

**TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETING**

ATTENDEES

Chris Kleppinger
Don Ewing
Tim Fluharty
Bob Jump

Grace Davis

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

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Change of Contractor policy.

Talbot County Attorney, Patrick Thomas asked for a 30 day extension to present a draft to the Board for the March meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Began reviewing applications while waiting for Bob Jump to arrive.

The Board decided to wait for Bob Jump to arrive before talking about Chris Kleppinger's meeting with County Manager, Clay Stamp, and County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, and Talbot County Council President, Chuck Callahan.

The Board is not going to accept screen shots for proof of state license.

Discussed list of employees.

Chris questioned 'list of employees' and why registrants are not listing all of their employees who are/will be working in Talbot County. Grace Davis said that is what was decided prior to beginning registrations (July 2022). Conversation continued about how that came about.

Discussion began about pervious and impervious surfaces. Some jurisdictions allow mechanical equipment in setbacks but Talbot County does not.

Chris said he asked Clay why a concrete pad for a generator would count toward lot coverage. Chris was directed to Brennan Tarleton, Talbot County Planning Director. Chris will attempt to see Brennan after this meeting.

Discussion continued about permitting generators.

At Bob Jump's arrival, discussion began regarding the proposed Change of Contractor policy/procedure.

Chris Kleppinger said that he had met with County Manager, Clay Stamp, and County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, and Talbot County Council President, Chuck Callahan on February 14th. They have been unable to find legislation that specifically mentions permitting electrical work. Legislation drafted in 2015 (seen at last month's meeting) to 'disempower' the Electric Board was introduced but never voted on. At the time, the Talbot County Board of Electrical Examiners 'weighed in' with comments and the proposed legislation was never acted on. Mike Pullen (County Attorney-at the time-2015) told Brent he felt that the Permits Office had authority to issue electrical permits. But did the Permits Office ever have the authority to require electrical permits? Brennan had looked through the other statutes and could not find any information about electrical permits. Clay asked Chris what he would like to do. Chris said he would like to go back to the way it was done before all this started. Electricians sent an application to Middle Department (Inspection Agency), they did an inspection, and then Middle Department (Inspection Agency) sent the results to the County, but Chris thinks this is unlikely. He said his second choice would be that the Board would handle any electrical violations; anything that Code Enforcement or Permits and Inspections would stumble across, that's electrical, would be referred to the Board. They never discussed the Board of Electrical Examiners as the Appeals Board for those violations.

Chris asked if everyone had read the minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting and if there is a motion to approve them. Bob Jump made a motion to approve and Don Ewing seconded the motion. All were in favor and the Minutes were approved unanimously. Chris Kleppinger then noticed a discrepancy with some wording in the minutes and said we should not have accepted them because Patrick Thomas did not find language in a bill from 2015 that addressed permitting electric work because that is suggesting that something passed in 2015 but it was never voted on. Grace will correct minutes to say, 'Patrick Thomas, Talbot County Attorney, found language in a bill that was proposed but never enacted from 2015 that addresses permitting for electrical work.'

Patrick is working on a change of contractor policy and Chuck Callahan would be able to help him with it. Patrick had talked to Brennan about zoning codes and Brennan could not find anything referencing electrical permits. Patrick had planned to present the draft at this meeting but at the time of this meeting he has asked for a 30 day extension.

Some discussion ensued about the history of the Permits & Inspections Department and various permits. Conversation continued to online permitting then Code Enforcement procedures.

Tim questioned the Board about stickers on each panel that says 'Available Fault Current'. Discussion continued.

There was a question asked of the Board by the Permits Office concerning HVAC change outs. Do they need an electrical inspection and who is qualified to do the work? The Board's answer is: If the wire feeding the old unit inside and out is large enough to handle the new unit and they do not have to change the disconnect, then they do not have to have a permit or an inspection, if they are not changing out the disconnect not going back past that, not upsizing or downsizing a breaker. Existing disconnect to the new unit with a whip, does not require a permit. Don Ewing mentioned also that if the system is, for example 25 yrs. old, then the disconnect is old and would need to be replaced.

HVAC/Limited licensees are not qualified to replace the disconnect; however it was noted that there are HVAC contractors engaging in the replacement of disconnects and that it is illegal to do so. The electrical code only allows for control wiring (Limited Licenses). The Board has made an exception to allow repairs for changing out equipment.

There was some discussion about Occupancy Certificates and when permits expire.

Conversation turned to retirement pensions for Board members.

Bob Jump made a motion to adjourn seconded by Don Ewing. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Next meeting will take place on March 21, 2024 at 1:00 pm in Conference Room 1.