

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM

**OKALOOSA COUNTY ELECTRICAL COMPETENCY BOARD
MINUTES
October 4, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Electrical Competency Board was held Thursday, October 4, 2018, 3:00 PM, at the at the Okaloosa County Administration Building, first floor BCC Chambers, 1250 Eglin Parkway N., Shalimar, Florida. Board members in attendance were Brent Smith, Jack Mott, Debra Ripley, Wayne Barlow, Kenneth King, Robert Garcia, and Linda Flowers. Joel Richardson and Edward Cochran, Jr. were not in attendance.

Growth Management staff in attendance were Renée Lucas, Licensing Specialist; and Teresa Mullins, Administrative Assistant II.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brent Smith called the meeting to order.

A. Roll Call

Ms. Teresa Mullins took roll call.

II. ACKNOWLEDGE GUESTS

Chairman Smith welcomed and acknowledged the guest.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 5, 2018

Motion to approve the minutes as written made by Debra Ripley; second by Robert Garcia; approved unanimously.

IV. OPEN TO PUBLIC (For any item not Quasi-Judicial on this Agenda)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that one of the Plumbing Board members, Mr. Parrett, has gone through the new process as has said that it wasn't difficult. Ms. Lucas noted that Mr. Parrett stated that the paperwork wasn't difficult to fill out and he received help and support from the Administrator's Office when necessary. Ms. Lucas relayed that Mr. Parrett further stated that he had no issues with getting fingerprinted, noting that the Sheriff's Office required no fee, was very cooperative and were easy to work with. Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Parrett did not need to be present at the Board of County Commissioners meeting for his appointment to be approved. Ms. Lucas noted that term renewals for this Board don't begin until February of 2019; and staff will ensure that all the necessary forms and information will be provided to all renewing Board members far ahead of their renewal deadline. Ms. Lucas further stated that staff will also send an email reminder so that all paperwork can be submitted in a timely fashion. Ms. Lucas further

stated that she encourages Board members to please renew as neither Walton nor Bay Counties have Boards to approve testing for State Registered licenses.

Mr. Jack Mott arrived during the meeting in progress.

A brief discussion ensued.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Swearing in Applicants/ Speakers

Ms. Mullins swore in the applicants.

b. Candidates for Testing Approval:

1. Ryan Maddox – Master Electrical Contractor

Mr. Ryan Maddox was present to answer questions from the Board

The Board had no questions for Mr. Maddox.

Motion to approve made by Kenneth King; second by Wayne Barlow; approved unanimously.

c. Purged Contractor:

1. William J. Jones – WJ Jones Electrical Contracting, Inc.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. William J. Jones is seeking the reinstatement of his State Registered Residential Electrical License. Ms. Lucas stated that staff researched and found that Mr. Jones took the Residential Electrical exam along with the Business and Law exam in February and March of 2006 and passed both examinations. Ms. Lucas further stated that Mr. Jones remained licensed with our Department until June of 2012 after which staff purged Mr. Jones' Competency Card per Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article VII, Division II, Section 6.247 – Expiration, Renewal and Retired Certificates, (f):

An individual may hold an inactive certificate for no longer than two consecutive years. An inactive certificate is defined as a license not renewed in the two-year period as stated above. Any person failing to renew an active certificate or obtain an inactive certificate for two years subsequent to the expiration of the certificate shall be required to reapply for a certificate in the same manner as a new applicant, and be required to apply to the board and pass the required test with a score of 75 percent or above.

Ms. Lucas stated that, upon review of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation website, staff found that Mr. Jones' State Registered Electrical Contractor's license had been placed in a Null/Void status on September 14, 2012 due to non-renewal. Ms. Lucas further stated that staff contacted the Director of the Electrical Contractor Licensing Board concerning Mr. Jones' licensure and was told that Mr. Jones should apply for a new registration as a new applicant instead of seeking to reinstate his old license number. Ms. Lucas stated that applying as a new applicant would be more cost effective for Mr. Jones, and with examination verification he shouldn't have any problems.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, per a statement provided to staff, Mr. Jones failed to renew his County Electrical license due to several financial and personal circumstances, the biggest being the lack of new contraction in the area due to the recession. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that, per the statement provided to staff, Mr. Jones downsized, sold his vehicles and home and found steady employment with another electrical contractor. Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Jones' statement provided a list of jobs that he has worked and the contractors he has worked for over the past 7 years and noted that he was ready to move forward with his career and start another electrical Business. Ms. Lucas further stated that, per his statement, Mr. Jones is currently studying to take his Master Electrical examination and hopes to expand from residential to small commercial service in the future. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board that per Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article VII, Division II, Section 6.247 – Expiration, Renewal and Retired Certificates, (g):

The board may give special consideration in purged license cases concerning family illness and military deployment, and other circumstances as the board deems appropriate.

