

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 9:35 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; Jamie Helgeson, IBEW; Randy Bartsch, IBEW; and Ivan Maas, NDSCS.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Paul Durbin added Jamie Dietzler email and District 7 inspector. Mr. Schmidt added District 7 and display board and rack card for promoting the industry. It was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated there is no new information on the code making panels at this time.

Mr. Schmidt presented the 2020 Board calendar. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to approve the 2020 calendar. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated Christina Roemmich, Janel Redinger, and Austin Lafferty attended the Professional Licensing Board Training on October 29. Christina thought it was very informative.

Mr. Schmidt presented the ALJ recommendation on Adam Zurcher. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, indicated he would not be partaking in this conversation and that if the board had any questions, they would need to hire an attorney from the Attorney Generals Office. Mr. Schmidt briefly discussed the ALJ recommendation. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Christina Roemmich to adopt the ALJ recommendation concerning Adam Zurcher. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the Boards need to start expending funds to promote the electrical industry. Ashley Windhorst explained different opportunities for the Board to expend funds, such as NDSCS Annual Scholarship, NDSCS Sponsorship Program, or a donation to the electrical program at NDSCS. The Board discussed an annual scholarship in great depth and would also like to look at expending funds to apprentices in ND apprenticeship programs as well. Motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to provide the NDSCS Alumni Association with \$150,000 and have them disperse scholarships to electrical students with the option of the board replenishing the fund in the future. Discussion was had and it was agreed that this would be a good start and the board could consider other options at a future meeting. Paul Durbin amended his motion and Tom Paulson seconded to grant \$1,000 to each eligible full-time student who is a resident of ND, maintains a 3.0 GPA, and is in the NDSCS Electrical Construction Program. Discussion was had again regarding when the student would receive the funds and are we going to consider their high school GPA versus providing reimbursement after the fact. More discussion was had on not doing a tuition reimbursement but rather providing so much money each semester if they meet certain

criteria, which may entice high school students to start the electrical program. However, you also have those that drop out so the percentage of this was discussed as well. Motion carried. Paul Durbin rescinded his motion. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to change the GPA requirement to 2.5 and to pay \$500 at the beginning of each semester to each student that meets the criteria which is to be a full-time student, a resident of ND, maintains a 2.5 GPA, and is enrolled in the electrical construction program. Discussion that these semester payments will begin Fall 2020. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated other scholarship opportunities are still being reviewed. A meeting is setup with CTE. Gateway to Science was also mentioned and it was questioned how many other entities there may be. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, added that grant opportunities may be a possibility if the board is looking at lump sum amounts, these grants are applied for. Mr. Schmidt indicated that the education committee could investigate these opportunities.

Ashley Windhorst reviewed the Marketplace for Kids class information and presented a display and rack card to use at the Marketplace for Kids events.

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on ITD and the reporting system. All inspectors were issued new computers at the October meeting. The office staff is in the process of getting new computers. Once all new computers are in place ITD will begin transferring the server.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the email received from Jamie Dietzler regarding the temporary inspector that was hired. It was reiterated that temporary positions do not require advertising or an interview process. Mr. Schmidt assured the Board no promises were made to the individual and that the position was accepted as temporary. It was clarified that this is not a full-time permanent position, this is the temporary position the Board had approved at a prior meeting.

At 11:20 a.m., Jason Parsons entered the meeting.

The Board discussed and reviewed the District 7 inspector information.

At 11:40 a.m., Jason Parsons appeared before the board. Jason Parson's Master license is currently on probation which was violated as he didn't issue a wiring certificate on a job and has several outstanding corrections. Jason indicated he had forgot about issuing a certificate but that one had been issued now. He also indicated his outstanding and late corrections are due to personal reasons, but he will complete the fire hall corrections tomorrow. Inspector, Richard Krause, will go out next week Tuesday to do an inspection to ensure the corrections have been completed at the fire hall. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the other outstanding corrections and discussed them. President Rodney Mayer asked Jason Parsons when he would get these corrections done. Jason said they would only take a day or two and they'd all be done. Mr. Mayer gave Jason Parsons until December 6, 2019 to complete all outstanding corrections. The Board will revisit Jason Parsons and his license at the next meeting which is scheduled for December 11, 2019.

At 12:00 p.m., Jason Parsons, Ivan Maas, Jamie Helgeson, and Randy Bartsch left the meeting.

Steven Patneaud appeared by phone to discuss his application to take the ND Master exam. Mr. Patneaud expressed his wishes to take the ND Master exam and plans to continue to do industrial and commercial work. His Journeyman application had Board action; therefore, the Master application was brought for review. He has the experience hours, and nothing has changed since his Journeyman application. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve Steven Patneaud to take the ND Master exam. Motion carried.

At 12:10 p.m., the telephone call with Steven Patneaud ended and the Board recessed for a short break.

At 12:25 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt discussed Tim Allard and presented the District States Attorney's information. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General informed the Board they can act on his license now if they choose or they can wait until there's a conviction. The Board decided to wait and see what the results are from the prosecution.

The deadline for comments on the Administrative Rule Proposals is December 4, 2019. All comments will be compiled and sent out to Board members for review. The Board will then act on December 11, 2019 at a special meeting held by the Board.

Job description was tabled until the January 2020 meeting.

Mr. Schmidt spoke to Joel Aslakson about an app for mapping inspections as the inspectors currently do all their mapping manually. Joel reviewed the information James had received; however, he doesn't think the app is robust enough to work with the current reporting system. Joel is working on implementing mapping into the current system.

At 12:45 p.m. Doug Grinde entered the meeting. Curt Kasper left the meeting.

Doug Grinde provided pictures of skid structures for the Board to review. The temporary inspector will be inspecting outstanding skid structure certificates. Doug reviewed the number of wiring certificates per county. The Board discussed advertising for an inspector opening. Location and district will depend on certificate numbers and reviewing counties.

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

Scott Halle provided an update on the CEU classes. Twelve (12) classes have been held and there are four (4) left for the year. The Board reviewed comment cards from CEU classes. Scott is reviewing 2020 CEU classes for approval, answering code questions, and updating exam questions for 2020. Scott ordered simple motor kits and electric light kits for Marketplace for Kids events.

At 1:10 p.m., Scott Halle left the meeting.

A special meeting of the Board will be December 11, 2019. The next regular meeting of the Board will be January 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 1:10 p.m.

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Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

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Tom Paulson, SECRETARY