

The Franklin County Construction Industry Licensing Board met on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex County Commission Meeting room in Apalachicola.

PRESENT: William Poloronis	Chairman
John Hewitt	Vice Chairman
Heath Galloway	Member
Allan Roberts	Member
Ronald Gray	Member
Greg Prickett	Member
Franklin King	Alt Member
Robert Nichaelson	Alt Member
Robin Brinkley	Building Official

ABSENT: Mark Housholder	Member
Allan Roberts	Member
Michael Pridgen	Alt Member
Jimmy Thompson	Alt Member
Michael Shuler	Attorney

The meeting was called to order, with a quorum present by Chairman Poloronis, who thereafter presided.

Chairman Poloronis announced to the board that Mr. Allan Roberts sent word that he will no longer be serving on the Construction Board. Chairman Poloronis said we appreciate Mr. Roberts service to the Construction board and he will be missed.

The first item brought before the Board was approval of the minutes from the meeting held February 18, 2004. **A motion was made by Member Hewitt to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2004 meeting, 2nd by Member Nicholson, and with a unanimous vote from all members present the motion carried.**

The second item on the agenda was a complaint against Beach Builders of N W Florida Inc.(Dale Anderson/ Registered General Contractor) filed by Frank Leonard. Chairman Poloronis let the Board know Mr. Leonard sent a letter dropping the complaint against Mr. Anderson.

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The last item scheduled was a workshop regarding permitting issues. Mr. Peter Newman with the Department of Business and Professional Regulations was introduced to lead the workshop. Mr. Newman told the board that his department wanted to make sure people in the construction trade were licensed professionals and were competent and safe for consumers. He let everyone know that the rules and regulations are sculpted by local boards and Builders associations. There was discussion about Workers Compensation and Newman said this is a big issue but his department has no say in that matter. Newman said it wasn't fair for contractors without workers comp to come in and under bidding the contractors working legally with workmen comp and his department was trying to put a damper on unlicensed activity. Newman said although the workmen comp issue is out of his jurisdiction they can contact someone from the division of workmen comp and they can look into the problem and fine violators. He encourage anyone to call him if they had questions regarding unlicensed activity. Newman went on to say those caught doing unlicensed work the first time would be sent to the State attorneys office, the second time also and the third time they would seek arrest. He said you have to draw a line and there had to be consequences for things being done the wrong way. Newman added any complaint brought to his attention would be looked into. He also let everyone know that just because a complaint was called in does not necessarily mean it will go against your record, that whoever is being complained against will have the chance to have a say and if possible make it right or if the board finds no wrong doing it will be thrown out. Newman said complaints are handled on a case by case basis. The group talked about owner builders and how this is a problem. If a permit is pulled as an owner builder the house can't be sold or rented for one year. There was also discussion about people posing as contractors and getting paid as the contractor. The group was advised that only the qualifying business should get paid for the work done or the one holding the license. Newman added they want to educate the public and they don't mind coming down when asked to do so. The meeting was informative for those attending and Mr. Newman handed out business card to those who wanted one and encouraged them to call if they had questions or complaints. Chairman Poloronis thanked Mr. Newman for attending the meeting.

There was no other business so Chairman Poloronis asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Member Prickett, 2nd by Member Hewitt and with a unanimous vote from all members present the motion carried to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

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William Poloronis, Chairman

Attest:

Robin A. Brinkley, Building Official

