

**STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING**  
**January 14,2022**

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

**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 Mike Hunsberger and seconded by Boyd Pedersen Voting aye; all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Thelen financial report, we are 41% spent and 50% of the year has elapsed. Cash reserve is at \$1,415,897. Permit numbers are down from last year by 109 from July 1,2020 – June 30,2021 and down another 36 from October 1,2021 thru December 31, 2021. Another area where revenue is down is the code class that we would give before the exams and this amounts to between \$15,000 - \$20,000 annually. We did set up the online code exam review and have brought in \$640.00 but need to advertise this more so we can get this revenue up. This is a renewal year for licenses.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

LB467 which is the bill for the 2020 code adoption, met with Lobbyists to see where we are with the adoption, they did a roll call with the Senators to see where we are and it appears we have plenty of votes to get the code adopted.

LB866 which is the bill to raise the late permit fees from \$50 - \$250. Senator Brandt is carrying this bill. I will be testifying next week.

NREA and LES were looking at bills to address the directional boring requirements and after reviewing the language they were proposing, it appears they are not pursuing any new legislation regarding directional boring at this time.

LB1011 which is the Governors Bill for returning the 4% that was assessed all the Agencies to cover the additional Health Care costs, but the anticipated 4% increase was not assessed and so each Agency will get these funds back, and so for us it amounts to about \$22,000.

The transaction fees for the online permits will start going to the customer instead of the Agency paying this fee and this will go into effect sometime in February.

The Veteran's calendar project was successful, and we made a donation to the Daigan Page Family on December 22<sup>nd</sup> for \$4,000.

Director Thelen posted Ron Drudiks position since he is retiring in March, he covers District 9. We also created the Inspector Supervisor position and Personnel has approved the position. We posted it internal, and this position will help in western Nebraska working with the contractors and allow us to have quicker response time.

Director Thelen asked everyone to come up with a goal for 2022. This will help each Inspector grow in their jobs and give them a vision for the future.

Director Thelen has been closely monitoring the Municipal Inspectors Program with issues in Fremont, Bellevue, Sarpy County, Scottsbluff and Papillion. They are all short inspectors in fact Bellevue just lost their inspector to Covid, we have been helping these programs out. Fremont hired a company out of Oklahoma to do virtual inspections and I told them absolutely not, so they hired their old inspector to help out in the interim. Sarpy County has one inspector and is trying to hire more. Papillion has one licensed and two additional hired, but they are not certified yet.

Director Thelen will be having a Webex with the Municipal Programs to address interpretation of the code and common issues where there is differing opinions.

NERA(National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance) had meeting last month to talk about standardized testing for all the members. They want to build a test using 3,000 -4,000 questions from the NERA members that are psychoanalyzed and weighted so all members will have the same test. Currently there are complaints that some states have an easier test and this would eliminate that concern. NERA would own the test and not ICC.

Nebraska Realtors group is looking at requiring all home inspectors to get certified and have asked if we would help create the certification requirements for the electrical portion of the certification. Not sure that the State Electrical wants to be involved in certifying these inspectors, but I feel we would definitely want to be involved in the certification requirements for the electrical.

Director Thelen shared a copy of the proposed newsletter that we will publish quarterly on list serve and on the website.

Director Thelen discussed being part of the meeting with the Fire Marshall's office and all the Deputies in Kearney early March.

Director Thelen discussed updates with Sunpro. The number of permits has not dropped off a lot and am proposing that they get their permits closed out before we proceed with allowing new permits to be filed. Thelen is also proposing that they only file permits for work that will be done within the next two weeks so we don't have permits sitting out there for 6-8 months. They also need to work on their communication.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Thelen mentioned about the resignation of Doug Parks from District 2.

The Board approved a pay raise for Director Thelen affective January 1, 2022. It was also discussed that Director Thelen would make recommendations to the Board for a pay raise for Melissa Hamilton and Mike Bouwens. These raises will be set for January 1<sup>st</sup> of each new year.

Motion to adjourn at 10:25 by Kurt Griess and seconded by Boyd Pedersen all in favor Aye; all



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Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary