

Plumbing Board of Appeals
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2015

Board Members Present:

Tom Day
Michael Hussenius
Brian Rogers
Jim Meier-Gast
Alison Brown

Board Members Absent:

Also Present:

Shaun Kukuzke, Dave Schmitt Construction
John Berns, Dave Schmitt Construction

Kevin Ciabatti, Building Services Director
Duncan McCallum, Plans Examination Coordinator
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary

Board Chair Tom Day brought the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Minutes from the previous meeting held on October 28, 2013, were reviewed. Mike Hussenius made a motion to approve the October 2013 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Jim Meier-Gast. All in favor; motion carried.

Tom Day opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Mike Hussenius made a motion for Tom Day to remain Chairperson. Jim Meier-Gast seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Tom Day opened for floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Jim Meier-Gast made a motion for Mike Hussenius to remain Vice-Chairperson. Alison Brown seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Discussion began with regards to an appeal had been filed by Dave Schmitt Construction (hereinafter referred to as "DSC") concerning the modification/interpretation of the 2012 Plumbing Code specifically as it pertains to a sanitary sewer service located at 3301 Old Orchard Rd NE. Shawn Kukuzke with DSC stated he reviewed the information to be presented with Dale Seaman, Chief Plumbing Inspector, as well as Plumbing Board of Appeals member Brian Rogers just to get an idea of what to do with regards to the appeal process. Shaun explained the homeowner's daughter of 3301 Old Orchard Rd NE contacted DSC had contacted them regarding the sewer service clogging. This service had clogged a couple times in the 1990s. The original general contractor did an unsatisfactory job with the perk test so in 1991/1992, the sewer service was run across Old Orchard Road to tie into a manhole. Throughout the years, it froze a couple times underneath the road. The line was 18-inches deep. The winter of 2013/2014 caused the line froze; RotoRooter was able to open the frozen portion. DSC was called to investigate and found the line to only be 18-inches deep with a good fall, clean pipe, and no bellies. Someone told the homeowner to contact Esco Electric to possible use heat trace. Per Shawn Kukuzke's conversation with Esco Electric, Esco Electric and the homeowner contacted the City of Cedar Rapids about putting heat trace in the existing service. Question then came up about if the service continued to be clogged. They (Esco and homeowner) then contacted DSC about putting in a whole new service. DSC investigated and realized the way the sewer service runs, you have to run underneath all the established trees which would have to come out to dig a new service. Also, the property runs in a diagonal through an intersection which requires more concrete to be torn out. This combined with the removal of all the trees would drive up the installation costs. In addition, they would need to dig 8ft to 10ft deep to get the proper depth. There is another manhole on Plum Grove Ct NE. Shaun contacted Dave Wallace with the Cedar Rapids Public Works Dept. Shaun and Dave discussed a few different

scenarios: installing an exterior trash pump and pump it through the old/existing service (install a new line or put a 2" PVC through the old 4" PVC drop, manhole to manhole. The existing service came in at 2 ft below and with a drop in it). They also discussed going down Plum Grove Ct to an existing manhole. A few weeks went by and Dave Wallace called Shawn to inform him that the City doesn't really own that manhole as its part of a private lift station that serves the households on it. He also said DSC would need to go through City Engineering and Design just to run the service down through the R-O-W to get to Plum Grove Ct NE manhole. DSC then priced directional drill to the homeowner. Dave Wallace was then contacted about the directional drill and the sanitary service. He said everything looked good; Dave suggested Shaun contact Pat Wieneke to review. Shaun met Pat on the jobsite to review the suggestion with him. Shaun stated Pat didn't have any other options except for the new connection at the house and the connection at the manhole would need to be inspection. DSC gave pricing for the directional drill, and they agreed to have this installation done. Shaun then came into the Building Services Dept with just the Google Earth images and completed the permit applications. Shaun stated he brought two checks with him: one for the excavation permit and one for the sewer permit. All the documents were being reviewed at the counter, and Shaun was told he only needed to provide the \$50 check for a utilities ROW permit but never purchased the sewer permit; the ROW permit was approved and issued. It is believed Public Works didn't make the mental connection that a sewer permit would be required. When DSC called for an inspection, they were told a sewer permit would need to be applied for; which they did. Dale Seaman arrived at the property to investigate and began inquiring about the material (C900). Dale informed DSC that C900 is not an approved material through the Plumbing Code. The DSC foreman called Shaun Kukuzke who then called Schimberg who stated that C900 should be an approved material. Dale then reviewed with Shaun the approved material as listed in the Plumbing Code. Per Shaun's discussion with Schimberg, Schimberg stated that C900 meets or exceeds SDR 23.5. Shaun then contacted Brian Rogers since Brian is on the Board and knows the Plumbing Code and reviewed the issue. The new sewer is hooked up since they were digging when the ground was frozen; DSC did not want the ground to freeze again and they didn't believe there was enough time to get the C900 approved and the ground was freezing. The old sewer is still in the manhole, under the street up to 20ft from the house (where it was disconnected), and not in use. The new service is more than 4 ft deep, coming in about 49-inches from the bottom of the manhole at about a 5% grade up to the house; DSC provided a video showing the flow through the line.

