

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, May 23, 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, Paul Durbin and Ben Koppelman. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General; Greg Mattson and Curt Kasper, NECA.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added a presentation at Conoco Phillips on June 7, 2018, a Bakken Oil Conference July 16, 2018, meeting with RECs, and Smart Home Technologies.

President Mayer asked for any comments on the Consent Agenda items. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Mark Christopher to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the PLT open forum. Ben Koppelman reviewed the possibility of making changes to define NDCC 43-09-16 versus creating an additional license. An email from Tim Pull was also reviewed, along with a chart attached from the MN Department of Labor & Industry's website for when a PLT license is required and what is required to be inspected.

Ben Koppelman made a motion to no longer consider a PLT license and edit NDCC 43-09-16 instead. Motion died due to lack of a second.

The Board reviewed a video showing a TV cable which had ended up energized. The Board would like Mr. Schmidt to have the PLT committee together again to discuss the public forum and other items prior to the July, 2018 Board meeting.

At 9:20 a.m., Greg Mattson left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt asked Board members to have consideration of the NDSEB staff and to take calls outside of the office to avoid interruptions.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the status of a reporting system app. At this time, it is not moving forward as Joel Aslakson is working on another project for the reporting system.

Mr. Schmidt shared an email received from State Fleet about NDSEB doing a great job tracking mileage and other items related to State Fleet vehicles.

Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that employee service awards will be given on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. David Paul will be receiving a 10 year award. Doug Grinde, Leo Floer, Greg Rockstad, Kendrick Kjorsvik, and David Jaeger will all receive a 5 year award.

Mr. Schmidt and the Board welcomed Paul Durbin who is the newly appointed Board member to replace Brad Sylliaasen. Paul works for Excel Energy in Grand Forks and is the board representative for the investor owned utilities.

Mr. Schmidt gave an update on Shawn Olson. Mr. Olson was served papers April 11, 2018 to revoke his Master license. Mr. Olson did not appeal. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to revoke Shawn Olson's Master license declaring him in default. Discussion was had to update Paul Durbin on Shawn Olson. Motion carried.

Jason Parsons was to appear before the Board at 9:00 a.m., however, he failed to appear. Mr. Schmidt informed the Board that Mr. Parsons' outstanding corrections have been made and fees have also been paid. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Mark Christopher to send Mr. Parsons a letter to respond to Mr. Schmidt about missing today's meeting. Motion carried. The Board tried calling Mr. Parsons, however, he did not answer.

At 9:55 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

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

Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, reported on Kyle Beck. Mr. Beck was previously denied and sent an informal decision. He did not respond, so the denial is final.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the EC&M rating by Mike Holt. Mike Holt rated the North Dakota electrical industry as an "A" rating, along with seven (7) other states.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the City of Mandan's request for the number of certificates filed within city limits. If this would happen, the certificate numbers for District 8 would be reduced significantly. As of now, nothing has been requested.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed an email he received with concern about comments made in a recent newsletter article. The Board discussed and thought the article was appropriate and the reader possibly misinterpreted the intent. The Board wants the newsletters to continue as the staff sees fit.

Mr. Schmidt updated the Board on the ITD Server. NDSEB's backup program has stopped working, so ITD is now backing up portions, along with Joel Aslakson for the reporting system and Paula Glass for QuickBooks. New computers have also been ordered for NDSEB employees as Microsoft will soon not support what is currently in place.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed an article in the Design & Living Magazine which features Smart Home Technologies. From this article and the Secretary of State's website under their "nature of business", it appears they are advertising to complete installs. Mr. Schmidt is waiting to hear back from Smart Home Technologies' owner and also noted this business had received a cease and desist in September, 2016.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Code of Ethics. Motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Paul Durbin to approve the Board Code of Ethics with removal of paragraph 4. Motion carried 3:1.

Mr. Schmidt gave the Board a follow-up on contractors and correction reports from the last meeting. Tim Olson paid his fees, all corrections are done and his probation agreement was also received. Troy Lees finished his corrections and was to pay administrative fees, which have not been received.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed an email received from N.D. Legislative Council requesting information about NDSEB. This email was also sent to other State Boards & Commissions.

Mr. Schmidt asked if any Board members would like to attend the June 7, 2018 meeting with Conoco Phillips. Rod Mayer and Mark Christopher may attend.

At 11:00 a.m., Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections, entered the meeting.

Mr. Grinde reviewed the reports on incoming/outgoing certificates along with active certificates by district. Certificate numbers have increased since this time last year. State inspector numbers are down for older certificates.

At 11:10 a.m., Jason Parsons called the Board. Mr. Mayer asked Mr. Parsons why he failed to appear at today's meeting. Mr. Parsons claims he didn't receive a letter inviting him to the meeting so he wasn't sure if he was supposed to appear or not. Mr. Mayer informed Mr. Parsons he would be receiving a letter in the next week or so and thanked him for completing his outstanding corrections.

At 11:25 a.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting. Scott Halle, Training & Compliance Administrator, entered the meeting.

Mr. Halle informed the Board the first two CEU classes will be in two weeks. The classes will be on electrical services, covering code requirements, grounding and calculations, along with short circuit calculations. Mr. Halle continues to review and approve CEU classes from other providers.

At 11:40 a.m., Scott Halle left the meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 25, 2018.

There being no further business, it was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Tom Paulson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Tom Paulson, SECRETARY