

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

The North Dakota State Electrical Board special meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3319 N 14<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck, North Dakota. Members present: Paul Durbin, Mark Christopher, Tom Paulson and Ben Koppelman. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections; Scott Halle, Training and Compliance Administrator; Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant; Paula Glass, Office Manager; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; and Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General. Others present: Curt Kasper, Greg Mattson, Thomas Wolf, Bill Brunner, Brian Barrett, Bill Kalanek, Dana Bontjes, Mike Nitsch, Brent Michelsen, Jason Hunze, Tim Conmy, and Art Ziemann.

The Board introduced themselves to those in attendance. President Mayer indicated the purpose of the meeting is to get the public input and their thoughts on the possibility of power limited licensing (PLT). The meeting is open to comments and for testimony only. The Board is simply here to listen.

President Mayer turned the meeting over to James Schmidt, Executive Director.

Mr. Schmidt opened the meeting by reviewing the handout which included comments received as a result of a survey that was previously sent out. The PLT committee was formed about two (2) years ago. The PLT committee consists of two engineers, a master electrician, a fire alarm installer and a MN PLT license holder who is also BICSI certified. The committee met and reviewed code articles that would be affected by PLT. The purpose of all of this is to see if the Board should move forward with this or not. The majority of the survey results at this point show 80% or more in favor of moving forward.

Mr. Schmidt opened the meeting for comments.

The following is a list of the questions, concerns, and comments brought up at the meeting:

- Who is the driving force behind this concept and what's the reason?
- Because other states around us are considering this or have done it, does that mean ND should consider to follow suit? Is there good reason to follow suit? Have there been complaints registered on people who are currently doing it?
- How will this affect the people who have already been doing this for many years?
- What's the benefit when NEC already covers this and why isn't it already being inspected? Will doing this dilute the current Master license?
- Is it a possibility to separate residential from commercial? Residential work is not inspected in any way and most commercial jobs are inspected by an engineer. So what's to be gained by this?

- In favor of it if looking to govern some low voltage work done in the state – against it if it includes fire alarm or automation and temperature controls.
- Make sure to define when permits are required and what requires inspection.
- What’s the reason for the Board to consider this?
- Could be difficult to get to every site as with some companies five guys may go to multiple sites a day – so how would inspectors keep up? Board would need to decide what gets inspected and if there’s a certain dollar amount requiring it, etc.
- Would there be a separate ratio for PLT’s on the job? What would the qualifications be and would there be different classifications?
- Any value in licensing people as a baby step and not doing inspections? Grandfathering some of the current people in?
- It’s about life safety – amps are what kill people and/or start fires. Low voltage still has dangers and fires regardless of how many volts.

Ben Koppelman explained what would be expected from the Legislature to have something like this presented and passed.

President Mayer directed any further comments to be emailed to [electric@nd.gov](mailto:electric@nd.gov).

Mr. Schmidt indicated he can also email the link that shows what Minnesota currently inspects for PLT if there’s any interest.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Paulson, SECRETARY