

# **NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 16, 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: 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; Randy Bartsch, IBEW; Curt Kasper, NECA; and Adam Kidwell, Dakotas JATC.

President Mayer asked for further Agenda items to appear at this meeting. Mr. Schmidt added NDSEB letterhead. It was motioned by Paul Durbin and seconded by Tom Paulson to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt provided a copy of the current letterhead. New letterhead will be ordered to reflect the Board positions which were changed at the July meeting. Discussion was had on removing staff names from the top of the letterhead and Board member names from the bottom. It was the consensus of the Board to remove the staff names from the top of the letterhead but to leave the Board member names and positions on the bottom.

Mr. Schmidt indicated there are not any rogue contractors at this time.

Mr. Schmidt presented the 2021 calendar for review. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to approve the 2021 Board calendar. Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt indicated paper certificates are no longer available. Letters were sent on a few occasions informing contracting masters of the need to switch to the electronic certificate program. Only 13 contractors have not submitted e-cert applications of the 130 there were at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Schmidt indicated an administrative search warrant had been issued to David Spencer. An inspector wanted to perform an inspection on work that Mr. Spencer had done; however, he told the inspector no. After the administrative search warrant was presented to Mr. Spencer, NDSEB received a letter indicating he had sold the residence. The electrical inspection was completed with the new homeowners with no issues; therefore, the warrant will now be withdrawn.

At 8:50 a.m., Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General entered the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the scholarships for related training. Two apprentice class provider applications have been received. The Board discussed and reviewed the requirements, specifically the requirement that the apprentice lives in North Dakota and the requirement of the electrical contractor being physically located/based in North Dakota.

At 9:00 a.m., the Board called John Narvaez who wanted to appear by phone to appeal his denied application.

John Narvaez discussed his experience and indicated he completed an IEC apprenticeship program and holds a Journeyman license in the state of Alabama. He provided approximately 22,000 hours of electrical experience; however, most of those hours were not in a jurisdiction regulating similar rules to the state of ND. Motioned by Tom Paulson and seconded by Christina Roemmich to deny John Narvaez's appeal. Motion carried.

At 9:25 a.m., the phone call with John Narvaez ended.

Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General reviewed the order to revoke Jason Parson's Master license. In July the Board had voted to revoke the license and Mr. Parson's did not respond so he is in default. Motioned by Mark Christopher and seconded by Christina Roemmich to consider the facts and circumstances of revocation of Jason Parson's Master license and he is in default. Discussion on pursuing the open certificates and outstanding fees. Roll call vote 4-0. Motion carried.

At 9:35 a.m., Dorian Sigman entered the meeting.

Dorian Sigman appeared to appeal his denied application. Mr. Sigman reviewed his experience which includes over 20 years of mining experience, as well as electrical experience outside of mines. He graduated from NDSCS and holds a green card in Florida for medium – high voltage. Mr. Sigman will communicate with Ashley Windhorst to ensure he obtain verifications of his experience outside of mining and the Board will revisit at the November meeting.

At 10:10 a.m., Dorian Sigman left the meeting and the Board recessed for a short break.

At 10:30 a.m., the Board reconvened.

Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General reviewed the complaint against Tim Allard. Austin Lafferty, Special Assistant Attorney General was contacted by Mr. Allard on September 9, 2020 after he was served, and he told Mr. Allard he could consult with legal counsel prior to answering. Mr. Allard has until the end of September to respond to the complaint and if he does not an order will be issued in November.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed office operations. A work schedule was completed, and job descriptions are still in the process of being updated.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the administrative rules which were held over at the rules hearing in June. Since June Mr. Schmidt has had numerous conversations with committee members, legislators, telecoms, and home builders. Mr. Schmidt provided committee members with updated testimony for the September 15, 2020 rules hearing. The rules were approved and passed at the hearing. Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General reviewed the rules which passed: The Board rules will be effective October 1, 2020; the 2020 NEC will be effective January 1, 2021; surge protection for dwelling unit services will not be required; and proposal 50 regarding expansion of CO2 detectors was withdrawn.

At 11:05 a.m., Doug Grinde entered the meeting.

Doug Grinde discussed inspector Marty Ekren and the process of completing skid inspections. Doug also discussed tribal inspection requests which must be received in writing via a letter. Certificate numbers by district, certificate categories, and city of Bismarck self-wire numbers were all reviewed.

At 11:30 a.m., Doug Grinde left the meeting. Scott Halle entered the meeting.

Scott Halle indicated six (6) continuing education classes have been completed. There have been some venue location issues due to COVID-19, but all have been resolved. Two extra classes were added in January 2021 for Fargo and Grand Forks due to limited capacity. Scott continues to review CEU applications and answer code questions from inspectors and the public. Scott discussed the October inspection meeting where the inspectors will receive a 4-hour 70E refresher course and will also review 2020 code changes with Don Iverson and possibly Tim McClintock. Scott will also be attending the ND Building Code Committee meeting the end of September to review 2020 NEC code updates.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be November 18, 2020.

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 11:50 a.m.

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Date

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Rodney Mayer, PRESIDENT

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Christina Roemmich, SECRETARY