

STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2021

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

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 George Morrissey Voting aye; all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Thelen financial report, we are 6.8% spent and 8.49% of the year has elapsed. The certification of the year end will occur August 31, 2021, so numbers are off a little until all the encumbrances are accounted for and one we show a negative, but these will get cleaned up. The encumbrances will get added to this budget after August 31, 2021. \$1,703,000.00 for cash reserve.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thelen reported that there was a meeting with TSB about Fleet Vehicles, and they are trying to tell us that we can't purchase them directly because DAS policy states that code agencies must lease through TSB. so am going to meet with Jason Jackson about purchasing our own vehicles. Budget analyst had stated that the cash we have in reserve that we do not have the spending authority for we could potentially use to buy vehicles pending legislative approval upon submitting a request.

Continuing to work with Nebraska Interactive to get the credit card fees removed from the Agency and paid by the consumer through an addendum to our contract. This should happen upon voting in September through the Secretary of State.

Met with Lobbyist about the old LB1174 for Solar, Sign Installers, and Irrigation. The Committee that we put together to work on the language for the bill agreed that we would get away from licensing and go to a certification. The Lobbyist like this approach as well and will begin putting a draft of the bill together. I will meet with the Irrigation Manufacturers to get their support of this potential new bill. We will also need to find a Senator to introduce the bill as well.

Discussion about listed assemblies and what constitutes a requirement to have a listing on it. Sent a summary packet to everyone with language about listing as it is referenced in the NEC along with minutes from the Board Meeting back in early 2003 and a memo that was sent out to all of the Inspectors in April of 2003. Director Thelen would recommend that for a piece of equipment that did not have a listing on it we would do one of 3 things: 1. Ask the Engineers that were involved in the design to stamp it with their approval. 2. Request a third-party inspection by UL or NRTL. 3. State Inspectors do the inspection. The inspection would not give it a listing but merely determine from a Safety perspective that it is safe. There would be a fee for this and what was discussed was a minimum of \$500.00 and \$47.00 per hour plus mileage for any inspection that goes over \$500.00, there would be two Inspectors on each inspection of this type. This would also be for Municipal inspections of non-listed equipment. George presented a document that he has used with the City of Omaha that is a letter with an Engineer stamp approving the equipment on the project. The Inspectors would have to use their best judgement whether it would require one of the 3 options listed above, since there are some smaller skid mounted pump packages that may be waived from the listing.

Director Thelen reached out to the 911 call centers and the Hospitals to notify us in case of an electrocution so we can follow up on it per the requirements of the State Act. Director Thelen also created a check off form so we can track and document these incidents, the form will go out to law enforcement and the hospitals.

Mike Bouwens and Director Thelen will plan on attending the Western Chapter IAEI conference in Michigan from 9/19/21 - 9/23/21.

The Inspectors and Director Thelen will also be attending the Nebraska Chapter of IAEI conference in Kearney, NE in late October. Director Thelen will also be presenting at the conference.

Director Thelen had a meeting with State Personnel about the wages for the Inspectors and it looks like there is a time period that we will have to work with before submitting any requests to Personnel. There has been 3 pay increases since 2018 for the inspectors that have 5 years or less and there has only been cost of living increases for the rest of the inspectors.

Director Thelen will be meeting with the Nebraska Rural Electric Association on September 15 in Lincoln to discuss underground boring, emergency disconnect and solar. Also presenting to the MMPP group on September 2nd to discuss 2020 NEC code updates.

Director Thelen terminated the inspection program at Boystown. They were out of compliance. Dennis will take over inspections and I have also notified all the

contractors currently working on projects at Boystown that they will have to file permits for the work they are currently doing at Boystown. York was the other Municipality that was out of compliance and so they explained their inspector was out with surgery and will be back in compliance in early October. Contacted each of the Municipal Inspection Programs to figure out what their backup coverage is when their inspectors are out. I will put the info together and we can determine the fees for the State to be part of their contingent plan for inspections.

Director Thelen and Mike Bouwens will look into when the fees were established.

Continue to scan in licenses. Have completed all the EC's and now working on the JA's. We are also going to scan all the insurance certificates.

Discussion of Inspectors doing Electrical work, it appears there was language back from when Terry Carlson was the Director about the Board discussing this, but Director Thelen could not find any Board minutes regarding this topic, but merely a memorandum from Director Carlson stating that the Inspectors could not work on the side doing electrical work. Discussion was could the inspector work for an EC on the side and do it outside of his inspector's jurisdiction. The other discussion was should they be allowed to work for family only.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn at 9:59 by John Hiller and seconded by Boyd Pedersen all in favor Aye, all



Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary