

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the office of the North Dakota State Electrical Board, 1929 N. Washington Street, Suite A-1, Bismarck, N.D. Members present: Tom Paulson, Mark Christopher, Paul Durbin, and Christina Roemmich. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Ashley Windhorst, Assistant to Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General; Curt Kasper, NECA; Clay Nagel, IBEW; Andrew Kollbaum; and Jon Maristuen.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added Three Affiliated Tribes, Senator Anderson email, and COVID handout. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

At 8:35 a.m., Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Andrew Kollbaum appeared before the Board to appeal his denied Journeyman application. All of Andrew's experience was in North Dakota; however, his training was completed in South Dakota through AE Tech. AE Tech's apprenticeship program was reviewed in the past; however, not approved by the Board. Andrew holds a South Dakota Journeyman license; however, is willing to take the North Dakota exam vs. reciprocate. Andrew explained the four (4) month program which includes working with the code book, labs, etc. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Mark Christopher to have James Schmidt, Executive Director, and Scott Halle, Training & Compliance Administrator review the program and materials to determine if the curriculum meets the criteria regardless of the timeframe to complete. Discussion was had regarding the 4-month timeframe vs. 4-year timeframe. If the curriculum isn't sufficient the Board can review in May. There is currently nothing in the law or rule regarding an appropriate timeframe for apprenticeship training completion. Roll call vote was taken: 5 Yay, 0 Nay. Motion carried.

At 9:15 a.m., Scott Halle, Andrew Kollbaum, and Jon Maristuen left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the meeting with Three Affiliated Tribes to review the projects being inspected by request. The Three Affiliated Tribes adopted the building code and are going to look at adopting the recent ND Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards as well.

Mr. Schmidt received an email from Senator Anderson concerned about no bond requirement for electricians. Senator Anderson received calls from constituents that were upset because of Jason Parsons abandoned jobs. There were 20 letters sent to homeowners for Jason Parsons jobs. Four will be receiving a second letter next week sometime.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the office remodel plan with the Board. The furniture is tentatively scheduled to be setup next Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the COVID handout with the Board. Mr. Schmidt had consulted Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, to determine if NDSEB can require employees to receive the COVID vaccine. Mr. Schmidt also sent a questionnaire out to employees; 12 of 18 stated they had received the vaccine or plan to. NDSEB duties are affected whenever employees are required to quarantine. The Governors office had also received a complaint about inspections being completed during COVID; however, NDSEB staff has been provided appropriate PPE and have been wearing it.

Mr. Schmidt had emailed a request from the Governor's office to the Board members in November to update their contact information. At the December meeting, it was discussed, and all members confirmed this had been done. The Governors office received a complaint that the Board is not accessible. Mr. Schmidt had received a text message from a legislator asking for a Board members cell number; however, we cannot give out personal information. As of March 23, 2021, the Boards and Commissions website has not been updated yet; however, the Board members contact numbers have been temporarily added to the NDSEB website.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the NDSCS Advisory meeting was held via webinar this year. There will not be a job fair this year either, it will be virtual.

Mr. Schmidt discussed Landtech and Prousys. Doug Grinde had received a phone call about an apprentice doing wiring on a Landtech saltwater disposal site. District 10 Inspector, Kendrick went to the site to complete an inspection. The skid was originally approved in 2007; however, there are many dangers of salt water which were not known back then compared to today. Plus, anytime a building is moved an inspection is required and they are typically brought up to the current code. The site was hooked up by an apprentice and powered by a generator. Mr. Schmidt indicated he has spoken to the apprentice and has asked the Williams County Sheriff's department to prosecute the apprentice. The generator has been shut off until the wiring is up to code in the moved building.

Mr. Schmidt presented an email received from Aaron Isaak regarding coal mine experience. Mr. Schmidt encouraged Aaron to complete an application and send it in for the Board to review; however, as of today, nothing has been received.

At 10:12 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 10:25 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the Education Committee had its first meeting and will meet again on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. The committee is working on minimum standards for apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Schmidt discussed legislative bills which included 1473, 1166, and 2019. Paula Glass is also following NDPERS bills relating to retirement and benefits.

Mr. Schmidt received an email from Goldmark. The owners approved proceeding with the awning outside the NDSEB office and will send another update once a contractor has been awarded the contract.

Mr. Schmidt played the Midco commercial which is currently running across North Dakota for the next three (3) months. The commercial is a public service announcement encouraging consumers to hire a licensed electrical contractor to perform electrical work.

Mr. Schmidt indicated NDSEB now has a homebuilder's association membership.

At 10:45 a.m., Doug Grinde and Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Scott Halle discussed the upcoming 16 NDSEB CEU classes. Class material will likely include calculations, motors, residential, and hazardous locations. Scott indicated the Marketplace for Kids events are currently virtual; however, they plan to have an in-person class in May in Jamestown and Wahpeton. Scott continues to review apprenticeship programs and materials, CEU classes, and answer questions from inspectors and contractors. Scott discussed CEU classes and whether to have one topic for all or to possibly offer different code classes.

Mr. Schmidt received an email suggesting having separate journeyman exams and separate CEU classes broke out to residential, commercial, and industrial. The Board reviewed and discussed. This would need to be a legislative change; however, at this time, the Board is not interested in pursuing.

Doug Grinde indicated he completed inspector evaluations over the past few weeks. He is encouraging more rough-in inspections, re-inspections, and would like to see the number decrease for certificates over a year old. Doug reviewed current certificate numbers including incoming, active, and certificates per county.

At 11:15 a.m., Doug Grinde and Scott Halle left the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 19, 2021.

Mr. Schmidt handed out examples of the evaluations used and the letter which was sent to employees regarding them. Paul Durbin questioned whether or not there was an employee handbook. Mr. Schmidt indicated there was one approved in September 2012 and updated in November 2017.

At 11:25 a.m., Ashley Windhorst left the meeting.

The Board reviewed the proposed budgets and employee wages for 2021-2022 fiscal year. Discussion was held on a restructuring of the wage allotments for the next fiscal year. The board will review in upcoming meetings in preparation for next year. After discussion, motion by Mark Christopher second by Tom Paulson to approve wage increase for the executive director. Roll call vote Tom Paulson aye, Mark Christopher aye, Paul Durbin abstained, Christina Roemmich aye, Rod Mayer aye, motion passed. Tom Paulson motion to

approve the 2021-2022 budgets with employee wages, second by Mark Christopher, all in favor, motion passed.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mark, second by Christi to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Date

Date

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Christina Roemmich, SECRETARY