

ELECTRICAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

-MINUTES-

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

The Regular Meeting of February 13, 2015 was called to order by Chairman Larry Vallieres at 8:33 AM in Room 126 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present: Laurence A. Vallieres, Contractor, Chairman
Faith Gavin-Kuhn, Public Member
Frank Halloran, Journeyman
Bruce A. Silva, Unlimited Journeyman
Anthony Soter, Journeyman
John W. Yusza, Electronic Technician

Members Absent: Ronald Bish, Contractor
Sandy Marino, Public Member
David Munsill, Journeyman

Member Vacancies: One (1) Non-Union Contractor
Two (2) Public Members

DCP Staff: Robert M. Kuzmich, Department of Consumer Protection

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information, contact Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135 or Fax (860) 713-7230.

Agency Website: www.ct.gov/dcp

Division E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

Others Present:

Anthony Alequin-Melo
Preston Sansoucie, Nucor Steel
Martin Boen, III, Eversource
Gordon Belcher, Eversource
Shahriar-Saadat, MSA
David M. Coelho
Keri Lamontagne, Connecticut Department of Labor
Francis Drake, G4S
Paul Costello, JATC, Local 90
Ben Vincent

1. 8:30 AM call to order. (Reminder to everyone to place their cell phones on silent”).

Mr. Vallieres called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

2. Review Minutes of Previous Meetings:

A. Review minutes of meetings of the January 9, 2015.

After a thorough review by all, the Board voted to approve the *January 9, 2015* minutes as submitted. (Halloran/Yusza)

3. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:

No one scheduled before the Board today. In addition, there were no additional requests from anyone present at today’s meeting.

4. Report from Trade Practice Division: for review by the Board.

No report was given by the Trade Practices Division.

5. Request to Appear before the Board;

(1) Mr. Martin W. Bowen, III, CEM, Manager, Meter Planning & Strategy, Northeast Utilities; concerning their request to discuss the Board’s decision regarding the installation of utility owned (CL&P) electric meters as decided at their June 9, 1995 Board Meeting.

Mr. Martin Bowen, III and Mr. Gordon Belcher addressed the Board representing Eversource Energy, doing business as (DBA) Connecticut Light and Power, Northeast

Utilities Company relating to Utility Meter Work. Mr. Martin stated that his company is asking the Board to reconsider their June 6 1995 Board Ruling concerning Meter Replacement and Metering Methods. It was noted that Eversource is asking, specifically, for a reconsideration of Matter #1 from this Agenda Item concerning “replacement of Single Phase 400 Amperes or less” and the Board’s ruling that this work requires licensing. The Board was given printed copies of documentation entitled “Eversource Connecticut Meter Work Review” to accompany the presentation. Mr. Martin reviewed the history of the topic since 1995 on a national basis. It was noted that many electric utility companies in most States have completed large scale electric meter replacement projects. As a result, several new businesses dedicated to installing meters for electric utility companies as contractors have been created. The handout states that Connecticut is the only State requiring licensed electricians to perform meter work.

In response to questions from Mr. Vallieres on behalf of the Board, it was stated that Eversource is hiring private contractors and training them in meter replacement work noting that the company’s primary objection to hiring Connecticut licensed electricians to perform this work is the additional cost. Mr. Vallieres stated that he objects to the reference in Eversource’s documentation that states “*Meter installing is similar to plugging in a toaster*”. He noted that in his opinion, this is an inaccurate analogy and cited the many safety concerns associated with doing this type of work.

Mr. Halloran stated that in his opinion, any change in Connecticut Law as it pertains to meter replacement will place both workers and consumers at risk. Further, he noted that eliminating licensing for meter replacement only provides more cost savings to Northeast Utilities; none of which will go back to the consumer. In addition, to his knowledge, his utility rates have never gone down. Mr. Vallieres agrees with Mr. Halloran’s position.

Mr. Vallieres asked what circumstances have changed since the Board’s ruling in 1995 as it pertains to the safety of both the workers and consumers that prompted Eversource to ask the Board for their reconsideration of the same. In response Mr. Martin stated that industry standards have changed since 1995. Mr. Vallieres noted that the only change he sees is cost savings to Northeast Utilities. Ms. Gavin-Kuhn stated that this Board is charged with protecting the public’s health, safety, and welfare and cannot help Northeast Utilities with what appears to be a business decision.

Mr. Martin thanked the Board for their time and will check with other company associates and get back to the Board.

6. Review of Applications(s) for Licensure Examination: applicant(s) appearing in person.

Mr. Vallieres advised all in attendance at today's meeting of the Board general rules and guidelines as they apply to applicants appearing before them for consideration to sit for their respective license examinations. He made reference to the document sent to all applicants by the Department which details specific information the Board is expecting from the applicants in support of their equivalent experience and training in addition to other more general information.

In addition, Mr. Vallieres also made reference to the Board's Outline for Journeypersons which gives the specific hours for related classroom instruction including course curriculums and the required on-the-job training hours for each license type.

(1) **Coelho, David M.** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The Board voted unanimously to deny this application on the basis of a lack of the required on-the-job training hours. (Halloran/Soter)

(2) **Drake, Francis A.** – C-5 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The applicant originally applied with an C-5 application and changed the application type, at today's meeting, to a C-6 application after an explanation by the Board of their policies. The Board voted unanimously to deny this application based upon a lack of the required related classroom instruction hours. (Halloran/Soter)

(3) **Sansoucie, Preston R.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The Board voted unanimously to deny this application on the basis of a lack of certified on-the-job training hours. (Soter/Halloran)

(4) **Smith, Kevin A.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The applicant was not present today's meeting as previously requested by them. Therefore, the Board took no action on this application.

