

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

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, Christina Roemmich and Paul Durbin. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General; Jamie Helgeson, Dakotas Electrical JATC; Clay Nagel, IBEW Local 714; Randy Bartsch, IBEW Local 714; Brian Barrett, APT Inc.; and Bill Kalanek, APT Inc.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added State Fleet rate, Career Tech & Ed., and a handout on AFCI/GFCI.

President Mayer welcomed Christina Roemmich. She is the new consumer of a Rural Electric Cooperative member serving on the Board. The other Board members followed with introductions.

Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Tom Paulson to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board the employee service awards were presented at the August inspector meeting. Doug Grinde, Leo Floer, Greg Rockstad, Kendrick Kjorsvik, and David Jaeger all received five (5) year service awards. David Paul received a ten (10) year service award.

The proposed 2019 Calendar was reviewed and will be finalized at the November meeting.

The ND IAEI meeting will be held October 18 & 19, 2018. Any Board members who want to attend should turn in their registration.

President Mayer asked the audience to introduce themselves.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the NDDOT Cell Phone Policy. This will be revisited in the future if it becomes an issue.

At 8:40 a.m., Randy Folkers and Claire Christison entered the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt provided a review and update of the PLT licensing. Discussion followed with moving forward with PLT licensing.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the reporting system is still being worked on and the timecard will be implemented the end of September.

At 9:10 a.m., Randy Folkers and Claire Christison appeared before the Board. Mr. Folkers was asked by the Board to appear at the meeting to review a prior felony conviction. A

letter from his parole officer (Lance Kleven) was provided, along with a recommendation letter from Dan Cain. Ms. Christison came to represent/sponsor Mr. Folkers and has known him for 2.5-3 years.

Motioned by Tom Paulson to allow Randy Folkers to have a ND Journeyman license via reciprocity. Motion rescinded as Mr. Folkers currently has a ND Journeyman license via reciprocity.

Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to leave Mr. Folkers' ND Journeyman license as is. Discussion was had. Mr. Schmidt asked if any other licensing states had issues with Mr. Folkers' felony. Mr. Folkers reported that the state of Iowa did and he is currently waiting on an appeal. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., Randy Folkers and Claire Christison left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the unlicensed contractors that left jobs behind. All homeowners had been contacted and the outstanding issues/jobs have been completed. Mr. Schmidt also discussed a recent meeting with the ND Secretary of State office. Contracting Master electricians will need to complete their Secretary of State paperwork prior to obtaining contracting status with NDSEB office.

Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Christina Roemmich to require Christopher Anderson (M 2527); Adam Zurcher (M 3526); Brett Dailey (M 2944); Jeffrey Harrison (M 3045); and Roger Yliniemi (M 2169) to appear before the board to discuss their outstanding issues with the office before their license will be renewed or reinstated. Motion passed.

At 9:45 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 10:00 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt inquired about obtaining a consultant for the upcoming session to monitor and ensure nothing is missed that may affect the Board. Special Assistant Attorney General Scott Porsborg will review before the next meeting and this will be added to the November agenda.

At 10:05 a.m., Brian Barrett and Bill Kalanek left the meeting.

The Board reviewed NDCC 43-09-11(2)(b)(1) which states an apprentice must successfully complete an apprenticeship training approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and 8,000 hours of experience. Discussion was had about the JATC program which is currently a five (5) year - 900 hour program. Jamie Helgeson will contact Barry Dutton to discuss a Department of Labor completion certificate for JATC apprentices once they meet the minimum 576 hour requirement.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board Tom Crawford was re-hired as a temporary inspector. Mr. Schmidt inquired about hiring Tom Crawford back as a full-time employee. Since Mr.

Crawford resigned less than one year ago the Board could re-hire without advertising and completing the interview process. The Board discussed hiring another full-time inspector. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to hire Tom Crawford as a full-time permanent employee. Discussion was had. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt updated the Board on the NERA meeting he attended in August. The draft meeting minutes were provided to the Board. Mr. Schmidt reviewed a few topics from the meeting such as exams, an exam question bank, fines other states have and “compact” issues in other states.

At 10:50 a.m., Mitch Flanagan and Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections, entered.

Mitch Flanagan, City of Minot Building Official, appeared to discuss the new Trinity hospital project in Minot. Mr. Schmidt briefed the Board on state inspectors helping cities in the past when needed. The Trinity hospital project will be quite large and discussion was had about whether or not the state would assist in plan reviews and inspections. Mr. Flanagan indicated it will be a one million square foot building with six floors up and two floors down. Discussion was had on how to handle the different inspections, possible cost share, and City of Minot inspectors and their expertise. Mr. Flanagan indicated they would need a state inspector to assist possibly one day a week. It was decided the city of Minot will need an engineer or consultant to assist with plan review. Mr. Schmidt will work with Mr. Flanagan to come up with a plan, a point of contact with the Board’s office and will provide him a name of a consultant used in a similar project.

At 11:50 a.m., Mitch Flanagan and Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board he was contacted by the State Auditor’s office. The State Auditor’s office is conducting an audit on agencies with more than six months in reserves. The Board’s reserves are due to the recent oil boom and large dollar amount jobs. Mr. Schmidt reviewed a spreadsheet showing the average job costs and inspection fees received over the past six years. Discussion was had on different ways to get back on track with the amount of money in reserves. Attorney Porsborg suggested waiting until the audit is complete and what suggestions they may have.

Mr. Schmidt talked about the electrical trade in general. Scott Halle, Training and Compliance Administrator, is going to meet with some high schools and their instructors about the trade.

At 12:40 p.m., the Board recessed for a short break. Jamie Helgeson and Randy Bartsch left the meeting.

At 12:55 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the State Fleet rates increased by 14% as of September 1st.

Mr. Schmidt provided a handout for review on the importance of AFCI/GFCI protection.

At 1:00 p.m., Doug Grinde and Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Discussion was had on the City of Minot inspections and the upcoming Trinity Hospital project.

Doug Grinde reviewed certificate numbers coming in and out per month. He wants to see more periodics, rough-ins and re-inspections. He reviewed active certificate numbers by district and counties. Tom Crawford will be taking two counties in addition to being in the Williston/Williams county area. Inspectors continue to work and help in other districts with higher certificate numbers. Doug discussed the two inspections he performed and why.

At 1:35 p.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Scott Halle informed the Board the first half of the CEU classes are now complete. The class numbers were down in the second quarter of classes. Comment cards were reviewed and these will also help Scott determine what subjects to cover for next year and future classes. Scott continues to review and approve CEU classes from other providers. Scott has also been working on exam questions for PLT licensing. Scott will start visiting with some high schools that have construction programs and their instructors to provide information about the electrical industry.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be November 7, 2018.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Paul Durbin to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Date

Date

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Tom Paulson, SECRETARY