

Wicomico County Electrical Board

Minutes

April 3rd, 2019

The Board of Electrical Examiners met on April 3rd, 2019. The meeting was called to order by George Landing at 5:00 pm with the following in attendance: Rick Wheeler, Brett Callaway, W. Allen Carter, Robert Simmons, County Attorney Paul Wilber and recording secretary Courtney Culver.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from February 6th, 2019 & March 6th, 2019 was made by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Carter. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Carter to adjourn to the executive session. With all members voting in favor, the motion was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Jerry Lidinsky & Alan Coppage- Discus Testing/License Procedures for Inspector

Mr. Lidinsky (Employee of MDIA) & Mr. Coppage (Chief inspector of MDIA) requested to appear in front of the Board to get clarification on why Mr. Lidinsky could not be issued a Wicomico County Inspector's license since he holds a State Master Electrician license as well as the State Fire Marshal certification. Mr. Landing understands that Mr. Lidinsky cannot hold an active Master Electrician license while he has fire marshal certification. Mr. Coppage does not believe that this to be accurate statement, he knows of three electricians that hold an active State Master license and have the State Fire Marshal certification. Mr. Landing stated when he took his Fire Marshal certification he was told him that it was a conflict of interest to hold both. Mr. Lidinsky stated that his Master Electrician license is inactive and that he is not trying to engage in electrical contracting work. Mr. Landing questioned why he chose to come to Wicomico County to become an inspector instead of his hometown of Harford County. It was made clear that by Mr. Coppage that Mr. Lidinsky was hired by MDIA to inspect in Wicomico & Somerset County.

Mr. Landing believes that when he got his Inspector license in 1993, the State Fire Marshal test was primarily on grounding and bonding & only a 2-hour test. Mr. Coppage stated that he received his State Fire Marshal certification in August 1992, and was on the board in Queen Anne's County, he had to resign because he is now an inspector and switched his state license to inactive, and then had to shelve his county license. This is what qualified Mr. Coppage to be a non-governmental inspector in the State of Maryland. Mr. Coppage does understand each county is a little different.

Mr. Lidinsky wanted to clarify that he took the 4-hour Fire Marshal test and it is no longer a 2-hour test as Mr. Landing believed it was.

Mr. Lidinsky and Mr. Wheeler spoke at a supply house few days after the March meeting and discussed why someone who held a master since 1991 would need to test again. Mr. Wheeler was puzzled and asked what state did Mr. Lidinsky did he hold his master license. Mr. Lidinsky

questioned how scrutinized was his application, because based off his credentials he is qualified.

Mr. Landing said that if we had known that the State Fire Marshal exam was similar to the State Master exam we wouldn't questioned it.

Mr. Carter asked if you hold a Master license in order to be an inspector you have to shelve it. Mr. Landing responded yes. Mr. Carter believes this to be the biggest issue because he would need to shelve his license in order to become an inspector. Mr. Lidinsky confirmed that his license is currently shelved and inactive and he has no intentions of doing electrical work.

Mr. Landing stated that Mr. Lidinsky's license does not indicate Master Electrician-Inactive Inspector, just shelved. Mr. Lindinsky explained that the State issued the license with the inspector title on Monday, April 1st and should receive that updated license within 5-7 business days.

Mr. Coppage brought up the State statute text of paragraph 6 of 313 it states that for a governmental inspector the license needs to state inspector, but for anybody else, it's just states inactive. He believes that that license that states Master Electrician-Inactive Inspector is only for an employed governmental inspector, so that they are not able to get a license in another County.

Paul Wilber, County attorney was asked to comment by Mr. