



MARINE CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARD
c/o Maryland Department of the Environment

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MARINE CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARD
MEETING Minutes –December 11, 2017

Location: DNR Wye Island NRMA, Queenstown, MD

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Milton Rehbein, Chairman, Northern MD Rep
 Andrew Hanas, DNR Representative
 Chris McCabe, Vice Chair, At Large Rep
 Robert Murtha, SoMD Rep
 Joshua Schlepner, Eastern Shore Rep

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas Blair, Board administrator
 Matthew Standeven, Board legal counsel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:07 AM at DNR Wye Island NRMA, Queenstown, MD. Five Board members were present, as well as the Board's administrator and legal counsel.

AGENDA REVIEW

The Board reviewed the agenda for the meeting which included review of August 14, 2017 minutes, review of licensing activities, status of draft regulations, Board budget review, interpretation of license requirements for solicitation for marine work, alternative contractor insurance, and new license applications received.

REVIEW OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members reviewed and approved the draft August 14, 2017 meeting minutes.

Board Activities and Financial/Budget Report

Mr. Blair gave an overview of licensing activities since the last meeting. There are currently 210 licenses issued. Testing is scheduled for once a month to the end of 2017. Licensing has slowed with 1-2 applications and tests per month. Renewal applications were sent to all (90) one year licensees in early November. The renewals are starting to come in.

Mr. Blair gave an overview of the present income/expense situation. There are few expenses at this point, mostly copying and mailing costs as well as administrator salary. There will be increased income due to the license renewal fee of \$600 each license. The Licensing Board is well funded until the next rotation of license renewals in December 18.

Recap of November Contractor Training Sessions

Mr. Blair stated that the two training presentations on November 7 and 16 were attended by 130 contractors. The presentations were well received and most contractors felt that there should be similar training each year presented by the Board. Mr. Rehbein noted that he has had discussions with health care providers concerning first aid, CPR and AED training for contractors which may be something the Board can provide in 2018. Mr. Schlepner noted that there are few opportunities for smaller contractors to get the training requirements done in Maryland. A general discussion on annual training that the Board could present dealing with regulatory issues followed.

Discussion of Alternatives for the Liability Insurance Requirement

There was a discussion concerning whether contractors such as Amish contractor, could use an alternative to general liability insurance as required by Title 17. Mr. Rehbein stated he had discussed the matter with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission administrator. The MHIC administrator said that they will accept alternative insurance (issued by a church organization) if it can be applied in the same way as general liability insurance. The Board members requested Mr. Murtha draft a letter to be sent the Amish contractor that is requesting licensure to gather more information on the church insurance coverage to allow Amish or Mennonite contractors to work.

License Application Approval

The Board discussed how future applications should be approved. Should the Board meet and discuss a group of applications periodically or can it be done via email. There was general agreement that applicants should be approved at Board meetings to allow for full discussion of an applicant's qualifications and that the meetings should be done on a quarterly basis. The Board agreed to meet in March for application approval. The Board also agreed that the testing should also be done on a quarterly basis and the test schedule posted on the website with a test in January and again in April.

What is considered "Similar Experience" as stated in Title 17

The Board discussed what would be considered similar experience to marine contracting work which would allow a contractor that does not presently do marine work, apply for licensure as a marine contractor. There was no agreement on what an applicant would need to show the Board that his or her experience is applicable to marine contracting work. The Board asked Mr. Murtha to research the issue and draft a set of criteria to judge whether an applicant is qualified based on similar experience.

The meeting was closed to the public at 2:05 pm and opened at 3:00 pm to discuss specific applications and qualifications of recent applicants and discuss complaints lodged against specific contractors.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rehbein asked for a vote for adjournment. The Board voted and approved adjournment at 3:00 pm.