

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM

**MECHANICAL COMPETENCY BOARD
MINUTES
January 31, 2018**

A meeting of the Mechanical Competency Board was held January 31, 2018, 10:00 a.m., at the Okaloosa County Administrative Building, 1250 Eglin Parkway N., first floor Commissioner's Chambers, Shalimar, Florida. Board members in attendance were Michael Johnson, David Gaillard, and James Walker, Jr. Consumer representative in attendance were Bill Byerley, Todd McGirr and Lee Jackson. Roger Casey and Lee Bowen were not present.

Growth Management Staff in attendance were Elliot Kampert, Growth Management Director; Renee Lucas, Licensing Specialist and Teresa Mullins, Administrative Assistant II.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice- Chairman Todd McGirr called the meeting to order.

A. Roll Call

Teresa Mullins conducted roll call.

II. ACKNOWLEDGE GUESTS

Vice- Chairman McGirr welcomed those attending the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF: July 26, 2017

There being no objection from the Board, Vice- Chairman McGirr declared the minutes approved as written.

IV. OPEN TO PUBLIC (For any item not Quasi-Judicial on this Agenda)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Swearing in Applicants

Ms. Mullins swore in the applicants.

b. Candidates for Testing Approval:

1. Gary Franklin Madden Jr – Class B Air Conditioning Contractor

Mr. Gary F. Madden Jr. was present to answer questions from the Board.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. Madden had appeared before the Board in the past and was granted approval to test; however, his year has passed; therefore, he is appearing again before you for approval to continue testing.

Mr. Madden informed the Board that he had been Active Duty Army, and then joined the Guard and Reserve. Mr. Madden stated that he decided to get into the Air Conditioning/heating business and went to the Fortis Technical Institute, then began working at Bayou Mechanical to gain experience. Mr. Madden further stated that most of the work that Bayou Mechanical did was commercial, so he left and went to work for Casey Electric, mostly doing installations with some service work. Mr. Madden stated that from there, he went to work at the County as a Service Technician.

Mr. David Galliard asked Mr. Madden how many times he took the test.

Mr. Madden stated that he took the test 3 times not realizing that there was no limitation on the number of times he could take the exam and admitted that he really didn't study hard enough.

A brief discussion ensued.

Motion to approve made by David Galliard; Second by Michael Johnson; approved unanimously.

2. Adrian I. Tantas – Master Mechanical

Mr. Adrian Tantas was present to answer questions from the Board.

Vice- Chairman McGirr asked Mr. Tantas to tell the Board about himself.

Mr. Tantas stated that he began working with HVAC in December of 2004 and enjoyed the work so much that he wants to make working with air conditioning & heating a career, so he decided to seek a County license.

Mr. Galliard noted that Mr. Tantas is seeking a Master Mechanical license and asked how much experience he had with commercial heating and cooling units.

Mr. Tantas stated that he did have experience working with commercial chillers.

Mr. Galliard asked Mr. Tantas if he had experience with laying gas piping.

Mr. Tantas stated that he had not laid gas piping on his own.

Mr. Galliard noted that the Master Mechanical license has no limits and includes authorization to lay gas piping. Mr. Galliard asked staff if the Class A license includes gas.

Ms. Lucas stated that the Class "A" license allows all of the work of a Master Mechanical license except for the ability to run gas lines.

Mr. Tantas stated that he did run gas piping but always with supervision which is why he said he did not do it by himself.

A brief discussion ensued.

Motion to approve made by Lee Jackson; Second by David Galliard; approved unanimously.

c. Purged Contractors:

1. Doug Henderson – Henderson Electric of NWF LLC

Ms. Lucas addressed the Board, stating that Mr. Doug Henderson grandfathered in as a Master Mechanical Contractor in 1983 and remained licensed with Okaloosa County until September of 2008. Ms. Lucas further stated that, after two (2) years of non-payment, Mr. Henderson's Competency Card was purged per County Ordinance in September of 2010. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, per verification with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Mr. Henderson's State Registered Master Mechanical license, #RM0066471, was placed in null/void status as of August 31, 2007. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that, in a statement provided to staff, Mr. Henderson stated that Ms. Virginia Hodges was the company secretary from 1979 until she became ill in 2009 and ultimately passed away in 2010. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, per his statement, Mr. Henderson was involved in growing his business into a company employing 300 people during the period when Ms. Hodges was working for him. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that, within the statement, Mr. Henderson said that Ms. Hodges was responsible for all of the administrative duties within the company which included making certain that Mr. Henderson's licenses & Competency Cards were renewed annually. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, per his statement, Mr. Henderson found it difficult to find someone reliable enough to handle all of the administrative duties involved with such a large company and it was during a company move that he became aware that his State Registered and County Mechanical licenses had expired. Ms. Lucas stated that, upon this discovery, Mr. Henderson contacted staff and found that his County Competency Card had been purged; whereupon, he began working with staff to provide the information necessary to make a petition to this Board. Ms. Lucas noted that Mr. Henderson did pay the required \$200.00 fee to petition this Board for reinstatement of his County Competency Card. Ms. Lucas stated that staff contacted DBPR and were told that, due to the number of years that Mr. Henderson's State license has been in a null/void status, it would be more cost effective for him to apply for a new State Registered license rather than applying to have his previous license reinstated. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board that, per Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6; Article VIII; Division 3; Section 6-318 (g) **Expiration, renewal and retired certificates:**

The board may give special consideration in purged license cases concerning family illness and military deployment, and other circumstances as the board deems appropriate.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, with the Board's approval of the reinstatement of his Okaloosa County Competency Card, Mr. Henderson will then apply to the State for his State Registered Master Mechanical license. Ms. Lucas noted that Mr. Henderson holds a current/active State Certified Electrical license, #EC0001877, and actively purchases permits from Okaloosa County permitting staff. Ms. Lucas asked that all back fees and penalties, totally \$1,775.00, be paid and a payment deadline included in the motion.

Mr. James Walker asked if Mr. Henderson has met all of the requirements that are required to hold that license.

Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Henderson grandfathered in 1983 when there wasn't any testing for those licenses. Ms. Lucas further stated that Mr. Henderson would only have to test if the Board denies his request and asks him to apply as a new applicant.

There were no further questions for staff at that time.

Mr. Doug Henderson greeted the Board and stated his company, Henderson Electric has been working in Okaloosa County for many years. Mr. Henderson further stated that, beginning in the 1990s and continuing through the early 2000s he was completely focused on growing his electrical company. Mr. Henderson stated that Ms. Virginia began with the company in 1979 and was originally hired by Mr. Henderson's father. Mr. Henderson further stated that Ms. Virginia was an excellent employee and was placed in charge of maintaining the residential service side of the business, which included making sure that all license and Competency Card renewals were maintained. Mr. Henderson stated that he had told Ms. Virginia to put his State Registered Plumbing and Mechanical licenses and Competency Cards in to retired status and he thought that had been done. Mr. Henderson explained that Ms. Virginia was responsible for those small scale jobs that required his Plumbing & Mechanical licenses as well as taking care of the administrative side of the business. Mr. Henderson stated that he kept small crews in place for residential and service work. Mr. Henderson further stated that after Ms. Virginia's illness and death he had great difficulty in finding another employee who could handle the work and it wasn't until they moved offices that he found the license file and discovered that his State Registered licenses had expired and were in a null/void status at which time he contacted County staff. Mr. Henderson stated that he understands that ultimately he is the one responsible for his licenses. Mr. Henderson stated that he was wholly focused on his commercial electrical business; noting that he holds State Certified or Master Electrical licensure in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee which are all active and current and he kept those licenses active and updated for over 20 years, but it just fell through the cracks.

Mr. Galliard asked Mr. Henderson when he last did any mechanical work.

Mr. Henderson stated that it was in the 1990's but he had done a great deal of mechanical work in the 1970's & 1980's.

Mr. Galliard asked Mr. Henderson if he had ever tested for his license, such as the block test that were given at one time.

Mr. Henderson stated that he did not test for his plumbing & mechanical licenses, but did test for his electrical license.

Mr. Galliard noted that his only concern is that he hasn't done any mechanical work since the 1990's and has never tested, he would like to see him take a mechanical test.

Mr. Henderson stated that he worked hard for 25 years to keep his licenses active.

Mr. Galliard stated that a lot has changed in the mechanical field in the last 10 plus years.

Mr. Henderson further stated that he has no intention of using that license to start a mechanical business. Mr. Henderson stated that he grew up in the construction business and knows how to do just about everything involved.