Ms. Lucas stated that staff requests, should the Board approve the reinstatement of Mr. Jones' Competency Card, that all back fees and penalties, totaling \$1,250.00, be paid and that a payment deadline be included in the Board's motion. Ms. Lucas noted that Mr. Jones will have to appear before this Board again to seek approval to test for his Master Electrical license, the only difference being that he has already passed the Business & Law exam.

Mr. Kenneth King asked Ms. Lucas why Mr. Jones didn't just put his license into retirement or if that was an option.

Ms. Lucas stated that a license can be placed in a Retired status so long as the contractor's State license is in an Active or Inactive status. Ms. Lucas further stated that if a contractor's license is in a Retired status and his/her State license becomes null/void, then that contractor cannot remain in a Retired status with the County.

Mr. William Jones was present to answer questions from the Board.

Mr. King asked Mr. Jones why he did not put his license into retirement.

Mr. Jones stated that he wasn't aware that such an option was available.

Chairman Smith, in reference to Mr. Jones' statement as provided to staff, noted that every contractor on the Board had to deal with the depressed economic situation, without letting their licenses lapse. Chairman Smith asked Mr. Jones why he didn't try to keep his licensure active throughout that time.

Mr. Jones stated that he has child support to pay and couldn't pay it on only 4-5 jobs per year. Mr. Jones further stated that taking care of his children is his first priority and he was able to do that working for other Electrical contractors. Mr. Jones stated that now that the economy has improved he will be able to work enough to meet all of his obligations and take care of his children.

Chairman Smith restated for the Board the reasons for which they may choose to reinstate from the County Code of Ordinances, noting that this situation, in his opinion, seems to meet the "other circumstances" portion, although just not understanding how to handle his license regarding retirement really isn't a good reason, caring for his family eases that.

Mr. Jack Mott stated that he actually retired his license at one point in time, and then re-activated it at a later time. Mr. Mott further stated that he understands Mr. Jones confusion.

Mr. Wayne Barlow stated that there are a lot of rules and regulations to follow that can be very difficult to understand, which caused him to have an issue like this with his General Contractor's license.

Chairman Smith stated that "not knowing" is not a reasonable excuse in his opinion.

Ms. Linda Flowers noted that there is a substantial fee associated with the re-instatement and asked Mr. Jones what sort of timeframe he would need in order to pay the \$1,250.00 if the Board decides to reinstate his Competency Card.

Mr. Jones stated that he is able to pay the fee right now, if necessary.

Mr. King asked about Mr. Jones' continuing education and if there is a requirement regarding that issue.

Ms. Lucas stated that, as Mr. Jones' State license is in a null/void status, and he is applying as a new applicant, there is no requirement for proof of continuing education. Ms. Lucas further stated that Mr. Jones has been actively working in the electrical field since he let his license expire; therefore, he has been aware of all of the changes in the Electrical Code through his work.

Mr. Mott asked staff how long Mr. Jones has been purged.

Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Jones' Competency Card expired in June of 2012 and he was purged 2 years later in 2014.

A brief discussion ensued.

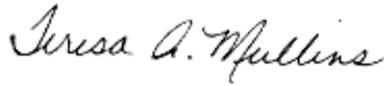
Motion to accept for reinstating if fees are paid within 30 days made by Kenneth King; second by Wayne Barlow; approved unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Lucas, in order to bring the Board up to date, stated that Ms. Ward intended to present to the Board regarding the electrical forms discussed at the April meeting; however, she was not able to meet with the Building Official prior to the deadline for this meeting. Ms. Lucas further stated that Ms. Ward does intend to present information regarding those forms at the November meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned.



Prepared by: _____

Teresa A. Mullins, Recording Secretary
10.22.2018