(5) **Vincent, Benjamin M.** – L-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The applicant originally applied with an L-1 application and changed the application type, at today's meeting, to an L-2 application after an explanation by the Board of their policies. The Board voted unanimously to approve the applicant for his respective examination type. (Halloran/Silva)

7. First Review of Application(s) for Licensure Examination – Applicants Not Appearing before Board.

With Apprenticeship Completion Letters:

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the applicants listed below (including additions), except as otherwise noted, to sit for their respective examinations on the basis of a Certified Apprenticeship Completion Letter from the Connecticut Department of Labor or other Board-Approved Agency. (Soter/Gavin Kuhn)

- (1) **Alexandru, Mihail D.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (2) **Ballas, Alexandros G.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (3) **Basso, Martin P.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (4) **Betancourt, Daniel R.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (5) **Carter, Max R.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (6) **Desjardins, Adam J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (7) **Dillemuth, Christopher**– E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (8) **DiNicola, Matthew J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (9) **Edwards, Jr., David J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (10) **Fiondella, III, Andrew J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.
- (11) **Kenney, Jason M.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(12) **Landry, Cassandra M.** – C-6 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(13) **Martin, Eric J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(14) **Mazzella, Vito S.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(15) **Opinski, Matthew J.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(16) **Pattison, James R.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(17) **Piendl, Marc B.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(18) **Stula, Shawn M.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

(19) **Tyrrell, Jason D.** – L-6 applicant seeking approval on the basis of Certified Apprenticeship Completion w/Letter.

On The Basis of Equivalent Experience and Training:

The Board voted, unanimously, to require the applicants listed below, except as otherwise noted, (including add-ons) to appear before them at their March 13, 2015 Regular Meeting for review of their applications to test for their respective license types. Mr. Kuzmich will mail back their original applications in addition to Board Meeting Date information and information regarding education and on-the-job training for Journeyman license types. (Soter/Gavin-Kuhn)

(1) **Covais, Jr., Joseph D.** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(2) **Cruz, Jesus B.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(3) **George, Daniel M.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(4) **Laufman, Andrew S.** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(5) **Lopes, Jason A.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(6) **Mailly, James M.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(7) **Miner, Joshua F.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(8) **Montville, Jason S.** – E-2 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(9) **Morzillo, James C.** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

(10) **Mulligan, Kirk D.** – PV-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training.

8. Applicant(s) for Licensure reappearing in-person;

(1) **Alequin-Melo, Anthony** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The applicant changed his application type from an E-1 to an E-2 at the Board Meeting held May 9, 2014 per the recommendation of the Board. The board tabled this application pending a complete documented work history consisting of notarized statements from past and present employers as to dates and duties of employment. In addition, the applicant needs to complete the 8,000 hour on-the-job training requirement for his license type. The Board also requires the applicant complete an OSHA 10 course as a part of his related classroom instruction.

The Board voted unanimously to table this application at their meeting held February 13, 2015 based upon a lack of the required 8,000 hours of on-the-job training.

(Soter/Halloran) Further, the Board requires detailed documentation of his periods of employment with the associated on-the-job training hours and description of duties. In addition, they also require a better description of his related classroom instruction hours translated in English.

(2) **Saadat, Shahrir** – C-5 applicant asking for waiver of the two year period for holding the C-6 Journeyman's license. The Board voted unanimously to deny this application at their meeting held January 9, 2015 based upon not holding a Journeyman's License (C-6) for a minimum of two years.

The applicant passed his C-6 Examination on November 29, 2014. In addition, after a thorough review of the application package, it was determined that the applicant did not cite a bona hardship in consideration of the request for the waiver of time.

Upon a detailed explanation from the applicant on why he is asking the Board again to reconsider their previous action, they, again, voted unanimously to deny the applicant a waiver of the required two year period to hold the Journeyman's license.

(Soter/Yusza) The Board did however give the applicant some suggestions to help facilitate his establishing a business in Connecticut during this two year waiting period to sit for the contractor's license.

9. Review of Correspondence:

(A) Evaluation Forms For Continuing Education Course; for the Board's review and information. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

(B) Proposed Bill No. 81 – An Act Concerning Journeymen and Apprentices; for the Board's information. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

(C) Proposed Bill No. 5107 – An Act Concerning Residential Solar Photovoltaic Installations; for the Board's information. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

(D) Proposed Bill No. 5253 – An Act Concerning Apprenticeship Ratios; for the Board's information. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

(E) Probation documentation In the Matter of Kostas Proskinitopoulos Docket No. 2014-622; for the Board's review and information. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

10. New Business:

1. The Board was given hard copies of statistical data from the Department concerning School Passed/Tested and State Passed/Tested rates by School Name and Code for the Connecticut E-2 Unlimited Journeyman Examination. The Board reviewed this information and thanked the Department for the same.

2. The Board approved the reinstatement application of Mr. Joseph A. Massaro, III, License Number ELC.0192993-E2 which lapsed September 30, 2012 subject to receipt by the Department of payment of all back fees including late charges and proof of completion of all continuing education. (Soteer/Yusza) Mr. Halloran abstained from the vote.

11. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:

No one scheduled before the Board today. In addition, there were no additional requests from anyone present at today's meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. (Soter/Yusza) The next Regular Meeting of the Electrical Work Examining Board is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2015 at 8:30 AM; State Office Building; Room 126; 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.
License and Applications Specialist