Motion to reinstate with 60 days to pay the fees made by Lee Jackson; Second by Bill Byerley; approved unanimously.

2. William A. Pierce – Ace Pierce Air Conditioning Inc

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. William A. Pierce became a State Registered Class “B” Air Conditioning contractor in Okaloosa County in 2002 after he had passed both the trade as well as the business & law examinations and remained his license active until August of 2014. Ms. Lucas further stated that, after two (2) years of non-payment, Mr. Pierce’s Competency Card was purged per County Ordinance in September of 2016. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that, in a statement provided to staff, Mr. Pierce stated that during 2014 he became a caregiver for his father, who resided in another State and, after his father’s passing in 2015 he was left to deal with the estate as well as having to care for his elderly mother. Ms. Lucas informed the Board, that per this statement, it was during this time that Mr. Pierce failed to renew his County Competency card. Ms. Lucas further informed that Board that, per verification with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), Mr. Pierce’s State Registered Class “B” Air Conditioning contractor’s license, #RA3067168, is current and active until August 31, 2019. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board that, per Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6; Article VIII; Division 3; Section 6-318 (g) **Expiration, renewal and retired certificates:**

The board may give special consideration in purged license cases concerning family illness and military deployment, and other circumstances as the board deems appropriate.

Ms. Lucas asked that, should the Board approve Mr. Pierce’s request for reinstatement, that all back fees and penalties, totally \$725.00, be paid and a payment deadline included in the motion.

Mr. Galliard asked Mr. Pierce if he has been doing mechanical work while his license is purged.

Mr. Pierce stated that he has only been working on the appliance side of the business. Mr. Pierce further stated that in the past 3 years he hasn’t been able to work even two (2) days in a row due to taking care of his parents. Mr. Pierce further stated that he has spent most of his retirement and now is trying to get started in business again.

Motion to approve with 60 days to pay the fees made by Michael Johnson; Second by Lee Jackson; approved unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Elliot Kampert, Growth Management Director, informed the Board that he had information to share that would affect those sitting on the Board whose term may come up for renewal. Mr. Kampert stated that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has been taking a look at their advisory Boards and other decision making Boards such as this one and some concerns have been expressed regarding potential conflicts of interest as

well as multiple people sitting on multiple Boards. Mr. Kampert further stated that the BCC has decided to tighten the requirements for serving on such boards. Mr. Kampert stated that this issue would not affect Mr. Parrett, should he agree to serve another term, as the proposed Board of County Commissioner's policy has not yet been adopted; however, it will affect Mr. Larouche as County employees will not be allowed to serve on such Boards unless they are required to do so by Florida Statute. Mr. Kampert further stated that this policy will be implemented in about a month and will include a process wherein the County Administration will be advertising Board openings and even those who wish to renew will have to fill out an application and submit to a background check. Mr. Kampert noted that at the staff level there are many concerns as there are often difficulties in filling vacant seats on our Boards.

a. Chairman/Vice-Chairman Election:

Vice-Chairman McGirr open nominations for Chairman.

Nomination of Roger Casey to continue as Chairman made by Lee Bowen; nomination seconded by David Galliard. Per statement to staff, Mr. Casey accepted the nomination, and there being no further nominations, and nominations being duly closed, was elected unanimously.

Vice-Chairman McGirr open nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Nomination of David Galliard to serve as Vice-Chairman made by Todd McGirr; nomination seconded by Bill Byerley. Mr. Galliard accepted the nomination, and there being no further nominations, and nominations being duly closed, was elected unanimously.

Mr. Lee Jackson asked if there would be a timeframe involved in handling the renewal paperwork.

Ms. Lucas stated that at this time staff isn't sure what will be involved.

Mr. Kampert stated that he believes that someone in the County Administrator's office will notify staff when a seat comes up for renewal, at which time staff will notify the Board member to ask if they are willing to serve another term and then new paperwork will be given to that renewing member.

Ms. Lucas noted that if a member whose term is expiring is not present at a meeting to be asked if they are willing to serve again, staff will email him or her to gather their assent before providing that paperwork.

A brief discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by David Galliard; seconded by Bill Byerley; approved unanimously.

Prepared by: *Teresa A. Mullins*
Teresa Mullins, Administrative Assistant II
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