

**STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING**  
**March 4,2022**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by George Morrissey at 9am. No discussion of meeting minutes occurred. Motion to approve minutes made by John Hiller and seconded by Mike Hunsberger Voting aye; all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Thelen financial report, 66% of the year has elapsed and we are at 53.5% spent. We will have expenses for two retirees Ron and Stuart that we will have to pay their vacation and 25% of their sick leave this fiscal year. Cash reserve is at \$1,311,000. This is a renewal year for us and we will see a jump in revenue in October-December. The Board has agreed we will keep the cash reserve at 6 months operating budget, which at this point it would be \$1,200,00.00.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Thelen is working on LB467 for the code adoption and trying to find a Senator to put this on their priority bill for this session, otherwise we may end up jumping over the 2020 code adoption and go to the 2023 code adoption.

LB866 is the bill to raise the late fees which has made it out of committee with a clean vote and is now on the consent file.

LB709 is the bill for someone with a criminal record and allowing them to get a license, which we are not opposing, but this bill has been combined with LB263 which is the Universal Licensing bill in which we have language in there that allows us to keep what we have in place with the requirements to test or reciprocate a license since we are part of the reciprocal agreement with other states. This also include LB1153 which is the bill to add Board Members, which now is back down to 7 Board Members and requiring 2 Union Board Members.

All open positions are filled David Giron from Ogallala is taking District 2, Clint Hansen from Grand Island is taking District 9 for the retiring Ron Drudik and John Faltys from Columbus is taking District 5 for the retired Stuart Bauer. They all start this month.

Melissa has been out sick for 2 months and Mike Bouwens and Director Thelen have taken over her duties.

Scanning documents continues with Apprentices.

Director Thelen created a brochure to explain licensing requirements to assist apprentices. This was shared with Southeast Community Colleges graduating class of electricians.

Director Thelen conducted the quarterly Inspectors Meeting in Lincoln February 28 – March 1<sup>st</sup>. Held a Municipal Inspector Meeting the morning of February 28<sup>th</sup> and had a good turnout, discussed topics that the State Inspectors worked on via Webex where there was differing opinions on the code, it will be nice to get everyone on the same page.

Director Thelen met with Sunpro and discussed where things are at. There are over 40 permits still open with the State and will continue to monitor this until they are down in the single digits, which looks like it could be sometime this month, in which they will be allowed to start issuing new permits as long as they do not get more than 2 weeks of work ahead. The work is getting better.

Director Thelen is working with a discrimination case regarding an application in which the applicant felt he was denied an interview. The applicant did not meet the minimum requirements so was not given an interview.

Director Thelen and Mike Bouwens set on a panel for the Fire Marshall's annual meeting along with members from Engineering/Architectural Board, DHHS and Liquor Commission as it pertains to the work each of us do in conjunction with the Fire Marshall's office. We will have the Fire Marshall's office and Engineering come talk to the Inspectors on Classifications.

Director Thelen continues to work with NERA on putting together test questions and develop a test that can be used with all the Reciprocal States, so we have consistency.


Director Thelen is requesting either canceling or rescheduling the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and the Board has approved canceling this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board approved up to an 8% pay raise for Mike Bouwens and up to 5% for Melissa Hamilton affective January 1, 2022.

John Hiller talked about the frustration with the code adoption process and talked about the Board having the authority to adopt the most current code and not have to go through the Legislative process every 3 years, Director Thelen will do some research to see if there is a way to make this happen.

Motion to adjourn at 9:52 by John Hiller and seconded by Jim Brummer all in favor Aye; all

  
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Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary