

ONEONTA, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS

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PRESENT: Chair John LeoGrande
Ed Hoag
John Frankl
Art Masucci
Art Rorick

ABSENT: None

Chair LeoGrande called the regular meeting to order and called the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, made by Art Rorick and seconded by John Frankl, that the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 9, 2012 be approved and ordered filed.

Voting Ayes: Chair John LeoGrande
Ed Hoag
John Frankl
Art Masucci
Art Rorick

Noes: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

REVIEW OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINATIONS

- Application from John Colwell to take the Master Electrician's examination

Chair LeoGrande stated that Mr. Colwell currently has a Limited Residential Electrician's license and he now wants to take the Master Electrician's examination.

MOTION, made by Art Masucci and seconded by John Frankl, that the board approves the application submitted by John Colwell to take the November 3, 2012 Master Electrician's examination.

Voting Ayes: Chair John LeoGrande
Ed Hoag
John Frankl
Art Masucci
Art Rorick

Noes: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

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Chair LeoGrande asked that the City Clerk send Mr. Colwell informing him that he was approved to take the November 3, 2012 Master Electrician's examination.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair LeoGrande stated that a response was not received from the complaint that Art Masucci made at the August board meeting regarding Dave Austen of Great Brook Solar doing work in the City without a license. He stated that he doesn't even think a letter was sent to him. He said he never saw any correspondence regarding the complaint.

Art Masucci stated that he spoke to Code Enforcement Officer Chiappisi about the situation who said that he would send Mr. Austen a letter.

Chair LeoGrande stated that he usually receives copies of correspondence sent out and he never received anything.

Ed Hoag stated that he spoke to Code Enforcement Officer Chiappisi about the situation also and the problem is that he only gave an estimate.

Art Masucci stated that he solicited under the City.

Chair LeoGrande stated that the board doesn't need to worry about Mr. Austen unless he continues on.

- Review Zoning Code

§ 112-2 Board of Electrical Examiners A and B

The board discussed the proposal for membership of the board: (7 members)

- 2 Master Electricians licensed in the City of Oneonta
- 1 member from an approved electrical inspection agency
- 1 member from the Fire Department
- 1 member from a public service corporation furnishing electricity for the public use in the City
- 2 members shall not require any qualifications except to be residents of the City of Oneonta

§ 112-2 E – Removal. The board proposed the following:

Any member of the board may be removed at the absolute discretion of the Mayor *and* Common Council.

§ 112-3 – Organization and duties of board.

A. Quorum; organization; meetings. A majority of the membership of the board shall constitute a quorum. The board shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary, who shall both be members of the board. The board shall meet as required by call of the Chairman.

Art Rorick questioned who the secretary was.

Ed Hoag stated that he's been on the board for a long time and the board has never had a Secretary.

Chair LeoGrande stated that he doesn't believe there has ever been a secretary on the board.

§ 112-5 Application for electrician's licenses:

The board proposed the following be added to this section:

All applicants must apply at the City Clerk and upon submission and review must meet in person to the board of Electrical Examiners of the City of Oneonta.

- A. Form and contents; qualifications. Any person desiring to procure a license as a master electrician, **journeyman electrician or** as a limited residential electrician in the City **of Oneonta** shall make application **hereupon** forms furnished at the office of the City Clerk. Said application shall state the name, age and residence of the applicant and must also include an affidavit of eligibility.
- B. Affidavit of eligibility
 - (1) Any applicant for a master electrician's license must provide evidence of at least five **(5) years of documented working experience as an apprentice/electrician plus at least three (3) years' experience as a journeyman** in the electrical or related field.

Ed Hoag stated that if the testing fee can be waived, then the time requirements could be waived also.

Art Rorick stated that that he doesn't know what the intent was originally on the waiver examination, but he said this is under affidavit of eligibility. He said that the following is also under Affidavit of eligibility:

Affidavits supporting such claims, showing experience, qualifications, employment and residence for a period of five years prior to the date of the application, must be submitted with the application, together with statements concerning the applicant's conviction of a crime, if any, and such other information as required and deemed desirable.

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Art Masucci stated that so basically an individual has to be a resident of the city for five (5) years before you can apply to take an electrician's examination. He said he's never lived in the city.

Ed Hoag stated that as far as waivers are concerned, he felt that it should state at the discretion of the board as to what they wanted to do as far as issuing somebody a license.

Art Rorick stated that it already states in § 112-3 B that *the board shall examine at the direction of the Chairman such applicants as have duly applied to the board of Electrical Examiners for licensing as electricians, and their determination with reference to the qualifications and fitness of such applicants shall be final.*

Ed Hoag stated that it states in § 112-5 B that you need eight (8) years experience working.

Art Rorick questioned why Ed Hoag was going over that again. He said the board already went over that.

Ed Hoag felt that the option to waiver should be up to the decision and discretion of the board. He felt that *"See Article II, § 112-5 B (1) and (2).*

The board proposed that § 112-3 C Waiver of Examination should read: **the examination can be waived at the discretion of the majority of the board.**

Ed Hoag stated that for apprentices, it should be noted **under the direct supervision of a master electrician.** He explained that a journeyman can do a job, but the master electrician has to check the work.

The board decided that § 112-4 – Licensed Required – should read as follows:

*... and who are duly registered electricians with the city, or by journeyman **employed by a licensed electrician or an apprentice electrician employed by and under the direct supervision** of such licensed electricians and who are duly registered with the city, except that any nonlicensed property owner may, upon fulfillment of § 112-12, perform electrical work in his/her own building, provided that the building is strictly a single-family residential and that the owner resides in said building, and further excepted as specified at § 112-10, entitled "Exemptions."*

Art Rorick stated that §112-12 A is Application for inspection and §112-12 B is Temporary certificate.

