

MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM

**OKALOOSA COUNTY ELECTRICAL COMPETENCY BOARD
MINUTES
April 6, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Electrical Competency Board was held Thursday, April 6, 2017, 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, Debra Ripley, Edward Cochran, Jr., Wayne Barlow, Joel Richardson and Linda Flowers. Kenneth King, Joe Roach, and Robert Garcia were not in attendance.

Growth Management staff in attendance were Renée Lucas, License Specialist; and Teresa Mullins, Administrative Assistant II. Assistant County Attorney Kerry Parsons was also in attendance.

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 the new Board members and acknowledged the guest.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes made by Linda Flowers; second by Eddie Cochran; approved unanimously.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Renée Lucas informed the Board that staff received notification on January 30, 2017 from Jeff Linn stating that he had put his State Certified license into retired status. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board that per Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article VII, Division II, Section 6.222 - Qualifications for appointment:

To be eligible for appointment to the Okaloosa County Electrical Competency Board, each member shall be actively engaged in the electrical contracting business and have been so engaged for a period of not less than five consecutive years before the date of such appointment; and be a citizen and resident of Okaloosa County. The board of county commissioners may waive any of these requirements of qualification.

Ms. Lucas stated that, per Mr. Linn's notification, it is due to this requirement, along with the fact that he is caring for his elderly father that he is reluctantly resigning from this Board. Ms. Lucas further stated that staff informed Mr. Linn that, should he re-activate his license, and there is an open seat on this Board, he is welcome to seek to return to his seat on this Board. Ms. Lucas stated that this vacancy must be filled by an actively licensed contractor who lives in Okaloosa County and has been actively licensed for 5 years, and they must be appointed by the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Lucas asked, if the Board knows of anyone who meets the criteria, that those names be sent to her while reminding the Board that the contractor who volunteers must be able to serve a 3 year term.

A brief discussion ensued.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Swearing in Applicants/ Speakers

Ms. Mullins swore in the applicant.

b. Candidate for Testing Approval:

1. James N. Fountain – Master Electrical Contractor

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. Fountain's file is in order and he has met all requirements.

The Board had no questions for Mr. Fountain.

Motion to approve for testing made by Joel Richardson; second by Eddie Cochran; approved unanimously.

c. Purged Contractor:

1. Jimmie E. Martin Sr. – Jim Martin Electric Co Inc

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. Jimmie Martin, Sr. took and passed the Master Electrical exam, which, at that time, included Business and Law on March 31, 1977. Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Martin remained licensed with the department until his Competency Card expired in December of 2014. Ms. Lucas further stated that staff purged Mr. Martin's Competency Card in January of 2017 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 informed the Board that, per a statement provided to staff, Mr. Martin has been having health issues for the past few years which have limited his work to only Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that, per the statement provided to staff, Mr. Martin's health has now improved and he is now looking to work again in other Counties. 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. Martin's Competency Card, that all back fees and penalties, totaling \$450.00, be paid and that a payment deadline be included in the Board's motion.

Mr. Martin was present, along with his son, Jimmie Martin, Jr., to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Jimmy Martin, Jr. spoke on behalf of his father.

Mr. Martin, Jr. stated that his father has not kept up, not due to lack of funds, but rather because they didn't know what had to be done. Mr. Martin, Jr. further stated that they would keep everything up in the future.

Ms. Flowers asked if Mr. Martin, Sr. if they needed extra time in order to pay the back fees and penalties.

Mr. Martin, Jr. stated that they would be able to pay the fine immediately.

Motion to reinstate you as you would pay the fees within 30 days and we hope your health gets better made by Joel Richardson; second by Eddie Cochran; approved unanimously.

Chairman Smith noted that it might be wise for the Board to require some sort of proof of medical issues in the future just to protect the Board.

A brief discussion ensued.

d. Special Hearing: Death of a Contractor (Stanley Wilbourn)

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that Mr. Stanley Wilbourn, an active Electrical Sign Contractor, license number ET11000620, passed away on November 23, 2016. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board that per 489.523 Florida Statutes as well as Okaloosa County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article VII, Division II, Section 6.249 and - Emergency registration upon the death of contractor:

