

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PLUMBING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUILDING #7 – CONFERENCE ROOM
April 18, 2024 – 1:00 PM**

Committee Members Present

Ed Bigley
Jim Eichenlaub
Regis Clause
John Moffett
David Green

Participants Present

Committee Members Not Present

William Price
John Inks
John Cummins
Ruthann Omer

ACHD Staff Present

Geoff Rabinowitz
Drew Grese
Jeff Czochara
Ian Anderson
Elizabeth Rubenstein
Jack Cronin
Todd Bogdanovich

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair Bigley called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting (Mr. Green arrived late) and as such, no vote was taken at this time on the minutes from January's Advisory Board meeting.
- II. ***Action:** Mr. Bigley motioned to approve the minutes from the Advisory Board's meeting on January 18, 2024. Mr. Claus seconded the motion.
The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor with 0 against.
Mr. Eichenlaub abstained from voting.
- III. **Program Update:** Mr. Grese thanked the attendees for coming and provided updated year-to-date statistics about the program. He introduced Ian Anderson, Environmental Health Administrator II from the Environmental Health Bureau, provided an update on the vacant Senior Secretary position and the Plumbing Inspector position.
- IV. Mr. Grese informed the Advisory Board about the Locate2U pilot program, which will allow plumbing inspections to be scheduled online up to three days in advance. Five contractors were chosen for the initial pilot. The program will transition to using the Locate2U program to schedule inspections. Mr. Grese stated that Locate2U will go live for all plumbers on April 29th, but that inspectors will still be accepting calls to request inspections. The program's may ultimately switch to using the Accela software for scheduling inspections online after its full functionality is assessed. Mr. Rabinowitz stated that Accela is anticipated to roll-out at the end of 2024 or beginning of 2025.

- V. **NOTE: At this time, Mr. Green arrived and a quorum was established.*
- VI. Mr. Grese informed the Board that the program administered the plumbing exam on April 10th and April 11th. A total of 108 applicants took the Journeyman exam and a total of 33 applicants took the Master exam. The same fire hall has been scheduled for December 12th and 13th for the next administration of the exam. Mr. Eichenlaub asked if the program was still considering incorporating a practical component into the exam. Mr. Grese stated that it was, but that discussions still needed to take place with the schools. Mr. Eichenlaub suggested that the program observe the NOCTI practical test. Mr. Grese stated that the program can contact NOCTI.
- VII. Mr. Grese stated that the program has received many inquiries about a special license for retired master plumbers. For the retired master license, the licensee would need to pay the same rate as a Journeyman, can perform plumbing work, but cannot file permits. For a beginning point of discussion, Mr. Grese suggested that requirements to qualify for the retired master license could be an age of 65 with 25 years of service. Mr. Bigley agreed with the principle, but asked about those who retire early at age 60. Mr. Rabinowitz stated that Illinois has a similar program for retiree licenses and that Illinois sets the age requirement at 62. The group had a consensus with the requirements of being age 62 with 25 years of service.
- VIII. **Mr. Green moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Claus seconded the adjournment.**