Tom Day stated his understanding is the reason the material that is approved in the appendix is because it's more pliable; C900 is more brittle and won't lie correctly. Brian Rogers stated the installation standard is not for directional boring. Shaun stated the reason he didn't question the installation is because they use C900 for all City sewers. Tom Day stated Schimberg's had previously been told they cannot use C900 for private sewer service. Tom then read the installation standard from the Plumbing Code on the use of SDR17. John Berns stated DSC feels C900 meets and exceeds the standard. He also stated they didn't know they shouldn't be using C900 beyond the ROW. Kevin Ciabatti stated it's his opinion C900 is probably the best application for directional drill and should be reviewed for future use in directional drilling within Cedar Rapids.

The Board reviewed the C900 specification sheet. Tom Day stated his concern was that if the Standard appendices were adopted for directional boring, and it does have a pipe in it and anyone that comes in asks if they can use 23 or whatever, we deny their request; if it is going to be adopted, it's adopted with the pipe having the proper fall and doesn't retain any water through the whole run down to the manhole (no bellies). Tom believes if a pipe's installed that exceeds the Standard and you're able to get

the proper flow with no retention of water through the complete run (no bellies), then the intent of the code has been met.

Video provided by Dave Schmitt Construction showing the water flow through the installed pipe was viewed. The installed pipe was run 174 feet. Board agreed the installed pipe looked clean.

Brian asked his vote be excused since he is familiar with the issue and worked with Laurie Hampton (homeowner's daughter) when the project was originally started. Tom entertained a motion to approve the request from DSC for their appeal of the 2012 Plumbing Code for 3301 Old Orchard Rd NE. Jim moved; Mike seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tom requested a letter be sent to Schimberg's reminding them again that, for directional boring purposes, the approved material is SDR17, not C900.

Discussion began regarding the 2015 Plumbing Code changes/amendments. Kevin stated he would like to address the following topics with relation to the new Plumbing Code:

1. Small business dining establishments that may/may not want to have a few dining tables. There have been a number of these establishments that, because they have no bathroom, cannot offer any seating. Two Brothers Chicken is an example. Tom clarified that the issue is allowing these establishments to have a unisex bathroom; current requirement is one male bathroom and one female bathroom.
2. More than two fixtures require a floor drain in a public restroom: concrete construction requires a floor drain; wood construction does not require one. Tom Day requested this issue be revisited.
3. Back water valves, trying to figure out where we would mandate them and trying to figure out how we would implement. This has a cost implication to Development. Tom strongly advised use of the check valve that can be manually opened because anyone who cleans the sewer and sends the tape/machine with a cutter bit, they will never get it back when it has a check valve.
4. Sump pump drainages and drainage of any kind (gutters, etc.).
5. Administrative Code issue clean up: re-inspection fees, renewal fees, and how long a permit is good for. Basically standardize each code and remove information concerning fees.
6. Water Conditioner System: is a plumbing permit required? At least for a bypass?

Water Conditioner System discussion began. Kevin stated awhile back a few companies had asked water softeners be exempt from plumbing permits. Tom stated that when he was on the State Board, there was an inspector from Sioux City who claimed that years ago there was a lawsuit brought by Culligan against a municipality about requiring a plumbing permit because you are connecting to the potable water and Culligan won the suit because it was a restriction of trade. Tom also stated that per the Plumbing Code, a plumbing license is required if a connection to a potable water system is made.

Tom entertained a motion to adjourn. Brian moved; Mike seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary