

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 7, 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; Curt Kasper, NECA; and Clay Nagel, IBEW Local 714.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added training put on by Attorney General's office, education committee, revised calendar, and Cameron Fleck may not attend.

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

The Board reviewed the 2019 calendar. It was the consensus of the Board to change the July meeting date and approve the calendar.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the workload has increased. As of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the inspectors are working 50 hours per week until further notice.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the proposals received to hire a consultant to consult and advise the Board on legislative matters. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to accept the proposal from Olson Effertz. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt presented a power limited technician table and proposed law changes to include power limited technician (PLT) licensing. Board would like to move forward with having a senator present a legislative bill.

At 9:00 a.m., Barry Dutton, State Director of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, entered the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt provided a copy of the exam review policy and asked if the Board would like it changed or to leave it as is. It was the decision of the Board to leave the policy as is.

At 9:40 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 9:50 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the proposed changes to the apprenticeship training language which would read: "successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the Board" vs. federal bureau of apprenticeship training. The goal would be to create an education committee to review and approve apprenticeship programs. The committee would create a minimum standard for programs to be approved. Barry Dutton reviewed how the DOL

programs work. Board discussed moving forward with the proposed language for apprenticeship training requirement and whether or not to proceed with introducing the language as an emergency measure. Special Assistant Attorney General Scott Porsborg asked Mr. Dutton if he would issue a JATC apprentice a Department of Labor completion certificate once they met the minimum 576 hour requirement even though their program is 900 hours. Mr. Dutton responded that yes, he would issue a DOL completion certificate if someone from JATC verified that an individual had completed the minimum 576 hours. Attorney Porsborg indicated the Board would need something in writing from the DOL to back up Mr. Dutton's answer. The Board directed James Schmidt to get together with Attorney Porsborg to resolve the issue with the apprenticeship training language as soon as possible.

The Board reviewed adding the following language to 43-09-15.1: "The board may extend funds to educate and encourage potential electricians or power limited technicians into the trade." This language would allow a possible donation, such as to ND Department of Career & Technical Education (CTE), which would also help alleviate some funds. The inspection fee schedule could also be reviewed in the future to help alleviate excess funds.

At 10:45 a.m., Barry Dutton and Clay Nagel left the meeting.

The Board discussed making a donation to CTE which would help in promoting the electrical industry.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed a spreadsheet with jobs by dollar amount and certificate fees collected.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the education committee from the past and what/who it consisted of. Suggested considering to reform this committee to regulate education, which would include apprenticeship training programs, continuing education, etc.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the request received from Mitch Flanagan, City of Minot, for the Board to provide assistance inspecting the Trinity Hospital project. The request is for an inspector to assist beginning next summer for approximately one day a week. Board discussed helping the City of Minot and also billing them for the hours. The Board asked Mr. Schmidt to calculate a dollar per hour charge and add the request to the January, 2019 agenda.

Mr. Schmidt indicated Scott Halle is working on a presentation of the electrical trade to present to high schools across North Dakota. This is to help encourage individuals to come into the electrical trade.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the Professional Licensing Board Orientation & Training binders provided to the Board. Mr. Schmidt, Ashley Windhorst, Tom Paulson, Mark Christopher and Special Assistant Attorney General Scott Porsborg attended the training. They found it very informative and a great thing to attend. If this training is offered in the future, Mr. Schmidt will let the Board members know and may also have additional staff attend.

At 12:00 p.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 12:10 p.m., the Board reconvened. Greg Rockstad, District 5 Inspector; Leo Floer, District 4 Inspector; Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections; and Paula Glass, Office Manager, entered the meeting.

The Board discussed Michael Simonson who failed to appear at his requested time. Mr. Simonson has had several major violations over the last two years including unsupervised apprentices, late certificates and corrections falsified as complete. The Board discussed the violations, outstanding corrections and outstanding jobs. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Paul Durbin to proceed with formal action on Michael Simonson. Discussion included how to handle his current outstanding invoice, review of existing corrections, discussion on how to handle the 38 existing/open jobs, and Paula Glass receiving a call Monday, November 5, 2018, asking how Wescom could remove Michael Simonson and add Jeremy Stolp as their new Master. Motion carried.

At 12:50 p.m., Paula Glass, Greg Rockstad, and Leo Floer left the meeting.

Doug Grinde thanked the Board for allowing a group of inspectors to attend the Western Section IAEL. Mr. Grinde reviewed active certificate numbers by district and counties. New certificate numbers continue to increase. Inspectors continue to work and help in other districts with higher certificate numbers which they've been doing since May and overtime was now added in October.

At 1:08 p.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt indicated Joel Aslakson is now done with the reporting system and received his last payment. Mr. Schmidt is communicating with ITD and the goal is to have that transition completed by February, 2019.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be January 23, 2019.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher 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