

STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2021

ATTENDEES: Kurt Griess, John Hiller, Boyd Pedersen, Division Director Craig Thelen, George Morrissey, Mike Bouwens.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Thelen reported that finances are reflecting 56% of the budget year spent with 83% of the budget year that has passed. Cash flow is reporting at \$1,814,000.00. Line items that are showing nothing that has been spent, board and lodging and air travel have not been spent due to covid and travel restrictions, but Mike Bouwens and Craig Thelen plan to attend the Western Chapter of IAEI this fall and we will encumber funds for this. Computer software for PITA we will encumber \$100,000 this budget year and the software will be in place and operational by the end of June.

Computers are being tested with OCIO, they are a two in one computer/tablet that the inspectors are using currently and we will get feedback shortly on them. They are versatile and will allow the inspectors to take pictures and put them directly into the permit file that they are doing the inspection on, they will also be able to use the touch screen on the computer to check boxes on the permit. The touchscreen will also allow markups directly on the screen, Craig will check if the computers have a voice to text feature. John Hiller made a motion to purchase 18 computer/laptops for the inspectors if the testing goes good, seconded by George Morrissey.

Lease vehicles from TSB were discussed because of the growing cost for rental and insurance and the additional fees to rent a vehicle while our vehicle is in the shop, look at purchasing them at \$26,000.00 each, John Hiller asked how many miles a month we put on the vehicles, we have over half of them are considered high mileage and once we go over 2000 miles per month for 3 consecutive months they double our lease payment. We are putting between 1100 – 3000 miles per month on the vehicles which is an average between all the inspectors. TSB is leasing them thru the warranty period of the new vehicle and then we are supposed to get a replacement because we have paid off the vehicle, but that is not happening it is dragging out a year or two beyond when they are scheduled to be replaced and we are still paying that lease.

Director Thelen will do some research and create a comparison spreadsheet to share with the Board to determine the best options for purchase vs. lease.

Nebraska Interactive is billing us for credit card transactions and the fee that would typically go to the consumer is being charged to our Agency at around \$67,000.00 annually. There are 7 addendums to the agreement with Nebraska Interactive and some of these addendums have not been looked at since 2004, 2010 and are outdated documents. In visiting with Nebraska Interactive at the time of these agreements the Treasurer's Office did not have the ability to separate these fees and as of 10 years ago the Treasurer's office had the ability, so that's how outdated these documents are.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thelen reported that the PITA software upgrade will be done this year with \$100,000.00 being paid this year leaving \$80,000.00 left to pay next year.

Demo laptops will continue and try to get them bought this year.

Town Hall meeting in O'Neill went well currently looking at scheduling another meeting in Knox County to meet with Contractor to find out their issues and help them understand what we are doing as an Agency. The meeting in O'Neill was well received and had a good turnout.

Quarterly Inspectors meeting in Kearney April 28-29. Did some Team Building using Jeopardy as a game to talk about the code and forced everyone to participate. Went well they want to do more of these activities, will do a couple of these annually. We also did a joint venture with IAEL and brought all the Municipalities together to talk about the NEC 2020 code, will try to do more of these to get them engaged. Communication with the Municipalities is getting better and hearing more from them since this last meeting.

John Morgan started in District 3 as an Inspector, located in Bassett.

Open permits are down from 1800 to under 1200 continue to clean these all up in the next couple of months and eventually we will be down to only open permits a year out. The 1200 permits date back to before 12/31/2019.

May 14th Award Ceremony at the Governor's Mansion for the Team of the Year, this was for 2020 and was done virtually, but since the risk dial is down on covid they decided to do a in person Ceremony for all 2020 nominees. 6 Inspectors attended the Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

Work on efficiencies with the Inspectors out in the field.

Work on language for LB1174, irrigation, solar, sign installer and Industrial Work. Mike Hunsberger agreed to sit on the Committee along with a couple of Inspectors and Mike Bouwens. John Hiller was nominated to sit on the Committee and has agreed to be part of it.

Motion for the meeting adjournment at 10:57 was made by John Hiller, and seconded by Boyd Pedersen.



Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary