

**Minutes from the February 19, 2025  
Brevard County Contractors' Licensing Board  
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**The following Board members were present:**

Bud Crisafulli  
Roger Drabyk  
Ralph (RJ) Durham  
David Foley  
Kerry Gardner  
Ronald Nost  
Albert Underwood

**The following members of staff were present:**

Justin Caron, Assistant County Attorney  
Claudine Mickle, Development Services Assistant Manager  
Cherronda Washington, Development Services Supervisor  
Michelle Bruno, Development Services Supervisor  
Tara Mueller, Development Services Supervisor  
Tommy Latherow, Records Compliance Specialist  
Denny Long, Supervisor Contractor and Code Compliance Division  
Maggie Castellano, Contractor and Code Compliance Officer  
Ashton Styron, Contractor and Code Compliance Officer

**Call to Order:**

Chair *Bud Crisafulli* called to order the February 19, 2025, Brevard County Contractors' Licensing Board meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*RJ Durham* motioned to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025, Contractors' Licensing Board meeting, second *Kerry Gardner*. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**John Tutty, J&J Roofing Solutions Inc, 19-RF-CT-00034 Stipulated Agreement Review**

Assistant County Attorney Justin Caron introduced the item and reminded the Board they moved forward previously with a Show Cause Hearing after a report of a criminal conviction against Mr. Tutty was brought to their attention. Jay Thakkar, an attorney representing Mr. Tutty later appeared before the Board and spoke to the circumstances of his client. Mr. Thakkar worked with Mr. Caron to reach an agreement on a three-year probationary status for Mr. Tutty's license. Mr. Caron told the Board they can reject the agreement but asked if they accept it to not amend the agreement per his work with Mr. Thakkar on the terms.

RJ Durham said he thought it looked great as is.

Chair Bud Crisafulli disclosed that Mr. Thakkar represented him on real estate work previously but has no outside knowledge or involvement of this item.

Vice Chair Albert Underwood commented Mr. Tutty had already signed and agreed to the terms of the Stipulated Agreement.

Mr. Caron informed the Board of a clerical error for the record, the Stipulated Agreement is assigned to case number 24CE-01532 for the Code Enforcement case which, however, the number for the Contractor Licensing case is 24CT-00227.

Motion to accept the Stipulated Agreement by *RJ Durham*, second *Albert Underwood*. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

### **Personal Appearance:**

### **Jack Ghiz requests the Board approve his exam application for Fencing Contractor**

Jack Ghiz was present.

Claudine Mickle introduced the item and stated staff was not able to confirm Mr. Ghiz worked for a licensed contractor to gain the experience requirement necessary for approval. Additionally, the Board would need to review the information on Mr. Ghiz's Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) background report to make their determination for approval.

Mr. Ghiz introduced himself and said he had installed fences for a long time but always needed other people to pull the permits. Most recently Mr. Ghiz

had worked with Carl Troehler pulling permits for the work he was doing. Mr. Troehler's health declined, and he has since retired. Mr. Ghiz said he has many calls come in for fence installations and wants the license so he can pull his own permits, buy materials at contractor prices, and eventually work towards a Building Contractor license.

RJ Durham disclosed that Mr. Ghiz is his neighbor and has known him for a long time, however, would have no bearing with deciding the outcome of his application.

Vice Chair Albert Underwood said that Mr. Ghiz's Jack Hammer Construction has done work in Brevard County for a long time, and he assumed the work being done was by someone with a license and was being permitted.

Mr. Ghiz responded that the work was being done under the permits of others such as Tom Brandon and Carl Troehler and involved more than just fence work.

Mr. Underwood further asked staff if the Fencing License allows concrete and masonry work as Mr. Ghiz included those on his application. Claudine Mickle said that the license is specific to fencing and that the other two trades are unregulated, with Mr. Ghiz including them to say he is experienced in them. Mr. Ghiz added that he does have concrete contractor listed on his business tax receipt.

Mr. Underwood spoke to the concerns of having a license for a particular kind of work to pull a permit and then doing work outside of that scope.

Mr. Underwood continued, stating that the dates of offenses on Mr. Ghiz's FLDE report are from many years ago. Mr. Durham added nothing in the contents of the report were so egregious as to not consider the application, and that in cases where it has been, the Board has prevented the applicant from proceeding.

Kerry Gardner brought to the Board's attention the date on a letter of recommendation from his church lined up with the date stated at the end of the background report, date of adjudication.

Chair Bud Crisafulli reminded the Board this item is approve the application of Fencing Contractor only.

Motion to approve the exam application by *Albert Underwood*, second *Kerry Gardner*. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Applicants That Passed the GITS and Prov Exams:**

Motion to approve *RJ Durham*, second *Kerry Gardner*. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Transfer:**

Motion to approve by *David Foley*, second *Roger Drabyk*. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Citation Report:**

The Board reviewed the report. Mr. Durham asked about the effectiveness of the report, and Maggie Castellano replied only one formal letter to an offender has been issued to date but they then immediately paid the citation. She continued to update the Board on the status of Kenneth Jacobs and his Stipulated Agreement. Mr. Jacobs has yet to pay any of the outstanding citations that will be due by mid-May.

### **Public Speaking Session:**

No public speakers.

### **Reports:**

#### **Claudine Mickle, Development Services Assistant Manager**

Claudine Mickle discussed providing the Board of County Commissioners with an annual Advisory Board report on the activities Contractors' Licensing Board. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed this report and removed Cliff Barber from the Contractors' Licensing Board.

Claudine Mickle suggested to the Board members to consider informing staff of any absences so the reason can be noted.

#### **Justin Caron, Assistant County Attorney**

No report.

#### **Bud Crisafulli, Board Chair**

No report.

### **Members of the Board**

Ronald Nost made a general inquiry based on Mr. Ghiz's statement of having contractors pull permits for other people to do work and the laws relating to it.

Claudine Mickle explained aiding and abetting unlicensed activity, subcontracting work for a regulated trade, and that for a County licensed contractor they could potentially be brought before the Board for a Show Cause hearing. For a State Certified contractor, in the case of Mr. Ghiz's situation, staff would inform the offender but there is no citation at the county level. If the offender continued, then staff would report them to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for investigation.

The Board further discussed examples of aiding and abetting situations where work has been subcontracted to others. Mr. Underwood gave the example of owner/builder permits being obtained by the owner to get around license requirements.

Ms. Castellano informed the Board she works with the building officials to address the permit status, work being done, and the contractors involved. If she found workers performing regulated trades that cross over into what would require a license, she added she works further with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Mr. Nost commented on an issue he had experienced in Indian River County regarding a dental office construction where the County wanted certification for medical gas to final the permit. Mr. Nost clarified there was no medical gas involved in the job. He further stated he had to send contractor information to go back to the building to confirm its hooked to an air compressor not an air tank. To which Ms. Castellano added medical gas is covered under the scope of the plumbing contractor license.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM