

**MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM**

**OKALOOSA COUNTY ELECTRICAL COMPETENCY BOARD  
MINUTES  
June 1, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County Electrical Competency Board was held Thursday, June 1, 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, Kenneth King, Robert Garcia and Linda Flowers. , Joe Roach, Joel Richardson and Edward Cochran, Jr., were not in attendance.

Growth Management staff in attendance were Renée Lucas, License 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 6, 2017**

Motion to approve the minutes made by Bob Garcia; second by Debra Ripley; approved unanimously.

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

Chairman Smith asked staff to explain this agenda item.

Ms. Lucas stated that it was staff's understanding that this agenda item would allow someone who is not on the agenda to address the Board at this time. Ms. Lucas noted that there is no one present, other than staff, who is not on the agenda.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Renée Lucas informed the Board that staff received an email from Joe Roach, a consumer representative, stating that he has to retire from the Board due to health reasons. Ms. Lucas stated that his Board seat will have to be filled by someone unaffiliated with the electrical trade. Ms. Lucas reminded the Board the seat vacated by Mr. Linn is still open and because he is an Electrical Contractor his replacement must also be a licensed contractor in the electrical trade and, 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 asked the Board to please send information regarding any interested contractors to staff.

A brief discussion ensued.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Kenneth King reminded the Board that they discussed hiring sub-contractors to work above the scope of work allowed by their licensure at the last meeting. Mr. King stated that he was wondering if that was written down anywhere in Statute.

Chairman Smith asked Mr. King to remind the Board of the circumstances involved in that discussion.

Mr. King stated that the discussion revolved around Residential Electrical Contractors, who are limited to 2 stories, 400 amp, single phase, working on houses on pilings. Ms. King stated that at the last meeting it was stated that if a Master Electrical pulled the permit and then hired a Residential Electrical Contractor to do the work it would be okay, however, he isn't comfortable with that idea. Mr. King stated that he isn't trying to stop anyone from working; however, he wants to make sure that the information provided by this Board is accurate as this sounds just a bit too close to aiding and abetting.

Chairman Smith noted that if a Master Electrician subcontracts with a Residential Electrician, the Master Electrician will still be responsible for the job and the work done.

Mr. King stated that he believes that there is a correct way to do this sort of thing, but the Residential Electrician should be under the direct supervision of the Master Electrician. Mr. King stated that he isn't sure if the Residential Contractor would have to be paid by the hour and on the Master Electrician's payroll. Mr. King stated that he believes the Board needs to know exactly what is legal.

Ms. Lucas stated that staff would contact the State Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Electrical Contractor's Licensing Board to get correct information to present at the next meeting.

A brief discussion ensued.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Swearing in Applicants/ Speakers**

Ms. Mullins swore in the applicant.

**b. Candidate for Testing Approval:**

**1. Christopher Shimeld – Low Voltage Contractor**

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Shimeld if he had any questions for the Board.

Mr. Christopher Shimeld asked the Board to explain the difference between being insured and being bonded on a job.

Mr. King stated that bonding is something that is done in addition to the normal insurance, that being general liability and workman's compensation insurance. Mr. King further stated that on some very big jobs, when a bond is required of the General Contractor, he can require that his major sub-contractors be bonded as well, which is an additional insurance policy that can be bought, generally based on the dollar amount of the work involved. Mr. King noted that these bonds are sometimes also called performance bonds and the bonds purpose is to complete the work you are bonded for up to the amount of the bond in the event you are killed or injured and unable to do the contracted work.

A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. King asked Mr. Shimeld to describe the sort of work he has done and intends to do.

Mr. Shimeld stated that he has done everything from closed circuit TV to audio systems and home theaters, noting that the only thing he really hasn't done is accessory lighting such as landscape lights. Mr. Shimeld stated that he is looking to do home theaters, security systems with indoor/outdoor cameras, noting that he really wants to work mostly with home theater systems.

Chairman Smith asked staff if Mr. Shimeld meets the requirements.

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

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

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that, for those who hold multiple licenses, the mandatory blower door testing for residential homes will go into effect on July 1, 2017. Ms. Lucas stated that nothing submitted prior to or permitted prior to July 1 will not have to meet this requirement. Ms. Lucas further informed the Board about the 3 (three) ways that the testing certification can be done, stating that the testing can be certified by:

1. An energy auditor or energy rater, such as Gulf Power or Chelco.
2. A locally licensed or State certified Mechanical or Air Conditioning (Class A or B) contractor.

3. An approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party, as approved by the Building Official, who holds a valid certification through the Building Performance Institute (BPI) or the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) that demonstrates competency to perform blower door and duct leakage tests.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that staff have been working with Mr. Alan Baggett, Executive Vice-President of the Okaloosa County Building Industry Association (BIA) and he has provided a list of those he knows of who already have certification:

Casey Electric  
Cool Breeze of NW Florida  
Mills Heating & Air  
Four Seasons Air Conditioning & Heating

Ms. Lucas asked the contractors on the Board to provide information to staff if they intend to either get certified or have a certified person on their payroll. Ms. Lucas stated that she is trying to be proactive so that a database of those who have certification can be created for the Building Contractor to use. Ms. Lucas further stated that those who are certified must provide staff with a copy of their certification as well as a current business tax receipt. Ms. Lucas stated that a mass email will be sent out to staff to all Residential, Building and General Contractors. Ms. Lucas further stated that she has received several calls from persons interested in pursuing certification.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Lucas informed the Board that both staff and applicants are very satisfied with the new testing agency, PROV. Ms. Lucas stated that staff have not received any complaints, even about having to travel to Pensacola to test. Ms. Lucas noted that staff believes the State will be adopting the 2017 Building Code and the 2014 NEC Code in January, and PROV, being a Florida company is aware of the proposed changes and will be ready when they occur. Ms. Lucas noted that any applicant approved to test prior to the adoption of the 2017 Building Code and 2014 NEC Codes will still test under the old Code, although they will be made aware that they will also be responsible for the new Code once licensed. Ms. Lucas noted that applicants are able to get license faster with PROV because they are instantly aware of their results, noting that one applicant was approved by the Plumbing Board in March and already has his license from the State.

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.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

*Teresa A. Mullins*

Prepared by:

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Teresa A. Mullins, Recording Secretary  
6.9.2017