

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Electrical Commission meeting held on April 15, 2010 via conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Acting President Harlan Nielsen at 8:00 A.M.

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

Others present were: JJ Linn – Executive Director and Diana Peterson – Office Secretary.

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

Motion by S. Nielsen; Seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010. Motion approved.

Inspectors report:

- The minutes of the February 26, 2010 Inspectors meeting were reviewed.
- Director Linn noted the Inspectors have concerns regarding homeowner permits. Director Linn and the Inspectors are addressing the concerns by reviewing the current statutes/rules and contemplating the need for a statute/rule change.
- Director Linn and the Commission expressed concern regarding Inspectors expressing their personal opinions rather than the opinion of the Commission during the code seminars. Inspectors will be reminded to refrain from voicing their personal opinions, which contradict the view of the Commission, when representing the Commission at Commission sponsored events.
- The Commission expressed concern as to licensees not receiving answers to questions in regards to 501(d) licensure at the code seminars. Director Linn will discuss this issue at the next Inspectors meeting.

Old Business:

- Director Linn reported the new database groundwork was scheduled for August 2010. Recently BIT notified SDEC regarding a dial-in issue which may result in connectivity difficulty as early as July 2010. Director Linn informed the Commission this will change the planned schedule and the groundwork for the new database will begin immediately pending the availability of BIT staff.
- Director Linn informed the Commission the development of the new mascot will begin after the database has been finalized.

New Business:

- Director Linn reviewed the proposed reciprocal agreement between South Dakota and Iowa. The Iowa Board is scheduled to act on the agreement at their April meeting. Motion by H. Nielsen; Seconded by S. Nielsen to approve the Reciprocal Agreement with Iowa. Motion approved.
- Director Linn reviewed the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) proposed by-laws. Motion by Cronin; Seconded by H. Nielsen to approve the by-laws. Motion approved.

- Director Linn reviewed the reports. Motion by McIntyre; Seconded by S. Nielsen to approve the reports. Motion approved.
- Director Linn discussed items in the Journal. An individual has contacted the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's office in regard to an unwritten policy of the Commission which denies electricians the ability to renew their license if they are not current with the Commission regarding bills. The outcome of the proceeding may result in a possible statute/rule change.

Motion by H. Nielsen; Seconded by Cronin to move into executive session at 8:40 AM to discuss personnel issues. Motion approved.

The Commission came out of executive session at 8:45 AM.

Code Committee: - 2011 Code changes are coming!!!

President report: - no report.

Director report:

1. Hired Part-time assistant in office for renewal period.
2. The Commission is currently utilizing 11 full-time and the equivalent of 4 part-time Inspectors. The number will decrease to 3 part-time Inspectors on 4/16/10.
3. The Commission cash balance is as low as it has been since 2006. The number of outstanding permits is very similar to the number outstanding in 2006. Director Linn will continue to monitor the balance and factors affecting the balance.
4. Buddy Cronin has been appointed to serve a three year term on the Commission.
5. Steve Nielsen has been appointed to serve a three year term on the Commission.
6. The Commission issued public service announcements on flooding. S. Nielsen recommended the Commission deliver a public service announcement annually to SDREA for publication in their magazines.
7. The Commission continues to work with Minnesota in regards to updating the South Dakota and Minnesota reciprocal agreement. Currently Minnesota is proposing an Electrical Contractor reciprocal agreement and addressing the Journeyman license in the NERA proceedings. Director Linn suggests waiting to see what transpires from the NERA proceeding prior to updating the agreement.
8. Director Linn spoke directly to North Dakota Board President James Schmidt at the request of Don Offerdahl. In Director Linn's opinion, the discussion went very well. Director Linn will continue an open line of communication with ND and has suggested ND do the same with SD.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates:

May 7 & 8, 2010 - Council Convention – Pierre

July 15, 2010 – In person in Pierre

Motion by H. Nielsen; Seconded by S. Nielsen to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Cam Becker, Commission Secretary