

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on January 21, 2010 via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 8:00 A.M.

The following members were present: Harlan Nielsen, Jesse Smith, Tim McIntyre, Cam Becker, and Robert Cronin. Absent: Steve Nielsen and Larry Simonson. A quorum was present.

Others present were: JJ Linn – Executive Director, Diana Peterson – Office Secretary, Mark Anderson – SD State Federation of Labor and IBEW Local 426, Kory Rawstern, Robert Hobbison, Tom Tunge, Greg Stelzer, Steve Miller, and Glen Janssen – Electrical Inspector.

Motion by McIntyre; Seconded by Becker to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Motion by Cronin; Seconded by Harlan Nielsen to approve the minutes of September 17, 2009. Motion approved.

The minutes of the October 9, 2009 Inspectors meeting were reviewed. The Director stated the new laptop computers should be up and running within the next 30 days. The Inspectors voiced concerns as to the need for faster connectivity as will be discussed later in the database section.

Director Linn updated the Commission on the 5 locations for taking the exam (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Huron, and Watertown). Director Linn stated his concern with the customer service and as to a “going concern” as to the future of ICC and Pearson Vue. The Staff has contacted Texas, as they own their own exam, requesting the availability of their exam if the ICC exam becomes unavailable. Texas gave a preliminary nod stating their exam would be available for South Dakota utilization. Currently PSI is administering exams in South Dakota and could serve as a replacement for Pearson Vue.

The Director discussed a letter from The North Dakota Electrical Board requesting Director Linn and a board member to attend the North Dakota January 13, 2010 board meeting. Director Linn stated he has had many conversations with Mr. Offerdahl and Mrs. Windhorst, staff for NDEB, regarding the processing of applications for licensure and verifying of experience. Director Linn recognizes and has relayed to North Dakota the Commission’s understanding of the importance of the reciprocal agreement with North Dakota, yet has explained to Mr. Offerdahl South Dakota has many items on our agenda which need to be addressed in South Dakota. Director Linn intends on continuing verbal communications via land line with Mr. Offerdahl and has requested Mr. Offerdahl alert the South Dakota Commission with any immediate concerns as to the termination of the reciprocal agreement with North Dakota. Director Linn has recommended to Mr. Offerdahl that North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and Wyoming have a break out session at the Multi State meeting in Bismarck this summer to discuss reciprocal concerns. Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by Becker to approve out of state travel for the Director and a Commission Member to attend the March meeting of the North Dakota Electrical Board if need be and to attend the Multi-State meeting this summer in North Dakota. Motion approved.

President Smith expressed an interest in attending the summer meeting in Bismarck.

A discussion was held on the Western Section IAEI meeting in Green Bay, WI in September. Director Linn noted it is a code year. Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by McIntyre to approve out of state travel for 12 Inspectors, Commission Members, and the Director. Motion approved.

Director Linn reviewed a BIT prepared project estimate dated January 13, 2010. The estimate included the creation of an Online WEB System and a Rewrite of the Access System. The Commission reviewed the budget, the cash balance, permits outstanding, and other documents in regards to the current and future financial status of the Commission. The Commission discussed being financially responsible in these tough economic times weighing against the immediate need to update the Access System. Director Linn documented the lack of efficiency of the current database as it limits the Inspectors to a dial up connection. The Director proposed completing the project in two phases. Phase 1 will include “Web Service Synchronization Application” and “Rewrite Application” at an estimated cost of \$95,000. Phase 2 will include the balance of the project estimate at an estimated cost of \$60,000. Motion by Cronin; Seconded by Becker to proceed with Phase 1 and continue to monitor budget for Phase 2. Motion approved.

Director Linn presented a proposal for a mascot to the Commission. The mascot would be put on the Commission vehicles and clothing, in the newsletter and would be associated with Commission literature. The mascot would be utilized to communicate the goals of the Commission through public service announcements and advertisements. Motion by Nielsen; Seconded by Becker to approve a preliminary budget of \$2000 for the development and implementation of “Watty”. Motion approved.

Director Linn presented the reports to the Commission. Motion by Becker; Seconded by McIntyre to approve the reports. Motion approved.

Motion by Cronin; Seconded by Nielsen to table the Journal review. Motion Approved.

Code Committee – No report.

President Smith reported the Director and he met for dinner and discussed several items. President Smith also welcomed Commission Members who have ideas to openly communicate them to the President for further action. In addition, President Smith conveyed his concern regarding the State Budget and the possible effects shortfalls may have on the Commission.

Director Linn reported on the following:

1. Code classes – Livingston & Jones will travel across the state to put on code classes resulting in a consistent message being portrayed from the Commission. Tentative sites include: Aberdeen, Brookings, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Watertown, Gregory, Pierre, Rapid City, Spearfish, Pine Ridge and Custer. The power point presentation will consist of the code, State Statute and Administrative Rules, proper permitting, and calculating inspection fees.
2. Problems with AFCI tripping – The Commission newsletter will feature an article regarding AFCI tripping written by Inspector Jones.
3. Modular and manufactured structure licensing – Director Linn traveled to Watertown for discussion with a company as to proper licensing and permitting.
4. Licensing and permitting on federal jobs – Inspectors and Commission will assess on a project by project system.

5. Inspector meetings – The Director recommended and the Inspectors agreed to eliminate the Inspector meetings prior to the January and April Commission meetings. These meetings will be replaced by Inspector meetings in February at the SD Chapter IAEI meeting and in May at the SD Electrical Council Convention.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

April 15, 2010 – Conference Call

July 15, 2010 – In person in Pierre

Motion by Becker, Seconded by Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary