

**IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

Wednesday – January 22, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene
155 North Maple Street, Blackfoot**

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2020 MEETING

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

Chairman Bob Scott called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. (MST)

Board Members Present:

Bob Scott, Chairman
Jeff Wheeler, Vice-Chairman
Jim Marchetti
Greg Eagy
Rick Stark
Casey Wilson
Jim Swier
Todd Feusier
Joe Harbacheck

DBS Staff Members Present:

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General
Warren Wing, Electrical Program Manager
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1
Patrick J. Grace, Regional Manager, Region 2
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Manager, Region 3
Gary Sonnen, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Shelly Farris, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Amy Kohler, Compliance Program Specialist
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Acknowledgement**

Jim Swier, Manufacturers Representative, and Casey Wilson, Specialty Contractor Representative, were welcomed to the Board.

◆ **Open Forum**

City/County Concerns – Bob Baird, City of Idaho Falls Electrical Inspector, stated based on the title of Idaho Code 54-1002, *License Essential to Engage in Business -- Licensure Authority Exclusive to the State*, his interpretation is the city does not have the authority nor responsibility to check licenses on job sites within the city limits, only the state.

Idaho Code 54-1002(5) states in part, “...The state shall investigate all local infractions and state violations of this chapter and prosecute the same. The local jurisdictions will assist the state by requesting investigations within their jurisdictions. ...” Mr. Baird requests investigations; however, asserts it is not his responsibility to check licenses. Deputy Attorney General Spencer Holm questioned how the local jurisdiction knows there is a problem that needs investigating if they do not check licenses. The Deputy Attorney General’s interpretation of the law is the local jurisdiction has the authority to check licenses.

Chairman Scott offered to place this issue on the April 2020 Board meeting agenda as an informational item should it be the desire of Mr. Baird. Deputy Administrator Holm offered to

provide a formal interpretation should the issue be brought before the Board at its April meeting too.

Electrical Rules and Licensing Changes – Mark Zaleski, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 291, heard there was action at the 2020 legislature regarding possible changes to the electrical rules and licensing. This topic will be addressed under the Program Manager Report.

Idaho State Collaborative Meetings – Kelly Lamp, National Electrical Contractors Association of Idaho-Chapter Manager, informed the Board of the Idaho State Collaborative Committee meeting in January 2020. The two remaining meetings of the Collaborative are scheduled April 6, 2020, and July 8, 2020, 9:30 a.m. (MDT)/ 8:30 a.m. (PDT), at the Division’s Meridian office, videoconference with the Division’s Coeur d’Alene and Blackfoot offices, as well as teleconference.

Limited Energy Installer Trainee Registration – Registration for Timothy Townsend, Limited Energy Installer Trainee, has expired for the second time. In accordance to IDAPA 07.01.04.013.02, the Division is unable to renew his registration without a recommendation from the Idaho Electrical Board. Mr. Townsend petitioned the Board to allow him to renew his registration; explaining his current work situation, it would be detrimental to his livelihood to wait until the April 2020 meeting for approval, and he made several attempts to reach the Division for placement on the agenda to meet the requirements of the open meeting law. For the Board to vote, the topic would need to be placed as an action item on today’s agenda.

◆ **Approval of the January 22, 2020 Agenda, October 30, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes and October 2, 2019 Special Draft Meeting Minutes**

Administrative Assistant 2 Renee Bryant confirmed numerous attempts were made by Mr. Townsend; however, she out of the office on a family emergency and did not receive his messages until the day before the meeting. Based on the extenuating circumstances, Board Member Greg Eagy suggested Mr. Townsend’s topic *Limited Energy Installer Trainee Registration* be placed on the agenda as an action item.

Regarding the approval of the October 30, 2019 Electrical Board meeting minutes, the Administrative Assistant 2 explained why they were not completed and in the packet.

