

CITY OF BATAVIA PLUMBING BOARD

Minutes

March 21, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

**Public Works Conference Room
One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, NY**

Members present: *Douglas Diegelman, James Ficarella, Al Rosemark, Matt Worth*

Members absent: William Hayes

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rosemark called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call of the members was conducted. Four members were present providing a quorum to conduct the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Worth moved to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Mr. Diegelman. All voted in favor.

RESULT: Approval of December 20, 2017 meeting minutes.

IV. Old Business

Plumbing Exam Candidate – Ian Diegelman

Douglas Diegelman explained that Ian Diegelman created a document which he submitted to plumbers so they would not have to compose a letter. The plumber/employer could just fill in the blank spaces on the form, verifying Mr. Diegelman's employment, character, and skill level.

Mr. Rosemark asked which City of Batavia plumbers submitted forms. Doug Diegelman noted that forms were submitted by Dick Lovria, Ron Panek, Tony Mancuso, and Tony Scalia. Mr. Rosemark pointed out that only Mr. Lovria is a City of Batavia licensed plumber.

Mr. Diegelman said that even though the people who submitted forms are not all City of Batavia licensed plumbers, they have witnessed Ian Diegelman performing plumbing work and are familiar with the quality of his work.

Mr. Worth reminded the board that the same issue had come up when Mr. Hayes applied to take the plumbing exam based on his naval experience, and he was denied. Mr. Worth said the board should either stick with their policy and past practice, or they should re-evaluate how candidates qualify to take the exam. Mr. Worth observed that though the letter indicate that Mr. Diegelman is a capable plumber, he does not meet the qualifications set forth in the rules. If the board believes the rules should be changed, they should be changed to apply to everyone and not just to Mr. Diegelman.

Mr. Rosemark said that statements from people who have witnessed Ian Diegelman working are not sufficient evidence of plumbing experience. The forms/letters would be considered references, while some kind of documentation of hours worked is still needed.

Mr. Worth agreed that statement from plumbers who have seen Ian Diegelman's work should be considered references, rather than documentation of experience. Mr. Worth noted that according to the rules, 4,000 hours of work under a master plumber are required to qualify for the exam. He suggested that Mr. Diegelman go through his records and document the jobs on which Ian Diegelman worked and the number of hours for each year.

V. New Business:

A. Requirement for Licensed Plumber to be Present at Inspection

Mr. Ficarella explained that the office has been experiencing difficulty in ensuring that proper permitting of plumbing work is taking place. He related the most recent incident which involved one of Tony Scalia's workers who called the office because he needed the water shut off at a site. When the crew went out to shut off the water, they encountered someone they were not familiar with at a location for which no permit had been issued. Mr. Diegelman said that he is resolving the issue by personally being present when an inspection is performed on jobs for which he is responsible.

Mr. Diegelman said there is a problem with other contractors doing work which should be done by a licensed City of Batavia licensed plumber. Mr. Ficarella assured that he his trying to control the permitting situation, and he asked that such work is reported so that he can deal with it.

B. Applicant Interview

Mr. Diegelman noted that he has never met some of the City's newest plumbers, and he requested that in the case of future candidates for the plumbing exam, an interview be conducted. The rest of the board agreed that it would be a good policy to have candidates meet the board on the day their application is reviewed.

VI. Setting of Next Meeting: June 20, 2018

VII. Adjournment: 8:39 a.m.



Meg Chilano
Recording Secretary