

# **STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

## **ELECTRICAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD**

**-MINUTES-**

**MAY 11, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of May 11, 2018 was held in the Department of Consumer Protection - North Building, Hearing Room J, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

**Members Present:** Ronald Bish, Unlimited Contractor  
Bruce A. Silva, Unlimited Journeyman  
Anthony Soter, Unlimited Journeyman  
Laurence A. Vallieres, Unlimited Contractor, Chairman  
Robert Woytowich, Unlimited Journeyman  
John W. Yusza, Electronic Technician

**Members Absent:** Peter L. Jennings, Unlimited Contractor

**Member Vacancies:** One (1) Unlimited Journeyman  
Three (3) Public Members

**DCP Board Staff:** Robert M. Kuzmich, License/Applications Specialist, DCP  
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, DCP  
Paulette Annon, Attorney, DCP  
Pamela Brown, Director, DCP  
Janita Hamel, Supervisor, DCP

**Others Present:** Todd Berch, Department of Labor  
Heidi Lane, Department of Labor

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) 706-1202.

Agency Website: [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp) Division E-Mail: [dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov)

## **1. Call to order.**

Chairman Mr. Larry Vallieres called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

## **2. Review Minutes of Previous Meetings: March 9, 2018.**

The Board voted to approve the minutes as submitted. (Bish/Silva)

## **3. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:**

None.

## **4. DCP Investigation Division:**

(A) Board to review quarterly report when provided.

The Board was given a report by Supervisor Ms. Janita Hamel. She answered various questions from the Board regarding specific complaints. The Board expressed their concern and frustration with the Department regarding the apparent lack of enforcement. It was noted that it would be beneficial to the electrical profession if the Investigators could spend a dedicated period of time each month committed to electrical investigations.

Ms. Hamel explained to the Board that the lack of funding for more investigators and the multiple duties assigned to the existing staff make it very difficult to satisfy the Board's requests for increased electrical enforcement.

## **5. DOL Application Review Process:**

(A) Discussion concerning the application review process with Mr. Todd Berch, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Program Manager. Mr. Berch addressed the Board. Per the Board's previous request, he first discussed his Department's review criteria used in their evaluation and subsequent approval of the following applications:

1. Thomas J. Giuliano – E-2 Unlimited Journeyman
2. Noel E. Lugo – E-2 Unlimited Journeyman
3. Ryan J. St. Germain – L-6 Limited Journeyman

Discussion now turned to the related instruction requirement for Unlimited Journeyperson license types (E-2). Mr. Berch informed the Board that both Federal Law and State law mandate a minimum of 144 hours per year for total of 576 hours for an 8,000 hour on-the-job-training period (4 years). This is in contrast to the 720 hours of related instruction being enforced by the Department of Consumer Protection based upon information posted on the Department of Labor's own website.

Both Mr. Berch and Ms. Lane explained that the 720 hour requirement is based upon criteria set by the Connecticut State Department of Education – Connecticut Technical High School System and also by many private institutions approved for related electrical instruction by the Department of Labor. Although the Department of Labor is in favor of more education, the fact remains that their current law states that the minimum requirement is 576 hours. It was agreed that their website will be changed so as not to confuse/misled apprenticeship applicants. The Board and Department were very surprised by this information.

As an aside discussion, it was noted by Mr. Soter that OSHA training is also federally mandated and, as such, is valid indefinitely without the need for interim updates by the cardholder. This is also in contrast to Connecticut's requirement for the cardholder to update his/her OSHA card every five (5) years. The apprenticeship program requires an OSHA 30 course.

In conclusion, Mr. Vallieres did note, however, that despite the discrepancy in hours, the content area of related instruction is more important and should always be the main focus of the Board and the Departments.

## **6. Review of Applications(s) for Licensure Examination:**

(A) **Berube, David L.** – E-1 applicant seeking approval on the basis of equivalent experience and training. The Board concurred with the Department's evaluation of this application and denied the same based upon the lack of related instruction hours and on-the-job training.

## **7. Old Business:**

1. Continuation of discussion concerning Consent Agreement for Case No. 2017-348 brought before the Board on December 8, 2017. A representative from the Department's Legal Division is scheduled to be present at today's meeting.

Ms. Annon noted that, to date, the Department has not received a response from the respondent and that his license remains surrendered and inactive.

2. Assurance of Voluntary Compliance review comments from Mr. Larry Vallieres.

Mr. Vallieres stated his concern for the lack of participation by the Board in setting the monetary amounts stipulated in the Assurance(s) of Voluntary Compliance (AVC). This is in contrast to the Memorandum of Understanding the Board signed with the Department in 2016. Mr. Hurlburt suggested that the Board work with Ms. Pamela Brown to create a new monetary chart to be used in setting the fee amounts going forward for the AVC's.

## **8. New Business:**

### (A) Connecticut Contractor Business and Law Examination Content Area Breakdown.

This information was acknowledged by the Board.

## **9. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:**

There were no further comments from anyone present.

## **Other Business:**

1. Ms. Pamela Brown was introduced to the Board as the Department's new Director of Investigations beginning in April of this year. It was noted that Ms. Brown has been with the Department since 1999 and has an extensive investigative knowledge and experience. She was welcomed by the Board and looks forward to working together with them.

2. The Board discussed, at length, the pending issue previously discussed by the Board at their last meeting regarding limited electrical license holders taking continuing education classes for unlimited license types.

Mr. Vallieres, on behalf of the Board, had previously requested that written clarification be sent to all approved providers and licensees. The letter shall state that licensees shall only take continued education classes from those providers that are approved and offer classes for the category of license held by the licensee.

Ms. Paulette Annon noted that the Department's position on this matter is that approved electrical continuing education providers may only provide continuing education classes for those license categories for which they have been approved. However, licensees are permitted by law to take continuing education classes from any approved provider and not just those offering classes for the category of license they hold. To require otherwise of the licensee's will necessitate a change in the law.

3. The Board asked to Department to contact the following 2018 Continuing Education (CE) Providers and request that they provide them with the dates, times, and Fire Marshal Certificates for all their upcoming CE classes for both the limited and unlimited license types.

Alternative Energy Solutions  
2031 Little Meadow Road  
Guilford, CT 06437

Continuing Electrical Needs Association, LLC  
75 Main Street, Suite 316  
Norwalk, CT 06851

4. The Board requested a Special Meeting be held in June 2018 to continue discussions with the Department concerning the scope of their legal authority, involvement in the application review process, enforcement, and continuing education

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM. (Woytowich/Yusza)

Respectfully Submitted,

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

### Upcoming Electrical Board Meeting Dates:

July 13, 2018  
September 7, 2018  
November 9, 2018

Meetings take place at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Boulevard, North Building, Hearing Room J, Hartford, CT, 06103 beginning at 8:30 AM.