

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by President Earl Scherer at the office of the North Dakota State Electrical Board, 1929 N. Washington Street, Suite A-1, Bismarck, N.D. Members present: Rodney Mayer, Ben Koppelman, Karen Karls and Kyle Miller. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; and Paula Glass, Office Manager.

Acting President Scherer turned the meeting over to Executive Director, James Schmidt, for the election of President. Mr. Schmidt called for nominations for President. Motioned by Karen Karls and seconded by Ben Koppelman to nominate Earl Scherer as President. There being no other nominations, motion carried. Mr. Schmidt turned the meeting back over to President Scherer. President Scherer asked for nominations for Vice President. Motioned by Karen Karls and seconded by Kyle Miller that Rodney Mayer be nominated for Vice President. There being no other nominations, motion carried. President Scherer asked for nominations for Secretary. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Rodney Mayer to nominate Karen Karls for Secretary. There being no other nominations, motion carried. President Scherer asked for nominations for Treasurer. Motioned by Kyle Miller and seconded by Karen Karls to nominate Ben Koppelman for Treasurer. There being no other nominations, motion carried.

Rodney Mayer informed the Board that he was re-appointed to the Board as a member representing a master electrician who is a contractor.

President Scherer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt indicated that Almond Graham, Aaron Halme and Steve Krause are not able to appear at this meeting, and request to appear at the September, 2014 meeting; the hiring of a new employee, Scott Halle, and to discuss exam waiting periods. There being no further Agenda items, it was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Karen Karls that the Agenda, as amended, be approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that the Western Section IAEE meeting is coming up in September, 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. Plans are to send four (4) inspectors and Lyle Wergeland. President Scherer indicated he may also attend.

The remodel of the Board's office space was reviewed, including items yet to be completed.

Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Glass provided the Board with an update on a reporting system developer after reviewing vendors through a web-based meeting as well as an in-house meeting. Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Glass are currently working with Davenport Group on an agreement and estimating start to finish of project.

Mr. Schmidt indicated that Scott Halle has accepted the position of Training & Compliance Administrator for the Board. He will start July 21, 2014, and will be working out of the Bismarck office and Grand Forks (home) locations. At present, the N.D. Safety Council will probably provide some of the necessary training for our inspectors. Mr. Mayer directed Mr. Schmidt to look at N.D. Safety Council to do all safety training.

Ms. Glass informed the Board of an annual donation to the flower fund, which is used for employee and immediate employee's family members in situations such as funerals, medical, babies, etc.

At 9:50 a.m., Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, entered the meeting.

At 9:55 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 10:10 a.m., the Board reconvened, and Lyle Wergeland, Director of Inspections, entered the meeting.

Mr. Wergeland presented the Board with a case history on Allen Jenkins and Terry Packer. Not much progress has been made due to non-commitment from the owner of Cougar Electric/Triple B Construction. Other avenues are currently being explored, including sending letters to homeowners due to the cap the Board is allowed to withdraw from its Undertaking fund on behalf of a contractor. Motioned by Rodney Mayer and seconded by Ben Koppelman to send letters notifying affected property owners of their responsibility to have any code violations corrected in order to avoid disconnection of services. Motion carried. Mr. Schmidt will work with Attorney Porsborg on drafting a letter.

Attorney Porsborg informed the Board on the status of Kurt Coltrain, and the issuance of an Informal Decision. If Mr. Coltrain contests the matter, he has 60 days and the next step would be a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on the Harvey Flour Mill situation. New owner(s) of the Mill have taken possession and electricians were hired to fix the code violations by August, 2014.

At 11:00 a.m. Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant, entered the meeting.

The topic of an applicant's work experience was discussed. Ms. Windhorst stated that the phrase "similar licensing and inspection rules" needs to be defined. Mr. Schmidt provided some examples where there is licensing and inspections, but is not similar to North Dakota. Attorney Porsborg provided advice as to what is stated in the laws and rules of North Dakota, and referenced hours required to qualify. The staff is looking at maintaining consistency in processing licensing applications.

At 11:30 a.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 11:55 a.m., the Board reconvened, and Denis Ryan Dvorak entered the meeting.

Further discussion took place on an applicant's work experience. Mr. Schmidt indicated that the staff will work on a definition and provide it for further discussion at the September, 2014 meeting.

Denis Ryan Dvorak is appealing the denial of his Application for Electrician's (Journeyman) License. Ms. Windhorst reviewed Mr. Dvorak's work history, which the majority of his experience was in states that do not regulate similar rules as North Dakota. Mr. Dvorak informed the Board of his work experience in North Dakota, as well as his school experience. Motioned by Karen Karls and seconded by Ben Koppelman to allow Mr. Dvorak to take the placement exam. Motion carried.

At 12:30 p.m., Denis Ryan Dvorak left the meeting, and Marcus Hight entered the meeting.

Marcus Hight is appealing the denial of his Application for Electrician's (Journeyman) License. Ms. Windhorst reviewed Mr. Hight's work history, which the majority of his experience was in Illinois, which does not regulate similar rules as North Dakota. Mr. Hight informed the Board of his work experience, including through the IBEW. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Karen Karls to allow Mr. Hight to take the placement exam. Motion carried.

At 1:10 p.m., Mr. Hight left the meeting, and Charles McKercher entered the meeting.

Ms. Windhorst indicated that Charles McKercher filed an Application for an Electrician's (Master) License. The majority of his work experience was verified through self-certification, and reviewed his work history. Mr. McKercher provided the Board with his licensing information and that he has worked all over the United States. The staff will further review Mr. McKercher's previous Application as well as his current Application, and will communicate with him further.

Mr. Schmidt was contacted by Rocky Scheving of RD Sales concerning low voltage licensing. No action was taken by the Board due to legislative procedure, as if it has to do with electric light, heat or power and fire alarms, it requires a Master electrician.

Ms. Windhorst brought up a company picnic set for August 28, 2014 at Sertoma Park, and if any members wanted to attend to let her know.

At 1:40 p.m., Charles McKercher and Scott Porsborg left the meeting.

Lyle Wergeland reviewed the district reports, and future direction of inspectors.

At 1:45 p.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 1:55 p.m., the Board reconvened

At 2:00 p.m., Sony Oriental entered the meeting.

Mr. Oriental requested that his 12-month exam waiting period be waived. Mr. Schmidt indicated that Mr. Oriental's waiting period is based on current Board policy and is based on his exam score as well as how many times the exam was taken. Motioned by Rodney Mayer and seconded by Ben Koppelman to allow Mr. Oriental to take the placement exam, and if he passes, to allow him to take the Journeyman exam without waiting. Ben Koppelman withdrew his second upon receiving advice that the meaning and purpose of a placement exam would be changed. Motion failed due to lack of second. Motioned by Rodney Mayer and seconded by Kyle Miller to deny Mr. Oriental's request to waive his waiting period. Motion carried.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Kyle Miller to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Date

Date

Earl Scherer, PRESIDENT

Karen Karls, SECRETARY