

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer. The meeting was held telephonically. Members present: Tom Paulson, Mark Christopher, Christina Roemmich, and Paul Durbin. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Ashley Windhorst, Assistant to Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Nothing additional was added to the agenda. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the rural telephone co-ops. The rural telephone co-ops lobbyist, David Crothers, reached out to Mr. Schmidt asking if the Board can work with them and provide education regarding classified locations. Mr. Schmidt will get ahold of them when the COVID-19 situation changes. A special newsletter also went out last week which included information about Power Limited Electricians.

Mr. Schmidt discussed hiring a temporary person to assist the Director of Inspections in reviewing and prioritizing wiring certificates. This individual would review job descriptions, job costs, inspections to help get caught up. Mr. Schmidt indicated NDSEB employees are working from home due to COVID-19 and Governor Burgum's executive order. Inspectors are auditing their certificates these next couple weeks so this request for a temporary person may change. The individual that Doug Grinde mentioned to Mr. Schmidt as a possible temporary to do these tasks is related to Mr. Schmidt. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, reviewed 44-04-09 which dictates when state employees can be supervised by a relative. Mr. Porsborg indicated that if Doug Grinde had full authority over the temporary employee it would not be an issue. The Board discussed many pros and cons of hiring a temporary and the importance of this individual being a knowledgeable electrician. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to hire a temporary person to help the Director of Inspections. Motion carried. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to consider hiring a relative of Mr. Schmidt's if they meet the qualifications and Doug Grinde has full authority over the individual. A roll call was taken Christina Roemmich, Tom Paulson, and Rodney Mayer voted aye. Paul Durbin and Mark Christopher voted nay. Motion carried 3-2.

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on Marketplace for Kids. Due to COVID-19 all March and April events have been cancelled. Scott and Ashley have done a good job at the events they have done to date and the kids have enjoyed the hands-on projects.

Mr. Schmidt discussed scholarships for related training students. The education fund will not last long depending on the dollar amount which needs to be determined. A draft policy has been created with the dollar amount left blank for discussion. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Mark Christopher to table this discussion to be had at a face to face meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the administrative rules have been submitted a few times to the Attorney General's office. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, and Mr. Schmidt went to the Attorney General office to meeting with the Attorney General handling the electrical boards rules. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, indicated two concerns remained with the education committee, which have now been resolved which are reflected in the following:

24.1-04-01-04 Education Advisory Committee

1. The board shall ~~direct the executive director to form an education advisory committee to review educational classes and programs required by the board.~~

2. The committee shall develop minimum requirements in the area of study for the electrical education of individuals registered and licensed by the board

3. The committee shall review the approved classes and programs every five year or as necessary and submit a report to the board for final approval

4. The executive director shall preside over the committee meetings

5. The committee shall meet as deemed necessary but no less than once per year.

6. Committee members ~~compensation shall~~ may be reimbursed expenses ~~set by the board including of mileage and travel as per NDCC 44-08-04 and NDCC 54-06-09~~

Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve the changes recommended by the attorney general's office to the administrative rules. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the job description for Assistant to Executive Director. Motioned by Christina Roemmich and seconded by Tom Paulson to approve the Assistant to Executive Director job description for Ashley Windhorst's position. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt discussed hiring a temporary assistant for the Director of Inspections to audit district certificates. The individual would review job descriptions, job costs, and inspections. Mr. Schmidt indicated NDSEB employees are working from home due to COVID-19 and Governor Burgum's executive order. Inspectors are supposed to be auditing their certificates these next couple weeks so this request for a temporary person may change. The individual that Doug Grinde mentioned to Mr. Schmidt as a possible temporary to do these tasks is related to Mr. Schmidt. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, reviewed 44-04-09 which dictates when state employees can be supervised by a relative which there is exemptions for temporary employment. Mr. Porsborg indicated that if Doug Grinde had full authority over the temporary employee it would not be an issue. The Board discussed many pros and cons of hiring a temporary and the importance of this individual being a knowledgeable electrician. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to hire a temporary person to help the Director of Inspections. A roll call vote Christina Roemmich, Tom Paulson, Rodney Mayer, Paul Durbin voted aye, Mark Christopher voted nay, motion carried 4-1. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to consider hiring a relative of Mr. Schmidt's if they meet the qualifications and Doug Grinde has full authority over the individual. A roll call was taken Christina Roemmich, Tom Paulson, and Rodney Mayer voted aye. Paul Durbin and Mark Christopher voted nay. Motion carried 3-2.

The Board reviewed a request from Blake Lund to take his Journeyman electrical exam while incarcerated. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, indicated 43-09-09.1 explains when the Board can deny a felony application. In this situation, it would be left to the Boards discretion to allow the individual to examine or not. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to accept Blake Lund's request to test while incarcerated. Discussion was had regarding the value of rehabilitation. A roll call was taken Christina Roemmich, Tom Paulson, Paul Durbin and Mark Christopher voted nay. Motion failed 0-4.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the Multi-Industry Career Fair which was scheduled for April in Fargo. This event has since been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Mr. Schmidt discussed NDSCS Wired for Success which has NDSEB listed for the scholarship opportunity. Mr. Schmidt and Scott Halle attended the career fair in February. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the scholarship criteria with the NDSCS financial aid and marketing offices, he also spoke to the electrical students.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 13, 2020.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Date

Date

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Tom Paulson, SECRETARY