

**MINUTES OF THE PLUMBING, FUEL AND GAS BOARD MEETING
LUGM MIDDLE CONFERENCE ROOM * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND
Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gerald Davis at 6:12 p.m. Members present were, Daryl Calvano, Charles Downs, David Shapiro, and Mike Sullivan. Dwight Mason and Bernie Taylor were absent. LUGM staff present was Adam Knight.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of April 9, 2008 were approved as amended.

Old Business

Update on BOCC Public Hearing: Mr. Knight stated Commissioner Jarboe asked for additional information to include communities of 100,000 people or less that allow homeowners to do their own plumbing work. Mr. Knight stated Ms. Stuckert has been working on this compiling this information. Mr. Knight stated Ms. Stuckert has put together some information for our review tonight. Mr. Knight stated we are on the BOCC agenda for May 27th at 10:45 am at which time this information will be submitted to the Commissioners.

The Board reviewed the information. Mr. Knight explained Ms. Stuckert gathered the population information from the U.S. Census Bureau and chose counties randomly using the 100,000 population as a marker. She then utilized each county's website and/or phone system to ask questions. Mr. Knight pointed out that Bartow and Dougherty County Georgia do not require homeowners to take an exam but rather make them sign an agreement. Mr. Knight stated the agreement basically states the homeowner can do their own work however if they fail their first inspection the homeowner will hire a master plumber to complete the work. It was recommended that this could possibly be used as a compromise at the next BOCC hearing. Mr. Knight stated Ms. Stuckert is trying to get a copy of this agreement from Georgia.

Mr. Knight stated he spoke with Commissioner Jarboe today who feels we in St. Marys County should be allowed to do our own plumbing work. Mr. Davis asked what the difference is between the plumbing and the electric. Mr. Knight stated electricity can instantly cause death where plumbing can cause death over time. It was asked why we excluded the larger cities in this information. Mr. Knight stated Commissioner Jarboe requested communities under 100,000 in population.

It was asked how close the State is to adopting the 2006 regulations. Mr. Knight stated he does not know as they have not responded to our written request to meet with their board. It was stated that this is the standard for the United States so why not adopt it. Mr. Knight stated he sees three issues; one being the home owners exam, two being the issuance of trade registration and the third is the automatic adoption. Mr. Knight stated these three things are items that the Commissioners could theoretically dispute.

Update on By-laws: Mr. Knight stated the by-laws will go to the BOCC for review after the codes are passed. Mr. Knight stated the BOCC has to review the by-laws but a public hearing is not required. Mr. Knight stated if the BOCC removes the home owners exam from the code we will have to pull the by-laws and correct them. Mr. Knight stated once they are corrected we would resubmit them to the BOCC for review.

Mr. Knight stated he has begun the process with the Building Code Appeals Board and the International Code. Mr. Knight stated they will be meeting the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to review the revisions.

Mr. Knight stated he did not modify the ordinance to adopt appendix G. Mr. Knight stated once the body of the code is done we can always go back and ask for an amendment to the code. Mr. Calvano stated he informed the Commission on the Environment that appendix G was in the public hearing stage therefore they are writing a letter to the BOCC supporting appendix G. Mr. Knight stated he would double check to see if appendix G was included in the code. It was asked if all the appendixes were adopted separately or all together. Mr. Knight stated they would be adopted separately but we can take the stand that the appendixes are adopted because its not saying they are excluded.

New Business

Waterless Commodes Discussion: Mr. Davis stated he attended Maryland DOT training and the building it was held in is truly a green building. Mr. Davis stated the bathrooms have the waterless toilets, so he asked some of the staff and one of the complaints is that the bathrooms have an odor. Mr. Davis stated its the one with the canister. It was stated that these toilets need more cleaning and maintenance at the end of every day to keep the odor down.

Forum Discussion: Mr. Knight recommended getting the Plumbing Board, Building Code Board, and the Commission on the Environment together to sponsor a fair for green building. Mr. Calvano stated the Commission on the Environment just held a green building forum in March and recommended the Plumbing Board and Building Code Board participate in the Commission on the Environment yearly forum.

Mr. Davis stated if we get the paperwork passed through the County for a training session it would be a good time to introduce the registration for working in the County. Mr. Davis stated we could have local plumbers, vendors, etc. to review all the changes the Board has made. Mr. Knight stated these are two different items. Mr. Calvano stated this Board could have a booth at the COE Forum and still hold a separate work session. The Board discussed more green building features and decided to hold a training session after the regularly scheduled Board meeting. It was asked if the Board had a budget to utilize for this. Mr. Knight stated he would check and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Shapiro stated he made this presentation to the County Administrator who said to check back with him in two weeks. Mr. Shapiro stated he is trying to enhance the trade (vo-tech) school at the high school. Mr. Shapiro stated he would like to see the Superintendent and have 100 names of people that support breathing life back into the trade school. Mr. Shapiro stated they need to reform their trade foundation and get industry to help them take the right path. Mr. Shapiro explained the ideal structure of the trade school. Mr. Shapiro stated he would like to have all 100 signatures by May 23, 2008. Mr. Shapiro thanked the Board for their support.

Adjourn

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

Jada Stuckert
Recording Secretary

Approved in open session: June 11, 2008

Gerald Davis
Chairman