MOTION: Todd Feusier made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the topic *Limited Energy Installer Trainee Registration* as an action item and the deletion of the October 30, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes. Casey Wilson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Joe Harbacheck made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2019 special meeting. Rick Stark seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Chairman deferred the approval of the October 30, 2019 regular meeting minutes until the April 29, 2020 meeting.

◆ **Limited Energy Installer Trainee Registration**

Having already discussed Timothy Townsend’s issue, the Chairman asked for a motion.

MOTION: Greg Eagy made a motion to recommend that DBS take action to renew Timothy Townsend's registration for the second time. Todd Feusier seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Idaho State Collaborative Meetings (Cont'd) – Electrical Program Manager Warren Wing reiterated information on the future meetings of the collaborative is available on the Division's website.

2020 Code Update Training – The fourth Friday of every month, 2020 Code Update Training is available for inspectors and master electricians at the Division's Meridian office and videoconference with the Coeur d'Alene and Blackfoot offices.

Inspector Monthly Meetings – DBS continues to hold Inspector Monthly Meetings with Authorities Having Jurisdictions. Many good questions are being generated and processes being developed.

Journeyman and Master Electrician Tests – The Division's plans examiners, when they have time, are vetting all test questions, and are currently up through Chapter Three of the National Electrical Code. There are 3,300 questions; however, DBS is trying to cut back to about 100 questions per chapter.

Classes – Electrical Program Manager Wing continues to work with utility companies around the state on service connection classes.

International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) Meeting – In March, the Electrical Program Manager will attend the three-day annual meeting and education conference of the IAEI Idaho Chapter.

Legislation – With the electrical rule sections being combined into one section, the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee decided it was now a fee rule; ceasing the process. The Division revised the rule, as it pertains to apprentice ratios, and presented it to the House Business Committee on January 21, 2020. A legislator recommended, and the committee voted, to remove subsections (a) and (b) from IDAPA 07.01.03.012.02, *Direct Supervision*; therefore, removing all apprentice ratios from the rules. DBS was asked to create an emergency temporary rule; putting back in the 2-1 ratio on commercial and industrial, and to either raise or eliminate the ratio on residential. Since it is a fee rule, both parties much approve it. As it stands, there will be no apprentice ratios as of sine die of the legislature. The Administrator stated Electrical Program Manager Wing stood up before the House Business Committee; defending the Board, the industry and the decisions made to keep the ratio for residential.

Jim Thorpe, Thorco, Inc., suggested his proposal, presented at the October 2019 meeting, could be a workable solution. Liking Mr. Thorpe's proposal so well, the Division instigated it into a policy.

Upon further discussion, Administrator Chris L. Jensen offered, and Chairman Scott agreed, to prepare a couple of options for the Board to vote at a special teleconference/videoconference meeting of the Idaho Electrical Board on January 29, 2020, 9:30 a.m. (MDT)/8:30 a.m. (PDT).

ACTION: A special teleconference/videoconference meeting of the Idaho Electrical Board will be held January 29, 2020.

◆ **Compliance Program Report**

Compliance/Outreach – As addressed at the October 2019 meeting, the Division is increasing its compliance in the Treasure Valley with new Compliance Officer Jeff Boyd.

List of Proposed Violators – Concerned are some contractors that appear to be escalating in fines, Board Member Joe Harbacheck requested a list of everyone assessed a fine in 2019.

ACTION: The Compliance Program Specialist will email a list of the 2019 violations to the Board.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Board is in a very good financial position.

Budget – On January 16, 2020, the Administrator presented his budget presentation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. The Division has asked for three additional compliance officers, five additional inspectors, and one support member. One of the big items in the budget is the purchase of the Blackfoot building; now occupied by DBS. There will be two to three additional agencies that will reside in the building as well.

Housing – In a forecast report from the Governor’s office, in 2011, there were 4,500 home-starts in Idaho. In 2020, there will be a little over 16,000 homes, and will increase by 1,000 homes every year for the next five years.

◆ **Adjournment**

MOTION: Todd Feusier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Eagy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. (MST)

BOB SCOTT, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD

RON WHITNEY, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

10/08/2020rb