The board discussed §112-5 – Application for electrician license.

Art Rorick stated that he added the following to §112-5 – **All applicants must apply at the City Clerk and upon submission and review must meet in person to the Board of Electrical Examiners of the City of Oneonta.**

Art Rorick stated that §112-5 A was amended to read as follows:

- A. Form and contents; qualifications. Any person desiring to procure a license as a master electrician, journeyman electrician or as a limited residential electrician in the City of Oneonta shall make application thereupon forms furnished at the office of the City Clerk. Said application shall state the name and residence of the applicant and must also include an affidavit of eligibility. (“Age” was removed)

The board agreed that the requirement that an individual has to be a City of Oneonta resident should be removed.

Ed Hoag felt that the applicants should also provide a disclaimer that they have never had an electrical license revoked or suspended. He said it should be a notarized affidavit.

The board agreed that §112-5 B – Affidavit of eligibility should read as follows:

- (1) *Any applicant for a master electrician’s license must provide evidence of at least five (5) years’ of documented working experience as an apprentice/electrician plus at least three (3) years’ experience as a journeyman in the electrical or related field.*

Affidavits supporting such claims, showing experience, qualifications, and employment must be submitted with the application, together with statements concerning the applicant’s conviction of a crime, if any, and such other information as required and deemed desirable.
(and residence for a period of five years prior to the date of the application – was removed from this section)

- (2) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician’s license must provide evidence of at least five (5) years’ of documented working experience doing electrical work under the supervision of a licensed master electrician.

Affidavits supporting such claims, showing experience, qualifications, employment and residence for a period of five years prior to the date of the application, must be submitted with the application, together with statements concerning the applicant’s conviction of a crime, if any, and such other information as required and deemed desirable.

- (3) *Any applicant for a limited residential electrician’s license must provide evidence of at least four (4) years’ working experience in the electrical or related field, or graduation from an accredited school of electrical training plus enough years in the electrical field to total the four (4) years’ experience required above.*

Affidavits supporting such claims, showing experience, qualifications, employment and residence for a period of 4 years prior to the date of the application, must be submitted with the application, together with statements concerning the applicant’s conviction of a crime, if any, and such other information as required and deemed desirable.

4 No license shall be granted to any person who is less than 21 years of age.

5 Any applicant for a restricted maintenance license

D. Approval; prerequisite to examination. No applicant shall, however, be entitled to take the examination until the applicant's qualifications are first **reviewed and** approved by the board of Electrical Examiners.

E. Reexamination. Any applicant who takes and **fails** the same examination two times in a twelve-month period will not be eligible to reapply until a six-month period has passed and proof is provided to the board of **Electrical Examiners the** attendance by the applicant at a board-approved electrical code class.

The board agreed that § 112-6 Issuance and term of license; fees should read as follows:

A. Generally. Any applicant who has successfully passed the **written and practical examinations** shall be notified in writing thereof by the Secretary of the board of Electrical Examiners, and the City Clerk shall issue to him/her a licensed there**upon**. The fee for an original license shall be established by resolution from time to time by the Common Council of the City of Oneonta for an individual, firm or corporation. All electricians' licenses shall be issued in consecutive order. Licenses so issued shall be valid for **one** calendar year and shall only be issued upon proof that the individual license, firm or corporation carries manufacturers' and contractors' liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, if required, All such licenses may be renewed annually upon payment of a fee which shall be determined from time to time by the Common Council and by supplying proof of insurance. Any person licensed as master electrician **or journeyman electrician** in the City of Oneonta who fails to renew his/her license for a consecutive two-year period may be required by the board of Electrical Examiners to reapply and be reexamined.

Ed Hoag stated that he has a question of shelving a license.

Chair LeoGrande questioned whether shelving licenses was in the electrical code.

Ed Hoag responded that it was not included in the code. He said he has to question some of the individuals who listed as "Inactive" on the electrician's list.

Art Masucci stated that an individual can shelve their license for two (2) years and after that, the individual has to reapply and it's up to the discretion of the board whether to renew the license or not.

Ed Hoag stated that there should be something in the code that explains shelving a license or being inactive.

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Art Masucci stated that an individual can stay inactive for as long as they want. He said they weren't hurting anything. He stated that if it's for more than two years, he has to reapply and it is up to the discretion of the board whether to allow him to renew his license or whether the board makes them sit for the examination.

Art Rorick stated that there's a section in Binghamton's electrical code that's called "*Failure to renew license – A. Every licensee who fails to renew his/her license prior to the expiration thereof, shall pay an additional fee that is set from time to time by the City Council, for each year or part thereof, together with the license fee described in this section for each year the license is not renewed.*"

Chair LeoGrande stated that in Norwich if you don't renew your license every year, after two years you have to sit for the exam again.

Ed Hoag felt that if an individual does not do any work and is inactive for 2 years, they should be taken off the list.

Chair LeoGrande stated that something should be put in the electrical code.

Art Rorick stated that he will title it "*Failure to renew license – failure to renew a license for two (2) consecutive years requires approval by the board of Electrical Examiners. Re-examination may be required for license to be reinstated. After two (2) consecutive years, licensee's name shall be removed from the licensed electrician's list.*"

Chair LeoGrande stated that the board will continue their review of the electrical code at the October meeting.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair LeoGrande duly adjourned the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.

JAMES R. KOURY, CITY CLERK

JRK/bsm