regulated in Montgomery and Anne Arundel County. Mr. Knight stated he feels this is a mechanical issue and the Board needs to first determine whether or not they want to incorporate the mechanical aspect into the Board. Mr. Davis asked if we could seek legal advice on this issue. Mr. Shapiro amended his previous motion to table this discussion until the next meeting while waiting for legal advice. Mr. Knight stated he would speak with the Legal Department and report back to the next meeting.

- **Gerald Davis**

Mr. Davis reported that Washington Gas is in the process of moving meters from inside to outside. Mr. Davis stated although we are exempt from applying for permit in the State of Maryland an agreement needed to be reached with WSC. Mr. Davis stated the agreement allows Washington Gas to move the meters 15 feet or less however anything over 15 feet needs to be permitted. Mr. Davis asked if Washington Gas would be required to obtain permits for meters done in St. Mary's County. Mr. Knight stated he does not believe it is necessary considering the State of Maryland does not require it and the Public Service Commission inspects the process very closely.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Jada Stuckert
Recording Secretary

Approved in open session: May 11, 2011

Bernard Taylor
Chairman