

**FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS WORK
EXAMINING BOARD**

MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order by David Waskowicz, Chairperson, on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 9:27 a.m. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: David J. Waskowicz - Unlimited Journeyman,
Chairperson
Robert W. Hollis, III – Unlimited Contractor
Kevin Wypychoski – Unlimited Contractor
Anthony D. Moscato – Public Member
Kevin Griffith – State Fire Marshal

Members Absent: Keith Flood – Local Fire Marshal

Board Vacancies: One Unlimited Journeyman Member
Two Public Members

DCP Board Staff: Karen Layman, License and Application Analyst
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, Occupational and Professional
Licensing

Others Present: Pamela Brown, Director, Investigations Division
David LaFond, NFSA

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division, Richard M. Hurlburt, Director. For more information, refer to DCP Agency website: www.ct.gov/dcp Division E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the March 5, 2020 Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board meeting and voted unanimously to approve as written.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

DCP INVESTIGATION DIVISION COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT:

1. The Investigations Division submitted a report for the period of 3-1-20 to 5-31-20. Pamela Brown was in attendance and provided additional information about the case included on this report.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Application report

There were no applications approved between the period of 3-4-20 to 6-5-20. The PSI office in which applications are initially processed had been closed due to the pandemic. PSI offices are now open and processing has been resumed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Backflow Prevention Device

At the December 5, 2019 meeting, John Abbate, NFSA requested clarification regarding the testing of backflow on a fire prevention system, specifically, is a backflow prevention certification adequate, or is an "F" license required in addition to the backflow prevention certification?

At the March 5, 2020 meeting, the Board reviewed documentation which was provided by the Department and states that an F-1 holder cannot install the backflow prevention device associated with a fire sprinkler system; it must be installed by a P-1 holder. The Board expressed their concerns about the F-1 holder not being able to do this work and stated that they would like a legislative change to clarify such.

At today's meeting, the Board reviewed the document entitled "*Fire Protection and Plumbing Scope of Work, Section 20-330, Chapter 393 of the General Statutes*". Richard M. Hurlburt was in attendance to provide clarification.

After further discussion, the Board voted unanimously to table the discussion on backflow prevention devices until additional information is provided by the Department.

2. Limited Multipurpose Residential Sprinkler License (F-5, F-6 License Types) – NFSA Training Class

This class had been scheduled for April 6 through April 8, 2020 and was cancelled due to the pandemic. David LaFond reported that NFSA is in the process of rescheduling for September 2020.

3. Discussion regarding application review and credit for licensure from other jurisdictions

An Application Review Working Group has been established. This group met once to review fire protection applications while the Department was still in the office prior to the pandemic.

4. Proposed Legislation

A. Senate Bill No. 297 – An Act Concerning the Use of Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Class B Firefighting Foam

At the March 5, 2020 meeting, the Board discussed this bill and how it relates to the fire protection trade

B. Senate Bill No. 13 – An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Licensed Occupations

At the March 5, 2020 meeting Julianne Avallone, Legal Director provided an overview of the aspects of this bill that relate to the Department and occupational trade licensing, such as a proposed change in apprentice ratios

At today's meeting, the Board noted that, due to the shortened legislative session, there was no further progress made on these two bills.

5. Decrease in number of licensees in the fire protection trade

Discussion took place at the March 5, 2020 meeting regarding the decrease in the number of F-1 and F-2 licensees.

At today's meeting, Richard M. Hurlburt provided a document which includes the number of previous and current licensees for comparison. The Board will continue to monitor these numbers.

6. Construction Career Day

The annual Construction Career Day that was scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2020 by ABC Connecticut and CEC (Construction Education Center) was cancelled due to the pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of applicant

There was a conversation regarding the approval of an F-1 applicant raised by Chairperson David Waskowicz and how such person was approved. DCP explained that the applicant had applied for the F-2 license and received such upon examination. Due to a hardship in the family business and the applicants' prior journeyman type experience out of state, part of the two years as a Connecticut licensed journeyman time was waived to allow such person to sit for the F-1 examination.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Layman,
License & Application Analyst

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:

- September 10
- December 3