



Pete Ricketts  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD  
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### STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING November 20, 2020

**ATTENDEES:** John Hiller, Ed Bergstraesser, Dave Hunter, Jim Brummer, George Morrissey, Mike Huntsberger, Director, Craig Thelen. Not in attendance today: Cory Mueller.

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:03AM. No discussion of meeting minutes and appreciation of the detailed content. Motion to approve minutes made by Ed Bergstraesser and seconded by John Hiller. Voting aye; all.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Thelen reported that finances are in good shape. Couple of areas over budget including Unemployment Insurance which is removed from the account at one time. John Hiller read the financials from the meeting spread sheet reporting revenue income for the month of October at \$306,609.92. Monthly expenses reported at \$153,349.19 for a difference of \$153,260.73. Cash reserve balance of \$1,467,148.78. It is annual renewal time.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Thelen shared that Leslie Schneider out of Columbus was hired for District 16 Electrical Inspector position and accepted the position. He will begin, Monday, November 30, 2020. Jerry Rhoades also announced his retirement on December 31, 2020. That position will then be open.

The bi-weekly WebEx meetings are going well. Good feedback from the inspectors as to clarity of topics/issues so everyone is on the same page with inspectors from different districts.

As of November 10<sup>th</sup>, service notifications are being sent out to the Utility companies when a new service permit is filed, so they are aware of new and on-going construction projects.

Continuing the progression of LB1174 and LB743 – adopting the 2020 Code. Senator Blood's schedule did not allow for the commitment to represent LB743; therefore, Senator elect Elliott Bostar from District 20 here in Lincoln, NE will represent in the new legislative session.

WebEx meeting was held with the Lincoln Homebuilders Association. Clarification of

codes and requirements were discussed for adopting the NEC 2020 Electrical Code. Those in attendance for that meeting included: Michaela Harrison Schwarten, Matt Kinning, Justin Brady and Walt Radcliffe. Scheduled a few home tours to discuss codes put in place and clarifying application of those said codes/posted costs.

Met with the State Fire Marshal. Working with State Electrical Division on plan reviews and offer information about said projects. Encouragement of the inspectors to work with the Deputy Fire Marshals in their area to build rapport. Fire panels will now be marked with an electrical inspection tag indicating inspection and proper identification and approval of that process by the Deputy Fire Marshals.

Tom Hamre is still missing in action. He has not completed any of the terms outlined by the Board including quarterly reporting. Director Thelen did share that he received two vague letters from Mr. Hamre's employer. They were unacceptable. A phone call was then received from Mr. Hamre's lawyer stating he would make corrections to the letters and send them back to Director Thelen by November 18<sup>th</sup> and still nothing.

Walmart Projects – 11 different locations throughout the state. All permits have been filed appropriately by the contractor. Light retro fits with unique retro lighting with a varying junction box; a video was offered on how these lights are to be installed and was sent to Ed.

LB1174 will be carried by Senator Briese.

LB743 draft of the bill is out already for the adoption of the 2020 Code. Senator Wayne was asked to Co-Chair this bill.

Proposed Board meeting calendar was shared, and Director Thelen asked for any feedback regarding the dates selected.

ICC Testing was discussed. Western Nebraska is requesting testing to be done once a year out there in person. The 3-hour review is not being done prior to the test. Suggestion was to look to the District Inspector to complete the bi-annual testing perhaps via Zoom/WebEx meeting forums. Also presented included Mike teaching a class with a recorded Zoom/WebEx presentation and send out for review. Suggestion was also made to modify the language in LB743 to allow for video recording of active participants and study content being delivered via Zoom/WebEx throughout the State.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Thelen discussed LB1174 and requested the Boards direction of where to lead Senator Briese through the legislative process. This Bill includes irrigation (well drilling), sign installers, solar inspections and industrial installer/apprentice.

Adding to LB1174, solar inspection to not require a contractor to be present at an inspection.

Complaints are being reported about the expense of the special permits.

Sign installation was discussed, and Code was reviewed by the Board.

Irrigation (well drillers) was discussed.

Discussion between Ed Bergstraesser and Director Thelen occurred regarding current licensing and inspections between the contractor and the journeyman. How are they doing it now since they are not licensed? Currently, specialized people are completing commercial installations for contractors without inspections.

Board suggestion for an on online format for registration with the Secretary of State for specials so they can pull permits and inspect the entities, except the service, which will still need a permit by the Electrical Contractor.

After extended Board discussion, a motion was made by George Morrissey to resend draft of LB1174 releasing Senator Briese. More discussion will be had in January 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Ed Bergstraesser. Voting aye; all.

Topics for January Board Meeting:

- Drop LB1174 w/Briese
- Revise calendar dates for 2021 Board Meetings (Jan 15, March 5, April 9)
- Notification of the new Board members – Director Thelen to send a follow up to Kathleen at the Governor's office to check on the process.
- Location of Board meeting in January – Beacon Hill conference room (check into it).

Meeting was motioned to adjourn at 10:43AM, by John Hiller, and seconded by Jim Brummer.



Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary