

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2024 MEETING**

Attendees

Chris Kleppinger
Don Ewing
Tim Fluharty
Bob Jump

Grace Davis

Guests

Patrick Thomas-County Attorney
Eric Smith-State Board of Master Electricians

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Chris Kleppinger.

OLD BUSINESS

Chapter 56 Code Changes
Change of Contractor policy
Board Vacancy

NEW BUSINESS

Members began reviewing applications for limited licenses and master electrical registrations.

Minutes from June meeting were read and accepted unanimously.

The Board began discussing permits for electrical work and code enforcement.

Also discussed classes of limited licenses and that the class should be included on their application and their County license. Grace will revise the application for limited license to make it easier for the applicants to add class of license.

Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, entered the meeting room.

Tim Fluharty brought to the Boards attention that we had two master applications for the same company. Grace will follow up with the applicants. Chris explained that the State will issue a masters licenses to anyone who applies even if they are employed by the same company. Talbot County only issues one registration to one applicant per company.

Patrick began discussing the final draft of Chapter 56 permitting and code enforcement. Change language from "Electrical Inspector" to "County" in sections B and C. Chapter 56 is exempt from Chapter 58, Code Enforcement because Chapter 56 already includes

violations and penalties language. Under Permits: Creating ability for Office of Permits and Inspections to issue electrical permits.

Appeals Board: for appeals of BOEE decisions.

Striking language under Exceptions: Homeowners permits. State law does not include exception for homeowners doing their own electrical work/obtaining permits.

Discussed enforcement mechanism.

Tim and Chris explained fines and process of code enforcement and appeals board from their experience.

Currently the Board is able to assess a \$100 fine. The Board feels that \$100 is insufficient as a monetary penalty. The Board also has the ability to suspend a license or registration. The Board would like to raise the fine to \$500 for initial violation and Patrick proposed \$1000 for subsequent violations and the Board agreed.

Chris asked for a motion to accept changes to the final draft. Tim made a motion to accept the final draft including changes made today and Don Ewing seconded. All were in favor. Patrick will present the bill to amend Chapter 56 (Electrical Standards) to be introduced Tuesday, August 13th.

After some brief discussions, Patrick exited the meeting room.

Eric Smith, Chairman of the Caroline County Construction Trades Board, entered the meeting room. Eric is also the Eastern Shore's representative for the State Board of Master Electricians and is also on the Complaints Committee. The State Board meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month.

Continued discussion of master's licenses and masters employed with more than company.

Some conversation ensued concerning building permits, County policies, registration processes, reciprocity, and permit fees.

The Board Vacancy is still listed on the Talbot County website. An ad was run in June in the local newspaper, according to the County Manager's Office. There is a copy of the ad available. No one has applied.

Don Ewing made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Bob Jump. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Next meeting will take place on August 15, 2024 at 1:00 pm in Conference Room 1.

