

Largo, Florida, January 25, 2021

The regular bimonthly meeting of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB) was held in the Magnolia Room at the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension in Largo, Florida, at 1:33 P.M. on this date.

Members Present:

MEMBERS

Alan Holderith, Jr., Chair
Douglas Erwin (late arrival)
Kevin Garriott
James “Arry” Housh
Marina Kron
Daniel Melker
James Millican
Evelyn Spencer
Don Tyre
John Wear

CLASSIFICATION

General Contractor
Electrical Contractor
North County Building Official
Roofing Contractor
Class A HVAC Contractor
Consumer Representative
Fire Official
Pinellas County Building Official
South County Building Official
Plumbing Contractor

Not Present:

Jason Holloway
Mike Kelly, Vice-Chair
Ernest Lashlee
Bill Palmer

Consumer Representative
Pool Contractor
Residential Contractor
Beach Community Building Official

Also Present:

Gay Lancaster, Director, Contractor Licensing Department
Ashley Paulino, Legal Assistant
Thuyvy Connelly, Office Specialist
Jacina Parson, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Other interested individuals
Teresa Ribble, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk

All documents provided to the Clerk’s Office have been made a part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Holderith called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Chair Holderith led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ms. Lancaster conducted a roll call of the members and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Chief Millican, seconded by Mr. Melker and carried unanimously, the minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Holderith presented the Consent Agenda items as follows:

Special Magistrate Hearing Minutes: November 10 and December 14, 2020

Examination Committee Reports: November 2020 – December 2020

Chief Millican moved, seconded by Mr. Melker and carried unanimously, that the Consent Agenda items be approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair Holderith administered the Oath to persons planning to give testimony.

Local Technical Amendments: City of St. Petersburg

Ms. Lancaster noted that the request was heard by the Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BOAA) Florida Building Code in December; and that a two-thirds vote is required for the PCCLB to overturn its recommendation.

City of St. Petersburg Director of Planning and Development Services Elizabeth Abernethy referred to a PowerPoint presentation and provided background information and data related to the proposed amendments. She indicated that they are limited to the Florida Building Code and designed to increase standards for multifamily residential construction in the Coastal High Hazard Area, requiring contractors to build higher and stronger structures that would be more resilient to storm surge, sea level rise, and wind damage; whereupon, BOAA Florida Building Code Chair Michael McCarthy reported that the Board voted to approve the amendments as submitted.

Mr. Tyre disclosed that he is the Building Official for the jurisdiction and indicated that the County Attorney’s Office confirmed there would be no conflict of interest regarding the matter; and that he will be voting on the item in his official capacity as a PCCLB member.

Mr. Tyre moved, seconded by Mr. Melker and carried unanimously, that the Board approve the Local Technical Amendments.

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Mr. Erwin arrived at 1:42 P.M.
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REGULAR AGENDA

Abbey Khdair

Ms. Lancaster indicated that the expired permit cases listed on the agenda were continued from the November meeting; that the open permits have since been closed; and that the Building Department has rescinded all related violations.

Classification Change: Arnold M. Grodotz, License C-10365

Referring to a discussion held at the November 30, 2020 meeting, Ms. Lancaster recommended that the Decking, Caulking and Waterproofing classification be retired due to Mr. Grodotz being the only person licensed in the category; that his license be reclassified as a Painting Specialty Contractor, without examination; and that both actions become effective February 1, 2021.

Chief Millican moved, seconded by Mr. Tyre and carried unanimously, that the recommendation be accepted.

Proposed Legislation

Ms. Lancaster referred to proposed legislation included in the agenda packet and to a memorandum which provided the Board with summaries and staff opinions. She thanked the members for responding to a survey regarding the proposed legislation; whereupon, Chief Millican requested that the Board receive a report containing the responses.

Amendments to Board Rules

Ms. Lancaster introduced the item and indicated that a review of the PCCLB rules is ongoing; that staff is working to better align the format to the Special Act; and that the proposed amendments being presented today are considered priorities.

Ms. Lancaster presented information regarding the proposed amendment to Rule 2.03 and indicated that staff is recommending that the Board confer authority for waiving written applicant examinations to an Examination Committee. In response to queries and comments, she related that the amendment would allow applications to be processed more quickly; that each classification contains criteria for establishing competencies; that language and reading barriers are some of the reasons for waiving the examination requirement; and that waiver requests have been rare. Chief Millican moved that the item be tabled to the next meeting, and discussion resumed; whereupon, Mr. Melker moved that the Board continue to hear the written examination waiver requests.

Chair Holderith indicated that there is consensus among the members to take no action on the item; and that no vote is needed. Responding to query by Ms. Lancaster, he confirmed that the Board has rejected the staff's recommendation at this time.

Referring to the proposed amendment for Rule 11.09, Ms. Lancaster summarized the Licensing Department's current practice and related that the staff recommendation is suspension of license for failure to resolve a dishonored check within 90 days following notification. Responding to queries and comments, she indicated that 90 days is a standard time period for resolution of an insufficient funds check; that the notification will provide information regarding the potential for license suspension; that the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Office requires a dishonored check to be satisfied with cash or money order; and that there is a process to notify jurisdictions of license suspensions. Mr. Garriott moved, seconded by Mr. Melker and carried unanimously, that the Board approve the amendment.

Referring to Rule 3.07 detailed in the agenda package, Ms. Lancaster related that Attorney Parson has recommended an amendment to change the word *shall* to *must* as follows: “[a]ll State certified

contractors practicing in Pinellas County *must* be required to register with the Board...”. In response to query by Chief Millican, Attorney Parson indicated that current case law recognizes the word *must* as invoking more authority; whereupon, Chief Millican moved, seconded by Ms. Spencer and carried unanimously, that the amendment be approved.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals and Examination Committee Appointments

Referring to matrices provided in the agenda packet, Ms. Lancaster noted the following board vacancies:

- The BOAA Mechanical, Plumbing, and Gas has vacancies for a plumbing contractor and a natural gas contractor.
- The BOAA Electrical has vacancies for an electrical engineer and a building industry representative.
- The BOAA Florida Building Code has vacancies for a registered architect and a building industry representative.
- The Examining Committee for Plumbing needs two plumbing contractors.
- The Construction Licensing Board has a vacancy for an architect.

Mr. Tyre presented professional credentials for City of St. Petersburg Deputy Building Official Ken Steinke; whereupon, he nominated Mr. Steinke to fill the Building Official vacancy for the BOAA Florida Building Code, seconded by Mr. Erwin and carried unanimously.

Ms. Lancaster reported that the Board of County Commissioners will be considering the appointment of Registered Architect Mike Sofarelli to the PCCLB, and discussion ensued.

Insurance Violation Fee Waivers

Ms. Lancaster reported that under the authority granted to her by the Board, the fees assessed to the contractors listed below have been waived due to staff error.

- Daniel A. Pruty – I-SCC131150935
- Arthur F. Reynolds – C-10409

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lancaster announced that she has resigned from her position; and that effective February 1, 2021, Michelle Krickovic will be appointed as her replacement. She thanked the Board for their support, and the members expressed appreciation for the work she has done to move the Department and the Board forward.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Chief Millican, seconded by Mr. Garriott and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 P.M.

Chair