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STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD– February 7, 2020

The Electrical Board meeting was held on February 7, 2020 in the meeting room located at the Lincoln City/ County Building room 303, Lincoln, Nebraska. George Morrissey called to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present: Ed Bergstraesser, Michael Hunsberger, Dave Hunter, Cory Mueller, John Hiller, and others present were Kevin Booker Executive Director, Amy Schulze, Nevaeh Fleuren, Dave and Darla Zemula, Mike McKnight, Ken Schiliz, Mary Jacobson Chris Callahan and Lougen Blazek.

LICENSE REVOCATION HEARING TOM HAMRE

Complaint #1, The board heard testimony from David Zemula regarding pool violations and inspections of the plumbing and electrical resulting in the pool being left in a unsafe condition with numerous code violations of the work performed by Artesian pools and Tom Hamre that have not yet been corrected, David said that he had a phone call with Tom regarding the condition of the electrical and how a licensed electrician could do such bad work leave it with that many violations and tom told him that Casey with artesian pools only hired him to get the power to the outside and Casey would do the rest, David said that the plumber did not install the gas pipe and was also in violation, Tom told David that he would be willing to make the corrections, David testified that he received a call later for Casey form Artesian pools to quit harassing his contractors.

Darla testified that they had used the pool for 1.5 months last summer and at time Tom had left his employee's one older gentleman and one younger without supervision David addressed to board regarding the violation including the bonding of the pool cover, pump motor and conduit depth.

Tom said that he was hired to setup the pool panel heater, wire the pool heater and the pump and that he did not call for an inspection because they were not done with the pool and had a discussion with Casey that told him that they had not got paid and he would not get paid. Tom said he was stuck between the arrogant pool contractor and the nice homeowners, Ed asked Tom how long that he worked for the pool contractor and Tom said about one year, Ed asked about other installations for the same pool contractor mode of operation to have him pull the permits and have tom do the headend work and he do the rest, Tom said that

sometimes yes and sometime no the he was always in a hurry, Ed asked tom if he understood his responsibility, Tom said that it was his understanding that the pool contract would call him to come back and finish, Cory asked Tom about what work he had done himself and Tom said that he did not do any of the conduit or cover wiring but did do the bonding.

Ed asked if he did the feeder wiring to the outdoor panel and Tom said he did.

George asked about the wiring addressed by the homeowner and Tom said that they hooked up the panel, heater, pump and pushed the wire to the pool cover and he noticed that the conduits were not deep enough but he did not know if they were going to pour concrete over them.

George asked about the origin of the conduits and Tom said the conduits were stubbed up and they did the seal tight from the conduits to the panel he set about eight to ten feet away, Tom said that he did not install the outlet conduit.

Dave asked if he pulled the wires in the conduits that he did not install and he said yes.

Regarding the pool wiring Kevin Booker testified that he made a site visit to the pool and observed numerous violation with the wiring that had been installed by Tom and others, of the work done on the pool the violations consisted of bonding issues, no cover on box for the pool cover, pool cover not bonded, conduits only buried 8 inches below the ground, open box holes, conduits not glued or properly supported leaving it in a unsafe condition.

The work that Mr. Hamre and his apprentices did not meet code, violation consisted of loose bonding lugs, seal tight not supported and open knockouts, bonding stopped at the pool heater.

Complaint #2, The board heard testimony from Amy Schulze regarding the illegal electrical work that was performed on the basement of their home by Matt Rasmussen of Bear Homes but Tom Hamre testified to the Real Estate Commission that he had done the work, Amy supplied a copy of exhibit 12a from that hearing where Tom said that he performed the work without pulling a permit, upon an inspection of the Washington county inspector the work failed inspection and was later removed by Tom Hamre.

Amy testified that the original wiring was done by Reed Electrical and they came back to look at the work and they pointed out alterations to the original wiring and the fact that the wiring was not arc fault protected and not compliant with the electrical code.

After moving in they found out that the house did not have occupancy and they had to remove all the wiring and sheetrock in the basement before an occupancy inspect could be performed, all the wiring of the original electrical was OK.

The board heard testimony from Tom regarding the work performed on the basement without a permit and his discussion with Kris Rasmussen regarding the basement finish and the radon system of and house belonging to Amy Schulze and Paul Fleuren.

Tom testified that he ran one circuit to feed the basement and did not pull a permit because the contractor was in a hurry to sheetrock.

When asked by the board about his company he testified that he had been in business for 13 years and had 3 employee's, when asked about the check form Bears homes he said that it was for wiring the basement and radon pump.

Kevin Booker followed up with information that was gained from the Washington county inspector Kris Robinson regarding the quality of the work done and his discussion with Tom Hamre where he said that Matt Rasmussen was a close friend of his and he did not want to see him get into trouble for wiring without a license.

Kevin testified that there was discrepancy between what Tom testified to and what Tom had told Kevin when originally contacted

Amy followed up with what she was told by Tom in an earlier conversation about the basement wiring.

The board discussed the testimony from all parties regarding both the installation and the discrepancy with what Tom and testified to the Real Estate commission and the severity of the code and permit violations after much discussion regarding the violation of the rules Ed made a motion to revoke his contractor's license for life, Dave hunter seconded the motion. Mike made a motion to allow Tom to get an apprentice license so he could work under the supervision of another and the possibility of getting a journeyman license after two years with board approval and seconded by Ed, all in favor.

POLICY 37

Policy 37 was reviewed by the board and after discussion of why this policy was introduced that after anyone failing any electrical exam for the third and subsequent times an applicant will not be able to retest for at least 90 days.

Cory made a motion and ED seconded the motion to approve policy 37 all voted in favor.

LB-1174

Mary Jacobson addressed the board regarding the special electrician license and changing the special journeyman to an Industrial installer.

George Morrissey addressed the difference between agriculture and dwelling installations in regards to safety, Cory Mueller addressed his concerns of water in this type of installation, the act already defines what the definition of industrial is.

Ed addressed the board the he was not comfortable with six month of experience to supervise apprentices, discussion on making a rule that would define what a special installer may do with a special installer license to install raceway and conductors and changing the requirement from six months to two years.

Chris Callahan addressed the board of his concerns and that he had forty-five contractor willing to do these jobs and his safety concerns of lowering the standard of getting a special installer license when Nebraska has over 1300 contractors.

Mary Jacobson and Ken Schilz addressed the concerns brought up by Chris and the current shortage of electricians, the first phase of the chicken barns is almost complete and they are looking at a second phase in central and western Nebraska.

Lougen Blazek addressed the board on the other proposed special installer license.

Ed Bergstraesser addressed the board on getting approved rules in place that can go into effect upon the passing of the bill and Kevin was asked to come up with draft language to address those special licenses.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss, Cory Mueller moved and Ed Bergstraesser seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:23 am.



Kevin Booker, Executive Secretary