

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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

President Schmidt asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Ms. Glass informed the Board that she prepared a report of active electrician licenses. Ms. Glass also informed the Board that she has received a letter from Keven Szarkowski and a continuing education course application from Don Offerdahl. She also added to discuss the office phone system. There being no further Agenda items, it was motioned by Earl Scherer and seconded by Ben Koppelman that the Agenda, as amended, be approved. Motion carried.

At 8:45 a.m., Josh Wilson, Vern Hertz, Mitch Feininger, Scott Halle, David Paul, Michael Lund, Richard Wolfe, Al Schrader, Carl Martin, Richard Krause, Ashley Windhorst and Janel Redinger joined the meeting for a staff meeting. Also present, Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General. President Schmidt opened the meeting for comments from the staff and updated the staff as to current operations.

At 9:40 a.m., Josh Wilson, Vern Hertz, Mitch Feininger, Scott Halle, David Paul, Michael Lund, Richard Wolfe, Al Schrader, Carl Martin, Richard Krause, Ashley Windhorst and Janel Redinger left the meeting.

At 9:45 a.m., John Mongeon and Mindy Piatz of Brady Martz and Don Offerdahl entered the meeting. Mr. Mongeon and Ms. Piatz presented the Board with a report on the 2009-2011 audit.

At 9:57 a.m., John Mongeon, Mindy Piatz and Don Offerdahl left the meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., Murray Sagsveen (State Disaster Recovery Coordinator), Mike Wobbema (State Flood Recovery Office), Jerod Tuft (North Dakota Governor's Office), Rhonda Thompson (Lutheran Disaster Response), Amanda Schooling (Ward County Director of Emergency Management), John Fjeldahl (Ward County Commissioner), Jason Zimmerman (City of Minot Flood Recovery Coordinator), Keven Szarkowski, Ross Rubbelke (City of Minot Electrical Inspector), Ed Christian (Dakota Chapter NECA), Richard Krause (State Electrical Inspector) and Al Schrader (State Electrical Inspector) entered the meeting. Jim Olson of KXMC-TV also entered the meeting.

Murray Sagsveen presented introductory comments concerning volunteer electricians helping citizens of the City of Minot. Mike Wobbema outlined the steps that would be taken by the Faith Based Volunteer Organization (FBVO) and steps being requested of the Board. The primary purpose for volunteers is to be able to wire dwellings for single families that have a financial need. It was requested that the Board set up a point of contact and appropriate testing.

Jerod Tuft of the Governor's Office informed the Board that the Governor is willing to issue an executive order, but is also concerned with safety issues. Attorney Porsborg questioned who will determine skill level of volunteers. Rhonda Thompson of Lutheran Disaster Response indicated

that she will ask for and gather credentials and background information. Single families need to qualify for volunteer assistance through RAFT application process.

Further discussion took place concerning the self-wiring process that is currently in place as well as safety being a priority and getting people in their homes as soon as possible. There was a lot of discussion on qualifications required, such as having a license in the state they are coming from, availability of inspectors, appropriate supervision (licensed vs. apprentice ratio), and bonding and insurance.

At 11:00 a.m., Kathy Ibach of Kathy Ibach Strategies entered the meeting.

Richard Krause informed everyone that there are retired Master electricians that may be willing to reinstate their license and do volunteer work.

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

At 11:45 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Paula Glass distributed a comparison chart for qualifications pertaining to reciprocal states. Ben Koppelman motioned and Earl seconded that the Board authorize temporary emergency journeyman licenses for volunteers wiring single family dwellings whose families are financially qualified. The volunteers must have at least 8,000 hours of experience, know the 2011 National Electrical Code, have a license from the state they are coming from, and, if qualified, take a North Dakota exam. The volunteers must do the work without compensation, and be under the supervision of a Master electrician. The fees for the application process and license will be waived.

A roll call vote took place: James Schmidt, aye; Ben Koppelman, aye; Karen Karls, aye; Earl Scherer, aye; and Rodney Mayer, aye. Motion carried. Mr. Porsborg and Jerod Tufte will work on wording for the Governor's Executive Order. Mr. Sagsveen thanked the Board for past and present cooperation.

At 12:30 p.m., the Board recessed for a break.

At 12:45 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Minutes were presented from the November 16, 2011 and December 16, 2011 Board Meetings. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Earl Scherer that the Minutes of these meetings be approved. Motion carried.

Ms. Glass requested and was granted continued temporary employment of Janelle Glass until the next Board meeting in March, 2012.

President Schmidt addressed the Executive Director position with Kathy Ibach. A job description as well as a job announcement has been prepared. The Board discussed the recruitment process. With changes, Ms. Ibach will modify and update the job description and announcement, and work with Ms. Glass on posting the job through various sources. It was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Rodney Mayer to advertise for the Executive Director position with amended changes and with a February 6, 2012 deadline. Motion carried.

President Schmidt informed the Board that Alex Martushev was unable to attend the meeting. He will be requested to appear before the Board at its March, 2012 meeting.

Discussion took place concerning Williston housing. Mr. Wergeland informed the Board that the majority of landlords in Williston are requesting 1 to 2 year leases. There may be a two-bedroom townhouse for rent for \$1,600 per month plus utilities, snow and lawn care. It was motioned by Rodney Mayer and seconded by Ben Koppelman, for purposes of discussion, to approve Mr. Wergeland to rent the townhouse for \$1,600 per month. Motion failed.

After further discussion, it was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Earl Scherer to authorize Mr. Wergeland to find and lease a 2 to 3 bedroom place from \$1,600 to \$2,000 per month. Motion carried.

Mr. Wergeland informed the Board that at this time Richard Krause and Carl Martin are staying in the Minot apartment while working in District 4.

At 3:30 p.m., Jerod Tuft entered the meeting. Mr. Tuft presented the Board with a draft of the Executive Order to be signed by the Governor.

Ed Christian of NECA addressed the Board with his concerns of allowing his members to do the same as the volunteers. He would like the license versus apprentice ratio relaxed. Attorney Porsborg informed Mr. Christian that relaxing the ratio violates statute.

Ms. Glass presented the Board with a continuing education course application from Don Offerdahl concerning API RP 500 and 2011 NEC 500-516. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Earl Scherer to approve the course. Motion carried.

President Schmidt inquired of Rodney Mayer about the education committee. Mr. Mayer indicated that Russ Karlgard, Pam Berle, Jamie Haugeson and Barry Dutton are all on board.

President Schmidt informed the Board that a Special Board Meeting (by conference call) to address the remaining items of the Agenda will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Rodney Mayer and seconded by Earl Scherer that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Date

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Date

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James Schmidt, PRESIDENT

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Karen Karls, SECRETARY