

NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:35 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 and Ben Koppelman. Also present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Paula Glass, Office Manager; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General, and Curt Kasper, Dakotas Chapter NECA.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt indicated to add Michael Skypek to appear by telephone for an appeal of his denied Journeyman application, a clinic being remodeled in Devils Lake, 2016-2017 budget review, and craigslist advertisements.

Mark Christopher was welcomed to the North Dakota State Electrical Board as the new Journeyman member serving on the Board.

President Mayer called for the election of Board of Directors. Tom Paulson nominated Rodney Mayer for President. There being no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Rodney Mayer to be President. Mark Christopher nominated Ben Koppelman for Vice President. There being no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Ben Koppelman to be Vice President. Ben Koppelman nominated Tom Paulson for Secretary. There being no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Tom Paulson to be Secretary. Tom Paulson nominated Brad Sylliaasen for Treasurer. There being no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Brad Sylliaasen to be Treasurer.

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

Mr. Schmidt reiterated that it is the Board's 100th year. An open house has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This was coordinated in conjunction with the August Inspectors' meeting to allow the inspectors as well as Board members to attend. A Special Edition Newsletter was presented to the Board and is in the process of being mailed out. The Board has been approved to serve cake and refreshments for the open house.

At 8:42 a.m., Brad Sylliaasen entered the meeting.

Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General, gave an update report on the Davenport Group. The matter has been settled and is now closed.

Mr. Schmidt gave an update on the Board staff continuing to work with Joel Aslakson (Fourware) to beta test and implement the Report System. Progress is being made, and Richard Krause, District 2 Inspector, will be the beta inspector tester. Implementation goal

is within a couple of months. A brief discussion was had on this budgeted item and progress billing by Fourware.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed with the Board a spreadsheet prepared on rogue/unlicensed contractors. Ms. Glass explained the step-by-step process of dealing with rogue/unlicensed contractors that have outstanding matters. There are currently nine (9) properties that are at the point of possible disconnects due to serious code violations that remain unfixed and if no response is received from the final notice to the property owner. Discussion commenced on the repealed/depleted undertaking fund, legislative review and no other recourse by the Board. Due process and time has been exhausted. It was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Brad Sylliaasen to proceed with disconnects, if warranted. Motion carried. Attorney Porsborg will provide appropriate updated language to the Order for Discontinuing Electrical Service and language for a condemnation door tag to be placed on the property.

At 9:25 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 9:30 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed Michael Skypek's application for a Journeyman license by reciprocity from Montana, which was denied. Mr. Skypek was granted 6,638 hours of North Dakota and Montana time, however, the rest of his experience was in Georgia which doesn't regulate similar rules for licensing and inspections. Montana allowed him to take their examination. Ben Koppelman suggested using the Board's placement exam in this instance.

At 9:40 a.m., Michael Skypek appeared by telephone conference. Mr. Skypek provided a brief history of being an electrician for 15 years and that most of his experience was in Georgia. President Mayer inquired of Mr. Skypek if he would be interested in taking a placement exam, if offered. If he passed this exam, he would be allowed to take the Journeyman exam. Mr. Skypek indicated he is in Georgia at least until August 11, 2017. President Mayer indicated that the Board would discuss and call Mr. Skypek back.

At 9:45 a.m., Michael Skypek left the meeting.

A vote commenced on Michael Skypek's eligibility to take the placement exam. Tom Paulson – yes; Mark Christopher – yes; Brad Sylliaasen – yes; Ben Koppelman – yes; Rod Mayer – yes. All in favor, it was motioned by Ben Koppelman and seconded by Tom Paulson to allow Michael Skypek to take the placement exam. Motion carried.

At 9:50 a.m., Michael Skypek appeared by telephone conference.

The decision was presented to Mr. Skypek. Mr. Skypek will call the NDSEB's office to make the appropriate arrangements.

At 9:52 a.m., Michael Skypek left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt apprised the Board of a previous dental clinic being turned into a medical clinic (outpatient clinic/physician's office) in Devils Lake. Concerns were discussed on this area being brought up to code and recent communication with the City Building Official of Devils Lake and North Dakota Department of Health. The structure was wired in 1982 in non-metallic sheathed cable and was used as a dental clinic. Mr. Schmidt will notify the City of Devils Lake that the wiring method in patient care areas needs to be addressed.

At 10:10 a.m., Doug Grinde, Director of Inspections, entered the meeting.

Discussion continued on the classification of the area. Mr. Grinde stated Article 517 of the National Electrical Code addresses health care facilities and believes there is a classification change. Discussion resulted in clinic branch circuits providing power to patient care equipment need to follow current code regulations.

At 10:30 a.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt handed out the 2016-2017 budget for review of actuals versus budgeted amounts. Mr. Schmidt indicated that payment reimbursement to cities have increased due to inspections being recorded and their focus on cleaning up old certificates.

Mr. Schmidt gave a report of recent advertising findings from craigslist to do electrical work. Three (3) individuals were contacted to cease and desist from advertising and/or doing electrical work. In accordance with Article 24.1-03-01-06(6) of N.D. Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards, discussion commenced on the definition of maintenance and regularly employed by the owner.

At 10:50 a.m., the Board recessed for a short break.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board reconvened, and Doug Grinde and Scott Halle, Training Administrator, entered the meeting.

Mr. Grinde reviewed the number of incoming vs. outgoing certificates. He continued with an average calculation of incoming and outgoing certificates per inspector per month with a comparison of previous years. He reported with twelve (12) district inspectors, we are currently at a reasonable level to meet the inspection needs.

At 11:20 a.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting.

Mr. Halle indicated that four (4) 2017 NDSEB CEU classes have already been conducted, including an oil field class in Williston. Comment cards are available for Board review. He reported class sizes are down from previous years, but the oil field class presented 112 attendees. It included a mixture of engineers, electricians, and manufacturing companies. Mr. Halle also reported that he assisted with the review and updating the exam questions to the 2017 NEC. He continues to review continuing education classes for approval. The only way to review online classes is by actually taking them, so emphasis is being made on adequate timers and enough material to support a curriculum and the requested hours of

class. Mr. Schmidt indicated that Mr. Halle is still answering code questions. Another oil field class possibly in Dickinson later this fall and maybe others are being considered.

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

President Mayer discussed with Curt Kasper of NECA code review and apprenticeship training.

Mr. Schmidt reported that two company-sponsored apprenticeship programs are being taught that may not qualify under the 576 hours rule. They are approved through the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, Department of Labor but appear to fall short of the requirements. Attorney Porsborg reiterated the intent of the law concerning apprenticeship training. Mr. Schmidt will provide more information later as he gathers more fact-finding information.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be September 13, 2017.

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 11:53 a.m.

Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

Tom Paulson, SECRETARY