If an incomplete contract exists at the time of death of a contractor, the contract may be completed by any person even though not certified or registered. The person shall notify the department within 30 days after the death of the contractor, of his or her name and address, knowledge of the contract, and ability to complete it. If the board approves, he or she may proceed with the contract. The board shall then issue an emergency registration which shall expire upon the completion of the contract. For purposes of this section, and upon written approval of the board, an incomplete contract may be one which has been awarded to, or entered into, by the contractor before his or her death, or one on which he or she was the low bidder and the contract is subsequently awarded to him or her, regardless of whether any actual work has commenced under the contract before the contractor's death.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that as of March 30, 2017, C & S Signs, Inc was working with the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation/Electrical Contractor's Licensing Board for the issuance of a Temporary Non-Renewable Certification for Electrical Sign license #ET11000620. Ms. Lucas stated that, at the time of Mr. Wilbourn's death there were several out-standing permitted jobs. Ms. Lucas further stated that, per notification dated March 22, 2017, Mr. David Couperthwaite and Ms. Mary Childers have the knowledge and ability to complete the jobs currently permitted as well as those with pending contracts. Ms. Lucas stated that, when approved, Mr. David Couperthwaite and Ms. Mary Childers will sign and authorize all payments and will be authorized to purchase out-standing permits and schedule inspections on all existing permits. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that staff has a list of all of the currently permitted jobs for C & S Signs, Inc. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board that Mr. Couperthwaite is currently in the process of testing through another County in an effort to obtain his State Registered Electrical Sign Contractor's license. Ms. Lucas stated that the only thing that is outstanding are final inspections. Ms. Lucas further stated that DBPR is taking longer than usual with the temporary license as they are waiting for some paperwork that must be provided by the executor of Mr. Wilbourn's estate. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that staff was unaware of Mr. Wilbourn's passing, which is why this request is coming to the Board beyond the 30 day deadline. Ms. Lucas noted that Mr. Couperthwaite is currently testing through Santa Rosa County and intends to qualify the company when licensed. Ms. Lucas stated that Mr. Couperthwaite has also indicated that he intends to reciprocate with Okaloosa County once licensed. Ms. Lucas stated that staff is trying to get this temporary Competency Card issued so that final inspections can be scheduled and permits closed out.

Chairman Smith asked if there was a recommendation from the Building Official.

Ms. Lucas stated that the Building Official recommended that, should the Board approve this request, that staff should schedule the inspections so that the files can be closed. Ms. Lucas stated that the only permits involved in Okaloosa County are for jobs that have been completed and only need final inspections to be closed.

A brief discussion ensued.

Motion to approve made by Wayne Barlow; second by Joel Richardson; approved unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Chairman/Vice-Chairman Election:

Chairman Smith opened nominations for Chairman.

Motion to nominate Brent Smith as Chairman made by Joel Richardson; Second by Wayne Barlow.

Chairman Smith accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Chairman Smith closed nominations.

Brent Smith approved as 2017 Chairman by unanimous vote.

A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Smith opened nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Motion to nominate Joel Richardson as Vice-Chairman made by Eddie Cochran; Second by Wayne Barlow.

Mr. Richardson accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Chairman Smith closed nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Joel Richardson approved as 2017 Vice- Chairperson by unanimous vote.

A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Smith asked if there was any more business for the Board or if the Board had any questions for staff.

Mr. Joel Richardson asked staff if permitting staff were watching for Residential Electricians who are trying to pull permits for work beyond the scope of their license, i.e. more than 400 amp, single phase or in structures that exceed 2 stories.

Chairman Smith stated that he believes the Board was told at their last meeting that Residential Electricians are “red-flagged” in the permitting system so that they cannot pull a permit for work beyond the scope of their license.

Ms. Lucas stated that staff have placed an alert on every contractor which pops up and tells the permit technicians what is allowed under the scope of that particular license. Ms. Lucas further stated that, ultimately, the responsibility lies with the licensed contractor. Ms. Lucas informed the Board that staff talked to DBPR to clarify residential electrical limits for structures on pilings, noting that, for electrical purposes, if there is even just a switch or light on the piling level, a Residential Electrical contractor cannot

do the work if the structure consists of 2 stories on pilings because, for an electrician that would count as 3 stories. Ms. Lucas further noted that a Residential Electrical contractor can work on those types of homes if they are sub-contracted to do so by a Master Electrician or Commercial Electrician.

A brief discussion regarding the issues regarding houses on pilings ensued.

Mr. Richardson asked about staff watching for the limits on the number of attached townhomes, condos, etc.

Mr. Wayne Barlow stated that when he held a Residential Electrical license he was limited to residential only and had a limit with the number of units attached. Mr. Barlow further stated that he was not allowed to work on apartments or condos because those are classed as commercial even though they are residential properties.

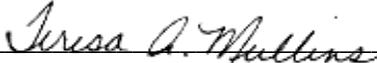
Mr. Richardson noted that he was asking these questions do to issues within another County.

Ms. Lucas suggested to Mr. Richardson that he submit his questions directly to the Building Official via email.

A brief discussion ensued.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned.

Prepared by: 
Teresa A. Mullins, Recording Secretary
4.14.2017