

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Thursday - January 21, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. (MST)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello**

NOTE: The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting;
however, is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Bob Scott called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MST).

Board Members Present:

Bob Scott, Chairman
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman
Rick Stark
Dale Pippitt
Denis Duman
Allan Perman
Greg Eagy
Joe Harbacheck

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator-Operations
Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator-Administration
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Bill Hatch, Public Information Officer
Fred Sisneros, Financial Manager
Warren Wing, Electrical Program Manager
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Region 3
Terry Blessing, Compliance Program Manager
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Support

Board Members Absent:

Mark LaBolle

◆ **Open Forum**

City and County Concerns - No items or concerns were brought forth.

Master Electrician License - After the topic *Challenge/Placement Tests* was discussed, the Chairman reverted back to "Open Forum" for this issue.

To qualify to take the Idaho Master Electrician exam, Idaho statute and rule requires an individual to be a licensed journeyman electrician for a period of not less than four (4) years.

Paul McNamara, California Electrical Contractor, explained his work experience as a contractor; however, unable to provide proof he has been a licensed journeyman electrician, Mr. McNamara asked the Board to make an exception and allow him to take the Idaho Master Electrician exam.

Neither the Board nor DBS have the authority to make exceptions. It was suggested, and Mr. McNamara agreed, to work with the Deputy Administrator-Operations and bring a proposed amendment to the Idaho Code at the April 2016 Board meeting.

MOTION: Paul McNamara and the Deputy Administrator-Operations will bring to the April 2016 Electrical Board meeting a draft proposal; changing the requirements to take the Idaho Master Electrician License exam.

ACTION: The topic *Master Electrician License* will be placed on the April 2016 Board meeting agenda as an informational item.

◆ **Approval of the January 21, 2016 Agenda**

Chairman Scott requested the topic *DBS Website/Credited CEU Hours* be added to the agenda as the first informational item.

MOTION: Joe Harbacheck made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the October 22, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Dale Pippitt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **DBS Website/Credited CEU Hours**

The DBS IT Resource Manager demonstrated the changes being made to the Division's software program "e-TRAKiT" that pertain to Continuing Education Unit "CEU" hours and online renewals.

◆ **Challenge/Placement Tests**

Representatives from the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE) provided an overview of its Electrical Apprenticeship Standards Development and Assessment project. The objective is to create end-of-course exams for years one through three.

The following individuals participated in setting school standards, years one through three, of the Electrical Apprenticeship program for the state of Idaho: Dale Moore, Idaho Transportation Department/Lewis-Clark State College; Kelly Lamp, Southwest Idaho Electrical JATC; Jim McElwain, Idaho Forest Group; Robert Behr, Eastern Idaho Technical College; Jim Webb, College of Western Idaho; Bill Stokes, Wendell Electric; Chuck Williams, North Idaho College and Chris Lockridge, Idaho State University Training Center.

MOTION: Rick Stark made a motion to: 1) Take no exception to the standards, or 2) In general, approve as a basis for an educational system. Allan Perman seconded.

This topic is under the informational agenda; therefore, no motion is required. The Board appreciates the actions of PTE and would like to see them continue with the criticality assessment.

◆ **Appeals**

As requested at a previous meeting, copies of letters the Division issues for correction notice(s) and notice of violation(s) were distributed to the Board.

◆ **Submersible Pumps**

The Division is still in the process of meeting with industry and interested parties on the listing and labeling of submersible pumps in lakes and rivers.

◆ **Solar Panel Installations**

As requested at a previous meeting, the Electrical Program Manager stated photovoltaic (PV) licensees can work on solar PV DC systems and solar PV micro-inverter/AC systems.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Electrical Program Web Page - The Division's Electrical Program web page has been updated to include the following: 1) Link to "Find Your Electrical Inspector Here", 2) Facebook "like" icon, and 3) Subcategories "Idaho Electrical Policies, Procedures and Interpretations", "Useful Information", "Documents" and "Frequently Asked Questions".

Temporary Pole Connection Policy - A permit for temporary pole service is \$65.00. In the past, contractors have pulled permits and utility companies have connected the power. Many years later, inspectors are called to the job site only to find it has been wired for years without a final inspection. The Division is looking for a solution to this problem.

Voluntary PV Plan Review - Recently, the Division introduced a "voluntary" PV plan review process for all solar PV installations prior to the beginning of the installation. An early plan review will reduce costs to contractors and homeowners, as well as avoid project delays. A checklist of items to be submitted to the DBS prior to the installation of a project is available on the electrical page of the Division's website under Program Manager Bulletin.

Notice of Violation (NOV) Report

Upon reviewing the NOV report, the Chairman questioned the vast difference between the fees charged and the fees paid for the period of October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

The NOV process was explained. The Division is limited on the method in which to enforce the collection of fees on unlicensed individuals and homeowners. Therefore, those accounts are referred to a collection agency.

The Deputy Administrator-Operations offered to bring to the April Board meeting a current summary of the Electrical program's collected versus uncollected fees and a more detailed NOV report.

ACTION: For the April meeting the Deputy Administrator-Operations will bring: 1) Current summary of collected versus uncollected NOV fees, and 2) Detailed NOV report.

◆ **Compliance Program Supervisor Report**

Beginning April 5, 2016, the Compliance Program Supervisor will provide public works classes in all 44 counties in the state of Idaho.

◆ **Operational Report**

Legislation - the 2016 Legislature is in session. The Electrical Board did not have any draft legislation this year.

Required Inspections - Currently, there is no requirement for contractors to request inspections. Annually, thousands of permits are issued; however, jobs go uninspected. As previously requested, draft language was presented to require contractors to request inspections of electrical facilities. The Deputy Administrator-Operations offered to bring a formal proposal to the April Board meeting.

ACTION: For the April meeting, the Deputy Administrator-Operations will bring a formal proposal that would require contractors to request inspections.

2017 National Electrical Code (NEC) - It was suggested the Board contemplate the negotiation of the next edition of the electrical code through a collaborative group.

The Deputy Administrator-Operations offered to bring to the April Board meeting updated information on the 2017 NEC.

ACTION: For the April meeting, the Deputy Administrator-Operations will bring information on the 2017 NEC.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report - The Electrical Board Fund, FY 2016 financial statement as of December 30, 2015, was reviewed.

Budget - The Division has requested the addition of four inspectors and one clerical full-time position. The Governor's FY 2017 Budget recommendation includes the Division's request. On February 5th, the Administrator will make his budget presentation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

The Governor approved a three percent salary increase for all state employees. The three percent is allocated on a meritorious basis.

City of Meridian - On October 1, 2015, the Division signed a contract with the city of Meridian; expanding its services to include building inspections and plan reviews.

◆ **Adjournment**

MOTION: Dale Pippitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Allan Perman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. (MST).

BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

03/25/2016rb