

Minutes BLIC March 17, 2021

Minutes Taker – Dan Cao

Start Time: 11:02 AM

End Time: 12:27 PM

## **BOARD OF LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS**

**Meeting Location:** Via GoToMeeting

### **Attendees:**

#### Board Members

Gaetano Virone

George M. McCarthy

Kenneth Scherer

Robert Dobson

Kevin Luckie

#### Affiliation

Environmental Designers Irrigation

Spring Irrigation

Hillsborough Irrigation

Middletown Sprinkler

Assistant Director DCA

#### Legal Counsel

Dominic Giova

DAG

#### DCA Staff

John Delesandro

Dan Cao

Supervisor of Codes & Standards DCA

Administrative Assistant DCA

#### Member of the Public

Anthony Jay Gray

### **Official Start Time: 11:02 AM**

John Delesandro read aloud the Open Public Meetings Act statement for the Board of Landscape Irrigation Contractors and announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided to the Secretary of State, and designated newspapers on March 11, 2021.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Minutes for the previous meetings have not been completed yet, held off for next meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kevin Luckie went over the Treasurer's report. He added that reserves were added by the Department of the Treasury, an incumbent number was put aside for the Irrigation Association contract, and some was expended for office supplies.

### **Communications**

None

### **Unfinished Business**

*Database Development Contract*

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Kevin Luckie stated that we received the scope of work from the software developer for the database. He added that the price for the software is more than the budgeted amount. However, many aspects of the software that was not needed will be done by the Department's IT staff, which brought down the final amount. He recommended taking the entire amount of the cost of the software from the program, then credit back about 25% of the cost.

George McCarthy asked in regard to the timeframe of the new software.

Kevin Luckie answered that the software developer stated about a 16-week turnaround time.

#### *IA Contractor for 2021*

John Delesandro stated that he did receive and sign the contract with the Irrigation Association. He added that the contract goes to the end of the fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup> for only the web posting of the CECs. Also, the Irrigation Association was supposed to send a MOU regarding the CIC exam to him before the meeting, but he still does not have it.

#### *NJ Business Law/Building Code CEC's FAQ on Webpage*

John Delesandro stated that he and George are working on details to put on the LIC webpage, but it has not been finalized yet.

Robert Dobson stated that he spoke with a representative from IrriTech about some courses being listed as business courses when they are not. He added that it has been corrected on their end.

#### *Landscape Technician Apprenticeship – Irrigation Work*

Gaetano Virone came across the landscape technician apprenticeship program that is offered by the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, which has irrigation requirements to enter the program. He has a concern that the Association is requiring the landscape technician to have irrigation experience, however the technician may receive it from an unlicensed company.

George McCarthy stated that their experience would not count as credit if they tried to obtain their irrigation certification.

Robert Dobson added that he looked at the apprenticeship program on the Association's webpage and stated that most of the requirements are exempt from having a license except for one section. Also, he found verbiage on the webpage that the apprenticeship program does not replace the New Jersey Irrigation Contractor licensing requirements. He found a PDF of the requirements for the apprenticeship and will send to everyone for review. In addition, he recommended adding this item to the next meeting agenda.

Dominic Giova stated that he will look further into this matter for the Board.

#### **New Business**

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*New Candidates for Certification*

John Delesandro stated that there are four candidates for review by the Board, each that are a special case and should be reviewed in Closed session and then take a vote.

**One candidate with golf course experience, George McCarthy, Robert Dobson, and Kevin Luckie voted yes; Gaetano Virone voted no. Candidate was approved to sit for the exam.**

**One candidate that took and passed the CIC exam back in 2018, the Board voted yes unanimously. Candidate is approved to proceed with the certification process.**

#### *2021 Certification Renewal Status/Current Certifications*

Dan Cao stated that 228 contractors renewed for the 2021 renewal period. Also, she stated that 94 contractors in the 2021 renewal period still need to renew. She added that for the 2020 renewal period, there are still 20 contractors who still have to renew. For the 2019 contractors, 13 contractors can no longer renew. One contractor is missing their application and fee, one is missing one CEC, one sent in CECs without the submission form, two were not interested in renewing. The remaining eight contractors were sent violations.

#### *Business Permit Status*

Dan Cao stated that there are 353 current business permits in total. There are 164 business permits in 2021, 168 in 2022, and 21 in 2023.

#### *Enforcement Cases*

No updates on enforcement cases.

#### *Posting Violations on the Webpage*

Dominic Giova stated he is continuing to look into this matter.

#### **Public Comment**

Anthony Jay Gray stated that he will be the first applicant to qualify through the Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC) exam through the Irrigation Association. He wanted to attend the meeting to answer any questions, if any, about his qualifications and/or application.

Gaetano Virone asked him if the process was smooth.

Anthony Jay Gray answered that yes it was a smooth process and it is the same process in North Carolina.

Gaetano Virone asked if he is licensed in North Carolina.

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Anthony Jay Gray answered that he is licensed in North Carolina, California, Florida, Virginia, and Connecticut.

Gaetano Virone asked if he is aware that in NJ there are required CECs that must be obtained to renew his certification.

Anthony Jay Gray answered yes.

### **Closed Session**

**George McCarthy motioned to go into Closed session at 11:47 AM, Robert Dobson seconded. Motion carried, unanimously.**

**Robert Dobson motioned to return to Open session at 12:20 PM, Kevin Luckie seconded. Motion carried, unanimously.**

**Robert Dobson motioned to adjourn meeting, George McCarthy seconded. Motion carried, unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM.**