

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

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, Administrative Assistant; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General; Curt Kasper, NECA; Clay Nagel, IBEW; John Muhle, Notifier Fire Alarm; Nicholas Goelema and Kelly Farnsworth, PTW Energy Services.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added meter seals, Adam Zurcher, Michael Lund, and lease agreement. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the Agenda as amended and Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated there is no new information on the code-making panel appointments at this time. The Board is willing to support employees if chosen for a code panel.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the current workload of inspectors. Mr. Schmidt would like to add a full-time inspector. Motioned by Christina Roemmich and seconded by Paul Durbin to move forward with advertising and hiring another full-time inspector. Motion carried.

Nicholas Goelema appeared before the Board to discuss his denied Journeyman application. Mr. Goelema has been in the electrical trade since 2011, holds a Red Seal electrical license in Canada and currently has a 5-year work Visa for the United States. He explained the licensing process in Canada and also shared some code comparisons. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve Nicholas Goelema for the Journeyman Placement exam. Motion carried.

At 8:52 a.m., Nicholas Goelema and Kelly Farnsworth left the meeting.

John Muhle appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of a North Dakota power limited fire alarm license similar to what the state of Minnesota currently has. He indicated there are 32 individuals currently in North Dakota that hold specialized NICET training to install fire alarms. Discussions on comparison of fire alarm installations and NICET training to training requirements of a North Dakota Journeyman electrician proved to be noted that these trainings are not similar.

At 9:10 a.m., John Muhle left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the Journeyman license renewal request of Cody Serr whose renewal is on hold due to a felony conviction. The Board reviewed the court's Affidavit for more information regarding the case. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Mark Christopher to renew Cody Serr's Journeyman license. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt discussed Jason Parsons' signing of his Probation Agreement and renewing his license. Since the Probation Agreement was signed, further jobs were found that have no wiring certificates issued. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to have James Schmidt and Scott Porsborg review Mr. Parsons misconducts, speak with Mr. Parsons, and then discuss suspending or revoking his North Dakota Master license. The Board discussed going formal if the evidence supports the wrongdoings. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that Jesse James came to the Board's office after the last meeting and signed his Probation Agreement and paid his outstanding fees.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the process of switching the NDSEB server over to ITD is still in progress. The office computers was upgraded to Office 2016, so ITD will begin the next step of transferring email accounts.

Mr. Schmidt discussed there being several administrative rules to promulgate. He has been working on them and will continue. The rules need to be in place nine (9) months after August 1<sup>st</sup>, which is when the laws go in effect. Mr. Schmidt is proposing the Board hold a special meeting August 28, 2019 to review the proposals. A public hearing could then be held November 20, 2019, which is also a regular scheduled Board meeting. Another special meeting could then be held December 11, 2019. The proposed dates were agreed upon. Mr. Schmidt also indicated he has arranged for two individuals from the industry to assist with power limited electrician (PLE). Board discussed and determined they will reimburse for mileage, hotels, and meal per diems.

Paul Durbin discussed the concern utilities have with the cutting of meter seals and conductors. Utilities are wanting the Board's thoughts on this since they oversee the electricians. Discussion was had from the electrician side of this issue and also the danger of this. It was decided to put an article in the next newsletter to discuss electricians working with the utility companies.

At 10:35 a.m., the Board called Brady Larson. Brady wanted to appear by phone to discuss his exam waiting period. He indicated he was unaware of the option to test with accommodations; therefore, he wants to reapply prior to his three (3)-month waiting period and re-test with his requested accommodations. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich that after the office receives the application and accommodations request to allow Brady Larson to test prior to three (3) months due to the accommodations' request. Motion carried.

At 10:50 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the Western Section IAEEI meeting would be in Wichita, Kansas on September 15-18, 2019. If any Board members want to attend, they need to let him know. Six to seven NDSEB employees will be attending.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the lease agreement for the NDSEB office. He is currently working with Goldmark to have a canopy installed over the front door area. The Board discussed and is agreed with the square foot lease agreement and cost-sharing a canopy to be installed.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that Michael Lund was attacked and bit by a dog twice during an inspection.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the Board received an appeal from Adam Zurcher for the informal decision regarding his Master license. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, explained a request for a hearing will be made, and he will let us know the date. If Adam Zurcher calls the Board's office, he is to be referred to Attorney Porsborg.

Mr. Schmidt presented two options for the 2019-2020 budget. The Board reviewed and discussed the inspection fee calculation. The Board also reviewed and discussed the NDPERS 457 plan. Effective August 1, 2019, employers have the option to put money into this plan for employees. The Board agreed to include 4% for each employee in the budget. Discussion was had on adding a staff position for managing the budget and other numbers that need tracked. This will be reviewed and researched and discussed again at the July meeting. The Board reviewed and discussed salary increases.

Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to raise the current Board per diem to \$300. Motion carried.

Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the second version budget as amended and also approve the second version of wage increases. Motion carried.

At 12:50 p.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 1:00 p.m., the Board reconvened. Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections, entered the meeting.

Doug Grinde reviewed district reports and certificate numbers. Tom Crawford is still helping out in various districts where needed. Doug reviewed incoming versus outgoing certificate numbers along with active certificates per county. Doug discussed the meeting among James Schmidt, Doug Grinde, Three Affiliated Tribes, the Fire Marshall, and the Plumbing Board regarding inspections they are requesting. The request needs to be on tribal letterhead and submitted to NDSEB prior to the job starting. The inspector district map was reviewed and discussed along with the changing of the current inspection districts after a new inspector is hired.

At 1:35 p.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting. Scott Halle, Training and Compliance Administrator, entered the meeting.

Scott Halle indicated the 2019 CEU classes start in two weeks with the first class being in Bismarck on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He discussed the class content and provided the handout of a calculation worksheet they will complete and review. Scott reviewed the list of high schools he has visited throughout the state. Scott continues to answer code questions, evaluate CEU classes, and is working on power limited electrician (PLE) exam questions. Mr. Schmidt

reviewed the packet of information from Tony Grindberg at the Career Academy in Fargo and discussed working with Wayde Sick at the North Dakota Career and Technical Education office. He reiterated that SB 2056 allows the Board to expend funds to these type of entities to promote the electrical industry.

At 1:50 p.m., Scott Halle left the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 31, 2019.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

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Tom Paulson, SECRETARY