

STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
July 8,2022

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by George Morrissey at 8:59am. No discussion of meeting minutes occurred. Motion to approve minutes made by Dave Hunter and seconded by Boyd Pedersen Voting aye; all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Thelen financial report, 100% of the year has elapsed and we are at 83% spent. We will be getting \$394,000 put back into our budget for unspent funds. Cash reserve is at \$1,037,000. Renewal starts in October for licensing. Paying off the last of the computer software upgrade amounts to \$40,000.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Beta testing PITA software with Kim Farnstrom, Mike Bouwens and Craig Thelen.

Director Thelen attended the NFPA Conference in Boston and had good conversation with other States regarding what we are doing in Nebraska and how we are focusing on consistent Inspector interpretation of the NFPA 70 codes and how we are sharing this information with the Municipal Programs across the State.

Inspectors are working on a lot of cell tower projects across the State and trying to educate the out of State Contractors.

Director Thelen sent out a copy of the suggested changes to the State Act to all the Board Members and is asking for any suggested changes from the Board Members by July 15,2022 so they can be added to the State Act book and then Director Thelen will resend this out to all the Board Members by July 18th for each of them to review so we can work on this at the next Board Meeting on August 12,2022.

Held an Inspectors meeting in Valentine last month and this included discussion with the State Fire Marshal and John from Morrissey Engineering on classification of hazardous locations. Boyd Pederson also attended.

Cleaned up all the old permits from 2019 and continue to work on old permits from 2020 and we are down to around 540.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Colman has been cleared to come back to work with restrictions, so he will work out of the office in Lincoln until the restrictions are lifted.

Director Thelen is working on building the new budget and have updated all the narratives. Concerns with rising fuel and maintenance costs and will try to build some contingency to cover these rising costs.

Director Thelen received a call from the York Municipal inspection program, and they are struggling to find a replacement for their retiring inspector.

Director Thelen is looking into building out office space to use for conducting exams.

Director Thelen talked about the Federal Rapids Program, which is a Federal Apprentice Program which requires a 1:1 ratio and after visiting with other NERA members, Director Thelen feels that this does not apply to us since the majority of these apprentices fall outside the State Electrical Apprentice scope.

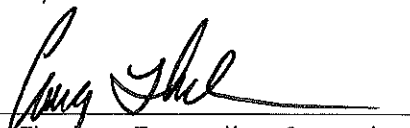
Director Thelen talked about Norris Public Power requiring permits on all new services and the additional workload.

George Morrissey asked where we are at with potential retirements and staffing needs. There are some concerns about potential expanded workloads and staffing needs.

George Morrissey asked about raises for staff to cover the 6% inflation, and according to the State negotiated union raises everyone got a 2% raise and an extra 1% for merit to employees. Discussed giving out bonuses if that would be appropriate and would be at the discretion of Director Thelen.

John Hiller asked about the pass/fail rate for testing, and it was discussed how this data from ICC is not very detailed and Director Thelen would like to see what other testing agencies can provide with their testing.

Motion to adjourn at 9:49 by John Hiller and seconded by Jim Brummer all in favor Aye; all



Craig Thelen, Executive Secretary