

**MINUTES OF THE PLUMBING, FUEL AND GAS BOARD MEETING
LUGM MIDDLE CONFERENCE ROOM * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND
Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gerald Davis at 6:02 p.m. Members present were, Daryl Calvano, Charles Downs, Dwight Mason, David Shapiro, Mike Sullivan, and Bernie Taylor. LUGM staff present was Adam Knight and Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary. Ken Moore of MDIA was also present.

Mr. Davis stated the last meeting did not have a quorum therefore was cancelled and asked that each member make every attempt to attend all meetings in the future.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 2007, November 2007, December 2007, January 2008, and February 2008 meetings were approved as presented.

Attendance Forms, Taping, and Organization: Ms. Stuckert stated she has had the members list updated on the website as well as having a link added for meeting minutes and the mission statement. Ms. Stuckert gave an overview of how she would be helping the board with their organization by promptly typing and posting minutes, and filing information per County standards.

Discussion: Mr. Knight introduced James and Becky Wojtowicz and stated they would like to take a minute or two to discuss their issue with back valves. Ms. Wojtowicz stated their basement flooded on March 13, 2008 and showed the Board pictures of the damage. Ms. Wojtowicz stated this is a small \$150.00 part that could have prevented the basement from flooding. Ms. Wojtowicz asked how often the sewer lines are checked and stated that METCOM said there was a piece of construction debris in the line when they investigated. Ms. Wojtowicz stated she feels that installing back valves could possibly prevent this in the future. Ms. Wojtowicz stated her basement suffered \$10,000.00 worth of damage as well as hire a cleaning crew to come out and clean the sewage from her basement. Mr. Wojtowicz thanked the Board for listening to their concern.

Mr. Davis thanked the Wojtowiczs for coming in and bringing this to the attention of the board.

Old Business

Update on Ordinance: Mr. Knight stated he went before the County Commissioners yesterday and asked for permission to hold a public hearing and they granted permission. Mr. Knight stated the public hearing is being planned for April 29th or May 6th. Mr. Knight stated one issue that came up was the homeowners not being allowed to do their own work. Mr. Knight stated this will be a big topic at the public hearing therefore we should plan on giving a short presentation about why we should have a homeowner exam. It was asked if other counties in Maryland allow homeowners to do their own work. The answer was no, St. Marys County is the only one that allows this. Mr. Downs stated he would get the rules from Calvert County. Mr. Mason stated he would contact Charles County and Mr. Knight stated he would check with Ann Arundel County. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to include appendix G (gray water systems) in the 2006 code being slated for public hearing and Mr. Calvano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Knight asked for permission to strike the entire paragraph containing the homeowners exam if need be. A motion was made and seconded to allow Mr. Knight to remove this paragraph if need be. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Plumbing Trades at Tech Center: Mr. Knight stated he spoke with the Superintendent of Schools about the plumbing trades at the tech center and he said the program has not been cancelled. Mr. Knight stated the interest is not there, only two students showed interest; this is not enough to pay for a teacher or a classroom. Mr. Knight stated if we can help

him get the students he will consider putting this back in the budget. Mr. Knight stated he asked for a meeting concerning this and he agreed.

Update of State of Maryland Letter: Mr. Knight stated he responded to the State of Maryland's letter. Mr. Knight stated they just wanted to know who our plumbers were what they are certified in, etc. Mr. Knight stated he also informed them that we are in the process of revising our ordinance and by-laws and once finished we will forward them a copy.

New Business

Review letter from Commission on the Environment (Gray Water Code Issue): Mr. Knight stated he responded to the letter by saying the Board had received the letter and the Board will discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Davis stated he read their letter however there were no specifics as to what they want. Mr. Calvano stated their big stance is water conservation. Basically if citizens or developers want to do this will the code allow it. Mr. Sullivan stated METCOM is pushing for gray water system which is less of a burden on the amount of wastewater we have to discharge into the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Davis asked that Mr. Calvano inform the Commission on the Environment that we are looking at all types of conservation ideas. Mr. Knight recommended that we send a letter stating this. Mr. Knight stated he provided the Board with copies of gray water information he downloaded and asked that the Board review the information for the next meeting.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated he and Mr. Knight met for three hours the other day to review the changes to the ordinance, rules and regulations, and the by-laws to make sure each document reads the same way.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jada Stuckert
Recording Secretary

Approved in open session: May 8, 2008

Gerald Davis
Chairman