



City of Lockport Plumbing Board

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To: Plumbing Board Members

From: Clayton Dimmick

Re: Minutes from 3/24/22 meeting (minutes taken by Danielle Lawrence)

Rick Hamilton, Dave Pynn, Greg Zakrzewski, Clayton Dimmick and Mayor Roman were present.

Greg stated that he has a few issues to discuss that he's been thinking about since there last meeting.

Greg stated that this is the City of Lockport and not a Village, that the City should have a Master Plumber doing the plumbing inspections. He used North Tonawanda as an example and said he was sure David Kubinec worked as a part time Master Plumber for the City of North Tonawanda and that the City of Lockport should look into hiring someone part time for now if we can't find someone full time.

Mayor Roman said she reached out to the Buffalo Union and they require 8,000 hours as Journey Man plus 6,000 hours under a Master Plumber.

Greg stated the past plumbing inspectors for the City of Lockport have been under qualified and that he does not have access to the test but would like to see it.

Mayor Roman said the test is similar to a Civil Service test and we do not have access to see the test before it's given out.

Greg stated that he called Mayor Roman to the meeting because he wants to know what her thoughts are on that.

Mayor Roman said she talked to Jason Cafarella, Deputy Corporation Counsel to see what authorities we have and what we can do. The Plumbing Board is tasked with creating the specifications of what the board considers being a Master Plumber in the City, that is your authority. She stated she has no say or the ability to veto what the Plumbing Board decides to do, she can just appoint people. She said likes the fact that the Plumbing Board is independent, because having an independent board it gives the option to have a Master Plumber in the job spec and she believes having a Master Plumber to do

the inspections is crucial to the health and safety to the residents. She wants to make sure that the work being done for the residents and businesses in the City of Lockport is appropriate and done right and in a way that the Plumbing Board approves of.

Mayor Roman stated she had a meeting with the council last night, March 23rd 2022. She informed the council that North Tonawanda has hired part time inspectors and the council is supporting a part time position.

Greg said he doesn't think North Tonawanda has more than two part time inspectors and since Covid, David Kubinec hasn't been around so he's not sure what the City of North Tonawanda is doing about an inspector right now.

Mayor Roman said the council is on board with supporting it from what she gathered.

Rick stated that there is going to be some money involved.

Greg asked if the Plumbing Board decides that a part time job is what they want to go with do they need to create a new position.

Mayor Roman said that Clayton's job as a Senior Building Inspector has it in the job specs to be a Master Plumber and wants to know if there needs to be more requirements and experience.

Dave said experience is already required in the code.

Clayton said you have to have five years of apprenticeship, five years journey man under a Master Plumber.

Greg said that it is okay right now because Clayton is going to continue to do the plumbing inspections for now but if he's going to do this position full time it only gives us about a year.

Clayton said it might be a year, the Civil Service test doesn't come out until May.

Greg said they have a year to implement a plan and asked if everyone agrees to implement that plan.

Dave said I do

Rick said I do

Greg asked Mayor Roman where they go from here and does the Plumbing Board make up a plan and then run it by her.

Mayor Roman asked what she thinks the qualifications should be to take a Master Plumber test and be a certified Master Plumber in the City.

Greg said they already have a set in stone qualifications but wants the person doing the inspections to be able to fill those specifications. There are a couple ways to do it, we could get a part time guy with practical experience if there is the budget for it. Greg stated he thinks there are enough people available and has been talking to Mike O'Neil and suggested him. Said he has fifty years in the trade but is also gone a lot. Even if there

were a couple of part time people like Mike Hackmer might be interested. Wanted to know everyone's thoughts.

Dave gave Mayor Roman a list of what the qualifications are to be a Master Plumber.

Rick stated that it's going to be hard to find someone because is it going to be worth it for them doing it.

Greg wanted to know if everyone was on board for part time positions.

Rick said he's run into problems before with Dave Kubinek being part time employee and part of the problem with a part time position is that if someone needs an inspection at eleven but what happens if they can't make it until two.

Greg said that it happens with full time positions as well.

Dave said the only time you'll need those inspections is when there is digging involved, open holes and excavation.

Greg says that we need inspections but everyone is responsible for there own work. Why he is so adamite about it is because there are jobs like the Post Office, housing market with some apartments coming into the city that aren't just small remodeling jobs. Even small jobs, are they getting done and inspected property.

Dave brought up the old YMCA and the Hospital and other big projects that are going to need a lot of work done.

Mayor Roman said her next step is to talk to Jason Dool and see the process of making it official because she wants to do it the right way and then she will present it to the council and go from there. She said the Master Plumber Inspector is under a job description but we can make a decision on how we want that to go and look and work with Jason Dool and see what would work.

Greg said that Jason Dool mentioned taking some classes, he is welcomed to take the classes but, in my mind, he's not taking the test. Do we agree with that?

Dave said that's what is says in the book, in the code.

Greg said that's what it comes down too, he may not be happy about that but my main concern is doing things right, the way the charter says that it's supposed to be and plumbing is supposed to be.

Mayor Roman said she understands and said she doesn't play politics or games when it comes to health and safety of the people here in Lockport.

Greg asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to talk about.

Clayton said the test is April 5th, 7 people taking the test. Once he gets the test scores back, he will reach out and go from there.

Dave wanted to know who was grading the test.

Clayton said Ale Herberger.

Dave wanted to know where he was from.

Clayton and Greg both said Amherst

Greg said he reached out to Ale because he said someone thought Jason had access to the test. Greg said he didn't think it was true but needed to hear it from Ale. Ale said it was not true.

Clayton agreed that it was not true.

Mayor Roman said he cannot get access of the test until the day of.

Clayton said he brings the test right down with him and he thinks he has 3 different tests that he rotates.

Mayor Roman asked if they update the test if it's a different test every time.

Clayton said he updates the codes.

Greg said he wouldn't mind seeing the test out of curiosity, that he took the test many years ago but would like to look it over.

Clayton said he has the right to see it, that he will call Ale when he notifies him how many people are taking the test and will ask for an extra copy to look at.

Mayor Roman stated he could look at it and not keep it.

Greg said he doesn't want anyone saying he's not giving the answers away. He said that is all he has to say.

Mayor Roman said she will verify the process with Jason Cafarella and let the council know that this was decided.