

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

July 17, 2024 Meeting

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the Electrical Board office at 1929 N. Washington St., Ste A-1, Bismarck, North Dakota. Members Present: Rodney Mayer, Jon Hoffman, Gerald “Poke” Buck, James “Jim” Brandenburg, Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Heinen; Boyd Rakness, Main/Holmes Electric; and Harold Stewart, City of Minot.

Mayer introduced Jon Hoffman as the new Board Member. Hoffman gave a short bio.

Schmidt explained Hoffman’s position is in regards to Excel Energy’s 5-year commitment (2 years remaining) to the NDSEB and that Mayer was reappointed by Governor Burgum for another 5-year term to the Board.

Buck nominated Rod Mayer for President and Roemmich seconds. Motion approved unanimously. Mayer asked for a nomination for VP. Brandenburg nominates Roemmich. Hoffman seconds motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mayer asked for nomination for Secretary. Buck makes a motion for Hoffman. Brandenburg seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mayer asked for nomination for Treasurer. Brandenburg makes a motion for Buck. Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt added 4 items to the agenda. (1) Kelly Johnston; (2) Home Builders Association, (3) NFPA Electrical Inspection Section (EIS) Program , and (4) the Inspector meeting. Buck made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kelly Johnston

Schmidt tells the Board about the order from ND Child Support Agency that Johnston has overdue child support and the NDSEB is ordered to not license Johnston. Johnston has not renewed his license so the NDSEB does not need to take action at this time.

Mayer asked the audience members to introduce themselves -Boyd Rakness and Harold Stewart.

City of Minot (Harold Stewart, present)

Schmidt tells the Board about the relationship with the City of Minot and its inspections. Schmidt asked Stewart to attend the meeting to meet the Board and discuss any concerns. Schmidt asked to discuss the City’s Ordinances and that they should review them. Stewart explains how the NDSEB was brought in to conduct all inspections in the City to help relieve duplicate work and cut some City expenses. Stewart explains some concerns with the electrical codes between the NDSEB and the City. He states that the City has more restrictive codes. Stewart stated that final inspections are issued without all the issues being remedied. Stewart would prefer to deal with these issues on the admin level with Schmidt, and that the Board doesn’t need to be involved at this point. Schmidt explains what an “FS” is and gives an example of an inspection and the background regarding the same. Schmidt stated the City can access the reporting system to keep updated on certificates in its area. Stewart reiterates that the City wants this relationship to work and is willing to work out any issues on an admin level.

Mayer asks that James and Stewart work together to resolve issues.

(Stewart leaves meeting)

Home Builders

Schmidt will do a short presentation at the Home Builders meeting in Grand Forks, ND, this year and the board's collaboration with the Home Builders Association.

NFPA

Schmidt talks about the NFPA, and the Electrical Inspection Section sign up to happen July 24th.

Inspector Meeting

Schmidt talked about the inspector meeting being next week.

Schmidt talks about the survey he had Janelle do with the local hotels. Schmidt was looking for places that will honor State rates (with good beds and a good breakfast) to help keep costs down.

Mayer asked Boyd for his input into the City of Minot and the inspections. Boyd discusses his views with the Board. Both Schmidt and Boyd discuss inspector Kevin Huber and his great work.

Progress Report

Schmidt explains to the Board the handouts on the last fiscal year.

Dustin Desjarlais

Porsborg gives the Board a review on the Desjarlais case. Desjarlais' admin hearing is scheduled but at the pre-hearing conference Desjarlais did agree to accept a Journeyman's license in place of his Masters license. Porsborg told the Board that he wanted to bring this information to them for their discussion because if the Board agrees the hearing could be cancelled and an Informal Disposition can be issued in its place. Mayer gives Hoffman a brief overview of Desjarlais' license and history with the NDSEB. The Board discussed. Mayer asked for a Motion. Roemmich made a motion to revoke his masters license and renew a Journeyman's license, with Desjarlais to receive 2 years of probation. Brandenburg seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Administrative Rules

Schmidt explains to the Board the admin rules committee hearing and how it went well. New rules went into effect on July 1st.

Reciprocity

Schmidt says there is nothing new and states he will remove the agenda item until something new comes up.

Elevators

Schmidt tells the Board about his continued work to get involved but there is nothing new to report.

Reporting System

Schmidt tells the Board he wants to look into Minnesota's new system soon and then he wants to move forward with NDSEB's new reporting system and getting the bids together.

COBRA

Schmidt tells the Board that employee Tom Crawford, applied, and was the only employee that qualified. Crawford will begin COBRA when he retires at the beginning of September. This will pay for his medical insurance as outlined in the board approved COBRA policy.

Inspections

Schmidt explains the handout to the Board. Schmidt discusses the districts and their number of certificates that need inspections. Schmidt states that this is how they determine the need to move inspectors to assist and/or hire additional inspectors.

Board takes a Break at 9:49am

VP Roemmich reconvenes the Board at 10:12 am

Education Committee

Schmidt sent a letter to Magnum Electric regarding the Board's provisional training program acceptance.

Exams

Schmidt tells the Board that Scott and Jon are working on exam questions and adding the new code changes.

ND Wiring Standards

Schmidt got new wiring standards books printed and sent out.

Contractors

NDSEB sent out 134 letters to contractors that did not renew their licenses. This was followed by 56 Cease and Desists Orders. They have narrowed this list down considerably and Schmidt may have a final list at the September meeting for the Board to review.

Professional Electrician Apprentice Program Policy (PEAP)

Schmidt explains the handout to the Board. Schmidt asks the Board to discuss and approve the PEAP policy that Admin Rule proposal #23 now allows. Schmidt asks the Board to consider a motion to approve the PEAP's core class requirements and a motion to accept the PEAP Policy and the application forms and for NDSEB to begin accepting the applications for training. The Board discusses the program for clarification. Boyd asks a question to Schmidt for clarification on the program. Brandenburg would like 2 hours of Safety Training to be added to the program requirements. Buck asks Schmidt to add "Safety" to the end of the "Industry Orientation" class to now read "Industry Orientation and Safety". Buck makes a motion to approve the PEAP class requirement with changes. Brandenburg seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt discusses the PEAP Policy and the Application forms to the Board for better clarification. Roemmich asks that the change from above be brought into the Policy description. Schmidt said

he will move some class options to the “electives” option. The Board further discusses. Brandenburg makes a motion to accept the PEAP policy as presented and additions discussed. Buck seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Jayne Rowley Application

Schmidt discusses Rowley’s Application to the Board and his concerns. Schmidt clarifies that Rowley is a “moderate” risk sex offender and it is an apprenticeship application. Schmidt would like a motion to allow Rowley’s application for apprenticeship. The Board discusses. Hoffman makes a motion to allow Rowley to apply for apprenticeship registration. Brandenburg seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Director of Inspections – Reports

(Doug and Scott enter meeting)

Doug tells the Board about the new Inspector Sean and how it’s going in Districts 5 and 7. Sean is working mainly on SKIDS. Doug talks about the active certs and the busiest Districts. Doug talks about MHA’s 45 new certs, making this a total of 310 since starting in 2013, and 6 Bismarck self-wires.

Scott talks about Education. Main subjects for classes this year are Load Calculations and Common Corrections. Scott discusses the wiring standard changes that were effective 7/1/24. Bismarck and Fargo classes were around 50 in attendance, Williston and Minot were around 20. Working on 2023 code exams – working on questions. Continuing ed classes are quiet right now but will pick up towards the end of the year. Schmidt states that NDSEB has a requirement of 6 CLU classes per year. Schmidt gave comments cards to the Board for their review. Scott talks about the difficulty in finding reasonably priced venues that fit large class sizes around ND. Attendees need to have an ND license to attend the classes but we do report the CLUs in our reciprocal states.

(Scott and Doug leave meeting)

Roemmich asks for additional comments from Schmidt. Schmidt discusses Paula’s limited hours and assistance in the office. Allison will be taking a 9-week maternity leave in 4 weeks. Schmidt discussed the split of work between the office staff and that adding a temp staff member was found not to be feasible. Janelle and Schmidt go through 35 Applications a week without much denial. Schmidt states that things are going well in the office. NDSEB has monthly meetings with the Labor Commissioner.

Roemmich welcomes Jon Hoffman to the Board. Hoffman thanked Schmidt for the tour and run down on the NDSEB.

Roemmich states the next Board meeting is September 25th. Buck makes a motion to adjourn. Hoffman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 11:41 am.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

Jon Hoffman, Secretary