

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

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; Adam Kidwell, JATC; and Randy Bartsch.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added inspector meeting. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt discussed office protocols and procedures that have been put in place due to COVID19.

Mr. Schmidt reported there is nothing new for code making panels at this time; however, a couple inspectors remain interested.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the next inspector meeting will be in July and held off-site to ensure proper spacing and safety protocols.

Mr. Schmidt reported that inspector interviews were held May 14, 2020 and two inspectors were hired. Josh Dahl went from temporary to full-time permanent on May 17, 2020 and Marty Ekren will start June 29, 2020.

The Board reviewed Jacob Gragg's apprentice registration and decided to request additional information to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the electricians mine exemption. Currently coal mines are exempt from inspections. Due to North Dakota facilities closing in the future; what, if anything can we do for these individuals? The Board discussed in length and determined these will be handled on a case by case basis.

At 8:50 a.m., Georgie Posey and Mindy Piatz entered the meeting.

Mindy Piatz with Brady, Martz & Associates reviewed the Board audit for years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

At 9:15 a.m., Mindy Piatz left the meeting.

Georgie Posey appeared before the Board. The MN Department of Labor and Industry had sent a notice that Mr. Posey's license had been revoked in the state of Minnesota. Mr. Posey wanted to appear to explain his business and what had transpired in Minnesota. Minnesota

has since reactivated his license. The Board indicated no action would be taken at this time; however, should something like this happen in North Dakota he would be invited to appear. At 9:35 a.m., Georgie Posey left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt indicated 3 Affiliated Tribes continues to send in requests for inspections on certain jobs and things have been going well.

Mr. Schmidt presented a draft policy for COBRA insurance. A letter was sent to all employees offering the policy; however, only one individual was interested at this time. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to adopt the policy and pay Greg Rockstad's COBRA health insurance premium per the adopted policy. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt reported the Marketplace for kids and Multi-Industry Career fair events were cancelled due to COVID.

Mr. Schmidt presented the court action against Tim Allard. Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg explained what action the Board can take now. The Board discussed and decided to invite Mr. Allard to appear at the next meeting. If Mr. Allard should not appear action will be taken against his license.

At 10:05 a.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 10:20 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the scholarship policy with NDSCS. The Board reviewed and discussed the apprenticeship scholarship policy draft for related training students. Dollar amounts and tracking were also discussed. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the apprenticeship scholarship policy for board approved related training programs for educational materials only up to \$500/semester. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Dorian Sigman's request to appeal the denial of his application. Motioned by Christina Roemmich and seconded by Mark Christopher to deny Mr. Sigman's appeal due to lack of electrical experience under a master electrician. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt presented requests from two individuals for license renewal refunds. They did not renew prior to the deadline; therefore, were charged a renewal and reinstatement fee and are requesting to be refunded. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Paul Durbin to deny the request for renewal refunds. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt presented a request from Darin Hultberg who wants to contract for a company he is not employed by. The Board discussed masters being actively engaged in companies. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to deny the request in the letters presented; however, he can appeal and provide more information at the next meeting if he choose. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt presented an application and policy for an education advisory committee. Due to the administrative rules being held over, this will be on hold as well. The Board reviewed the application form and policy. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the application form and policy for an education advisory committee.

The Board reviewed Lauri Beeton's appeal for the denial of his application. The application was denied due to Canadian experience. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Tom Paulson to approve Lauri Beeton for the journeyman placement exam. Discussion was had on how the Canadian code differs from the NEC. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the administrative rules hearing which was held on June 9, 2020. The administrative rules committee decided to hold over the board's administrative rules until their September 15, 2020, meeting. The board discussed the hearing, concerns the legislators had, and how this will affect PLE licensure, 2020 NEC enforcement, exams, CEU classes, license reciprocity agreements with other states, and more.

At 12:10 p.m., the Board recessed for a break. Adam Kidwell and Clay Nagel left the meeting.

At 12:35, the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the prior request for a temporary position to assist the director of inspections; however, at this time this is not needed but will be reviewed in the future. The reporting system also had some modifications that will help categorize wiring certificates by job type and estimated dollar amount.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the NDDOT wage determination. The DOT had contacted Mr. Schmidt regarding the wage determination for electricians and questioned where it came from. Randy Bartsch discussed how these wages typically work and he has also been in communication with DOT. He reported that Department of Labor sends a letter and survey to determine wages based off jobs and counties. The Board discussed and indicated they have never been involved with wage determination.

At 1:00 p.m., Curt Kasper left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt presented a revised job description and organizational chart for the Board to review. The changes were discussed, and the Board suggested reviewing all employee job descriptions. Mr. Schmidt will have a Human Resource representative review and edit current job descriptions, which will be presented and reviewed when completed at a future meeting.

At 1:40 p.m., Randy Bartsch left the meeting and Doug Grinde and Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Doug Grinde discussed the hiring and start dates of the new inspectors. He reviewed certificate numbers and redistricting. The incoming certificate numbers are still up; however, due to COVID19 and not going into homes for awhile the completed receives over

one year have increased some. He also reviewed the new reporting system features which include an estimated job cost and a job type.

Scott Halle discussed the continuing education classes which will begin July 9, 2020. The Williston CEU location is currently closed, and facility numbers have changed slightly due to social distancing. The classes will be on the 2020 NEC changes. He had visited a couple high schools prior to COVID and reported that the Marketplace for Kids events went well until cancelled. He updated the exam questions to the 2020 NEC and continues to approve CEU classes.

At 2:05 p.m., Doug Grinde and Scott Halle left the meeting. The Board recessed for a short break.

At 2:15 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt presented the 2020-2021 budget. The board reviewed and discussed the line items on the budget. They also reviewed and discussed wages and percentages. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to adopt the budget as amended. Discussion was had. Tom Paulson rescinded his motion. Amended motion by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve the Board adjusted wages and amended budget for 2020-2021. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 22, 2020.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Tom Paulson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Date

Date

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Tom Paulson, SECRETARY