

**Construction Licensing Board
Pinellas County
May 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB) met in regular session at 1:44 PM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Alan Holderith Jr., Chair, General Contractor
Michael E. Kelly, Vice Chair, Pool Contractor
Douglas Erwin, Electrical Contractor
Kevin Garriott, North County Building Official
Jason Holloway, Consumer Representative (late arrival)
Steven James II, Roofing Contractor
Chief James Millican, Fire Official
Michael Sofarelli, Architect
Evelyn Spencer, Pinellas County Building Official
Don Tyre, South County Building Official
Mark Vasquez, Beach Community Building Official
John Wear, Plumbing Contractor

Not Present

Marina Kron, Class A HVAC Contractor
Lawrence Schear, Consumer Representative

Others Present

Michelle Krickovic, Director, Contractor Licensing Department (CLD)
Jacina Parson, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Jude Reazin, Code Enforcement Division Manager
Sarah Rathke, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

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 1:44 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

Ms. Krickovic introduced the staff members in attendance.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Chair Holderith indicated that Mark Vasquez is a new member of the PCCLB; and that he has over 30 years of experience as a building official and contractor; whereupon, Mr. Vasquez introduced himself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE PCCLB MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2022

Chief Millican moved that the minutes of the March 14, 2022 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyre and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Holderith indicated that supporting documentation for the following Consent agenda items is included in the agenda packet:

- Special Magistrate Hearing Minutes: Feb 23, 2022, March 7, 2022, March 21, 2022, and April 25, 2022
- Examination Committee Reports: March 2022 – May 2022
- Expired Permit Violations (none)

Chief Millican made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tyre and carried unanimously, that the Consent Agenda items be approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

Request to Rescind Permit Violations

Ms. Krickovic presented a request to rescind two expired permit violations issued to David Michael Patterson, Case Nos. EP18-2128 and EP19-10138, indicating that the violations

were rescinded by the City of St. Petersburg Building Department after final orders for the cases were rendered by the Board.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to rescind the above-referenced violations, which was seconded by Mr. Tyre and passed unanimously.

Board of Adjustments and Appeals (BOAA) and Examination Committee Vacancies

Ms. Krickovic detailed BOAA and Examination Committee Vacancies as follows:

- The Mechanical, Plumbing, and Gas BOAA has an opening for a natural gas contractor.
- The Electrical BOAA has vacancies for an electrical engineer and a building industry representative.
- The Plumbing Examination Committee has a vacancy for a plumbing contractor.
- The Ad Hoc Examination Committee has a vacancy for an irrigation contractor.

Report - Insurance Violation Fee Waivers

Ms. Krickovic indicated that an insurance violation fee assessed to John Cannon, I-CGCA18551, was waived due to an administrative error.

Mr. Holloway arrived at 1:53 PM.

Report – Collections Write-down

Ms. Krickovic related that there are no collections for this period.

Director's Report

BOARD RESIGNATION

Ms. Krickovic indicated that the PCCLB has an opening for a Residential Contractor, as Dave Eldridge has resigned; that the application deadline is June 14 at 3:00 PM; that there is a hot link in the board agenda document; and that the opening has been advertised.

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATION

Ms. Krickovic provided information regarding the arrest of a former PCCLB investigator, indicating that upon receiving a complaint from Credence Construction, LLC, staff immediately consulted with the County Attorney's Office and submitted a request to the

Inspector General's Office to conduct an independent investigation, which upon completion confirmed several substantiated violations. She noted that staff provided full support in the Sheriff's Office investigation; and that the employee resigned prior to a pre-disciplinary hearing by the County and was arrested days later on charges of bribery and official misconduct; whereupon, she emphasized that the incident involved one individual and does not reflect the commitment and values of the department and remaining staff.

BUILDING OFFICIAL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Krickovic related that the PCCLB has been hosting a series of Building Officials roundtable meetings with County and Municipal Building Officials to discuss the impacts of House Bill 735; and that the discussion scope expanded to opportunities for standardizing code interpretations and contractor permitting processes countywide.

Mr. Tyre expressed that the roundtable meetings are a positive forum to promote Building Officials process uniformity; and that he would like to discuss legislative action following the Miami-Dade Surfside Condominium collapse at the next roundtable meeting; whereupon, Ms. Krickovic provided input and shared that any discussion topic requests can be sent to her or to Senior Office Specialist Ashley Paulino.

HOUSE BILL 735 UPDATE

Ms. Krickovic indicated that as a result of the roundtable meetings, staff has revisited its interpretation of the impact HB 735 may have on local contractors; that the Department website was updated to reflect the County contractor classifications which correspond to the State classifications; and that the contractors with licenses in those classifications will be able to continue doing business under their County licenses.

RENEWALS

Ms. Krickovic highlighted that each year from June 1 to September 30, registered contractors must renew their licenses; that the renewal fee has been reduced for contractors impacted by HB 735, since their license will expire in nine months on June 30, 2023, rather than the usual 12 months; and that in the event that HB 735 is rescinded, the Department will automatically extend those licenses to September 30 with no additional fees; whereupon, she noted that those contractors will be receiving letters notifying them of the bill's potential impact on their licenses.

Management Report - Investigations

Mr. Reazin provided an update and indicated that given the circumstances, staff is operating well and are working to hire a new investigator; and that while the issuance of

citations has been negatively affected by the staff shortage, the number of complaints coming into the department last month was down by 91%.

Ms. Krickovic shared that following the recent arrest, a contractor who had been cited for unlicensed contracting requested a refund of a fine that he voluntarily paid, admitting his guilt; and that staff notified him that he would not be receiving the refund.

In response to queries by the members, Ms. Krickovic related that locally-licensed Marine Contractors will be allowed to continue their work uninterrupted, as the classification will not be impacted by HB 735; and that the County's ACCELA system implementation has been deferred and will occur closer to November to accommodate staff's higher workload during the license renewal season in October; and that it will allow time to implement the Department's requested changes for managing contractor's insurance policies.

Citizens to be Heard

The item was not addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Chief Millican, which was seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried unanimously, Chair Holderith adjourned the meeting at 2:12 PM.