

**STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING**  
**May 20,2022**

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

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by George Morrissey at 8:57am. No discussion of meeting minutes occurred. Motion to approve minutes made by Boyd Pedersen and seconded by John Hiller Voting aye; all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Thelen financial report, 83% of the year has elapsed and we are at 67% spent. Cash reserve is at \$1,197,485. \$45,000 increase this year in Transportation cost. Paying off the last of the computer software upgrade amounts to \$40,000. Discussed State vehicles and rising cost of leasing vs. Purchasing our own vehicles, due to the lack of availability of fleet vehicles we have agreed to table this until the availability of purchasing fleet vehicles becomes realistic.

Question came up regarding sick leave being over budget, but this was due to two Inspectors retiring and having to pay out 25% of their sick leave accrual.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Code adoption did not happen this Legislative session and Director Thelen is recommending skipping the 2020 code adoption and focus on 2023 code adoption for the summer of 2023. Senator Aguilar has voiced interest in helping us with the code adoption. The Board supports this approach.

Legislative bill to raise late fees did not get voted on this session, Senator Brandt has agreed to carry this bill next year.

Legislative bill LB709 that covered Universal licensing and increasing the number of Board Members got rejected during this Legislative session.

Sunpro which is now ADT Solar is allowed to pull permits and can only pull permits for up to two weeks of work and we are closely monitoring. Their work is improving.

The Quarterly Newsletter is posted on the website.

Quarterly Inspectors meeting will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Valentine and we will have the Fire Marshall and Morrissey Engineering attending to discuss Classification of Hazardous locations.

We have cleaned up the old permits from 2019 and we are down to 150 permits from 1880 that are yet to be completed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was discussion about the Inspectors being allowed to do electrical work on the side and the Board took a vote to allow them to do this work as long as it does not interfere with their work as Inspectors and Director Thelen will monitor this activity to make sure there is no conflict of interest or ethics violations. They will not be allowed to self-inspect. We want to revisit this in 1 year to make sure there are no concerns. John Hiller made a motion to approve this, and Kurt Griess seconded the vote. Voting aye; all

Beta testing the permit software.

Disaster document were completed for 14 properties in the Cambridge area from the fires.

Director Thelen has been selected to sit on NFPA 70 NEC code panel 15.

Director Thelen discussed the Fremont Municipal Inspection program and is requesting an updated Municipal Inspection Program application from Fremont due to changes in Inspection processes which include a 3<sup>rd</sup> party doing their inspections.

Director Thelen reported that cell tower work is increasing in Nebraska, so we are closely monitoring this work since we have found them working without permits on numerous sites already.

The Board discussed approving the changes to Policy that Director Thelen is proposing. The Board voted in favor of these changes with the exception of one additional change that was agreed upon at the Board Meeting to the policy that will be sent out to the Board Members. John Hiller made a motion to approve this, and Mike Hunsberger seconded the vote. Voting aye; all

The Board discussed updating the State Act. Director Thelen will put together a timeline for these changes and will submit to the Board so we can get started on these changes.

The Board discussed the next election of officers, which should occur in January of 2023 and is done every other year since assignments are 2 years for President and 2 years for Vice President. The term is up for each Board Member as follows:

John Hiller term expires 9/13/2022  
George Morrissey term expires 9/13/2023  
Mike Hunsberger term expires 9/13/2023  
David Hunter term expires 9/13/2024  
Jim Brummer term expires 9/13/2024  
Kurt Griess term expires 9/13/2025  
Boyd Pedersen term expires 9/13/2025

Motion to adjourn at 10:32 by John Hiller and seconded by Jim Brummer all in favor Aye; all

  
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Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary