

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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: 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; Sara Frank, ND Association of Builders; Curt Kasper, NECA; Adam Kidwell, Dakotas JATC; and Randy Bartsch, IBEW.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added Scott Ross email, NDSCS thank you, work progress report for inspections, NECA meeting, and District 7 inspector. It was motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt provided a copy of the proposed awning which was received from Goldmark. The Board had initially agreed to spend up to \$6,000 if it was completed by December 31, 2019; however, the project still hasn't started. The Board discussed and was fine with the same offer but will revisit if needed when the project starts.

Mr. Schmidt presented a thank you received from the NDSCS Alumni Foundation thanking the NDSEB for providing a scholarship to students in the electrical construction degree program.

Mr. Schmidt presented an email received from Scott Ross in appreciation of the fine work inspectors Leo Floer and Zach Paetz are doing.

Mr. Schmidt indicated NECA has invited him to a meet in February; he and Curt Kasper had discussed Mr. Schmidt's attendance at the meeting to review board policies.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the District 7 inspector's last day will be December 16, 2020. Skid structures have been cleaned up and incoming certificate numbers are down.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the NERA meeting which he and Ashley Windhorst attended via WebEx. One of the discussions was accepting continuing education credits from reciprocal states. Mr. Schmidt presented a revised reciprocal agreement which would accept a current reciprocal license for renewal vs. making them take another CEU class that has been approved in North Dakota. The Board reviewed and discussed and did not see an issue with revising the agreements with applicable states.

Dorian Sigman appeared before the Board at its September meeting. Ashley Windhorst indicated she had spoken to Mr. Sigman a couple times since that meeting; however, has not received any additional information which the Board had requested.

The Board discussed coal mine experience. Mr. Schmidt had received an email from Senator Dever inquiring about coal mine licensure. Mr. Schmidt sent more information for him to review, including NDCC 43-09-26 which exempts coal mines. No further communication has been received since November 5, 2020. Mr. Schmidt will contact the Senator to see if there's anything further with this subject.

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on David Spencer. The inspection was completed so the court order to complete an inspection was withdrawn.

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on the Administrative Rules which went into effect October 1, 2020. The new Laws, Rules and Wiring Standards of North Dakota booklets were printed and mailed to all North Dakota licensed and registered electricians. Mr. Schmidt has received some Power Limited Electrician questions; however, no applications have been received to date. The NDSEB staff and inspectors had a Teams meeting and the inspectors discussed some of the recent administrative rule changes.

Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General indicated Tim Allard is in default. Motioned by Christina Roemmich and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve the order to revoke Tim Allard's journeyman license as he is in default. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Jacob Gragg's apprentice registration application and the additional information requested which Mr. Gragg provided. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve Jacob Gragg's apprentice registration. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., the Board called Joseph Chevalier who requested to appear by phone; however, Mr. Chevalier did not answer.

At 9:30 a.m., Board member Tom Paulson joined the meeting by phone.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the NDSEB exam setup. The 2020 exams have been assembled and are going through a final review process. The new PLE exam was also constructed. The January 2021 exams will be on the 2020 NEC. Due to the 25% capacity requirement, exam numbers have been reduced again; however, we are testing two days a month vs. one.

At 9:50 a.m., Doug Grinde entered.

Mr. Schmidt discussed Roger Rasch. Inspector Rich Wolfe attempted to perform an inspection at the property of Roger Rasch; however, was denied performing an inspection. Doug Grinde spoke to Mr. Rasch, during which time, Mr. Rasch made threatening comments. Mr. Schmidt also attempted to contact Mr. Rasch but hasn't had any luck. The issue was turned over to Special Assistant Attorney General, Scott Porsborg, who drafted an administrative search warrant. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General indicated for the safety of NDSEB staff, the sheriff should be present for the inspection and should an inspection not get completed, the property could be condemned, if there are life safety issues present.

At 10:00 a.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting. The Board recessed for a short break.

At 10:15 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the email titled Governor Survey. The email was sent requesting information to update the webpage for Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Schmidt discussed legislation and indicated during the last session Pam Sharp with Olson Effertz was hired as a consultant during the that legislation session. The Board discussed hiring Pam Sharp with Olson Effertz for the upcoming session. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to hire Pam Sharp.

At 10:25 a.m., Doug Grinde entered the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt and Doug Grinde discussed the Trinity Hospital project in Minot. In the past, there was discussion about NDSEB assisting and/or doing electrical inspections for the project. The City of Minot declined and wanted to complete the inspections themselves. The project recently resumed, so Mr. Schmidt contacted Luke Tillema (Minot Inspection Supervisor) and offered inspection assistance again which Mr. Tillema declined. The NDSEB office received phone calls regarding bathroom pods coming into North Dakota pre-wired and being installed. When Mr. Schmidt asked Mr. Tillema about these pods, he responded that he already approved the pre-wired pods. Doug Grinde recently went to Minot and did a walk-thru of the project. Discussion was had on requiring an out-of-state structure form for the bathroom pods and any other pre-wiring coming in for the project. The NDSEB will continue to monitor the project.

Mr. Schmidt indicated the JATC and IEC submitted applications for related training scholarships which were reviewed, and checks were sent to the provider for the apprentices that met the requirements. NDSCS had electrical students apply for the college scholarship as well and the funds have been distributed.

The Board reviewed the education committee policy, the application form, proposed meeting agenda, education advisory committee purpose, the policy and appointment schedule. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, indicated the committee members will be reimbursed for expenses; however, there is not a daily per diem. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the education committee policy. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the applications for the education committee. Discussion on whether the applicant should be a North Dakota resident or not. The Board decided to eliminate one of the applications as it was received after the deadline. The Board reviewed and discussed the remaining applications as well as the number of members that should serve on the committee. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, indicated this committee doesn't have any authority to make a final decision. Any tied vote would go before the Board and the Board would also have final approval on anything the committee does. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve and appoint the eight (8) applicants as follows: representative from North Dakota college-approved electrical degree program, Ivan Maas; representative from a North Dakota college-approved off

campus electrical correspondence or online program, Brian Fuder; North Dakota registered professional engineer, Brian Poyokko; North Dakota master electrician, Tim Pull; North Dakota journeyman electrician, Steve Mundahl; and individuals having experience with an apprenticeship training program, included Adam Kidwell, Jeff Kirstein, and Christian Opp. Motion carried.

At 11:35 a.m., Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Scott Halle indicated 10 of 16 CEU classes have been completed; there are two classes this week and then the remaining four classes in January. Scott continues to review CEU classes for approval, answer code questions, and has been reviewing the 2020 NEC exams. Scott was able to meet with the construction trade students in West Fargo. A local contractor is working with the school and students to wire the construction trades house. Discussion was had on more opportunities in the future to meet with and educate trade students in area high schools. The Board also discussed putting an article in the next newsletter regarding this as it's a positive occurrence for the industry.

At 12:00 p.m., Scott Halle left the meeting. Doug Grinde entered the meeting.

Doug Grinde reviewed the active skid numbers. The numbers have decreased as there has been a lot of focus on getting skid structures cleaned up. Doug also reviewed the active certificate numbers, completed received numbers, and incoming certificate numbers.

At 12:15 p.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt indicated he is setting up a wage spreadsheet for the January meeting so the Board can review and understand the formula for wage increases.

The Board discussed Joseph Chevaliers application as he did not answer at this scheduled time of 9:30 a.m. It was discussed and decided that in the future an individual wanting to appear before the Board by phone will call in versus the Board calling them.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be January 27, 2021.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Date

Date

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Christina Roemmich, SECRETARY