

**STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING**  
**October 8, 2021**

**ATTENDEES:** Kurt Griess, John Hiller, Jim Brummer, Boyd Pedersen, Division Director Craig Thelen, Dave Hunter, Ed Bergstrasser, Mike Bouwens, and by Webex George Morrissey and Mike Hunsberger.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by John Hiller at 9am. No discussion of meeting minutes occurred. Motion to approve minutes made by Kurt Griess and seconded by Jim Brummer Voting aye; all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Thelen financial report, we are 15.9% spent and 25% of the year has elapsed. The certification of the encumbrances is reflected in this budget report to include \$110,537.40. Cash flow is at \$1,614,520.86.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Thelen reported that a formal letter was sent to Boystown canceling their inspection program and they would have to reapply if they were to bring back their inspection program.

Mike Bouwens and Director Thelen attended the Western Chapter IAEI conference in Michigan from 9/19/21 - 9/23/21. Made good contacts and visited with other States about their issues.

Director Thelen met with the Rural Electric Association in September for a Managers meeting and again this week in Kearney with the Linesman group. Talked about hot topics with them, which would be directional boring and solar. The Rural Electric Association is looking at introducing a bill to clean up the language on directional boring to include Utility Journeyman, had a lot of talk about solar and Sunpro installations and how they are having issues with them when it comes to quality of work. They are installing equipment in the bathrooms, not installing ground rods, permits that have been open since March. They are energizing the system before it has been inspected, No permits. The Rural Electric Association wants to see them kicked out of the State. There has been a lot of emails sent to them to address these issues and a lot of the emails they have not even responded to. The Board has asked them to appear in front of the Board in November.

The Nebraska Chapter of IAEI is this month and Director Thelen and the State Inspectors will be attending. I did get 309 to pay for the program fees.

Had issues with a Homeowner in Humboldt area that tried to pull his own permit for chicken barns, so we did clarify with him that this is considered Industrial and sent him a copy of the Attorney Generals opinion of this. He did have an electrician file a permit the next day.

NIC approved the fees for the permits that are done online to go to the Consumer and not the Electrical Board, this will go into effect sometime in November.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Continue to work on scanning licenses, currently working on Journeyman.

Discussed Policy for listed assemblies, copies of draft letters for the Engineer and the Inspectors to sign off on when they do these inspections was distributed and George Morrissey has some ideas of changes to these documents that he will send me that will help clarify the verbiage. Kurt Griess wanted to discuss in more detail the Inspectors approving these and was concerned about the bigger projects and the Inspectors signing off on them and the intent was for the bigger projects to be done by the Engineers. The Inspectors would focus on the smaller listed assemblies at the direction of Mike Bouwens and Craig Thelen. John Hiller feels there should be language that gives the Board the ability to adjust and modify this policy.

Director Thelen will continue to monitor inspection programs in Washington and York County. Should know more about Washington County at the end of the month whether we are taking over their inspection program along with notification that Scottsbluff's inspection program may be going away as well. Kurt Griess was discussing the City Ordinances as we take over the Municipal Programs and the discussion concluded that the State Inspectors follow the State Act and if there are Ordinances for the City, they would enforce those through their building construction codes, an example would be if they require all residential electrical work to be inspected then the City building construction codes would dictate that they file a permit with the State for inspection, the State would not police the City Ordinances.

Director Thelen sent a draft letter to be signed by the Board assigning Director Thelen as the voting member for NERA that needs to be submitted per Bylaws of NERA.

Director Thelen sent a draft of LB1174 for the Board to review.

Director Thelen working on filling the final open position for an Inspector.

Director Thelen would like to discuss the permit late fees and increasing them from \$50. We are having a lot of issues with Contractors not filing permits and the repercussion is so minimal at \$50 for a late fee that a lot of permits are not being filed. The discussion was to raise these to \$250 per late fee as what other States are doing. The issue with the permits not being filed seems to be a lot of out of State Contractors and big box stores that are doing this.

Director Thelen sent out a tentative 2022 Board Meeting Calendar for everyone to review.

Safety Plan has been implemented for the State Electrical Division. Held our first meeting last month and will use this to help address areas of improved Safety for the Team.

Director Thelen is proposing a Facebook account for the Division and the Board is in favor of this. This will be helpful for us to track down unlicensed Electricians. George Morrissey feels a social media account would be great for the Division.

Question came up about the fleet vehicles and the Division purchasing their own. Director Thelen has a meeting with Jason Jackson who is the Director for Administrative Services on October 22 to discuss this.

Question also came up regarding the adoption of LB467 and Director Thelen explained that the Lobbyist are working with the Senators to get the vote we need in January. We also have Eaton Manufacturing that wants to help in moving the bill forward, so a meeting will be set up for us to talk with the Lobbyist to see where they can help out. A big area of concern is the Home Builders Association who has been against the adoption of the code, but the Lobbyist are working with this group as well to help get the bill adopted.

Motion to adjourn at 10:04 by John Hiller and seconded by Boyd Pedersen all in favor Aye; all

  
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Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary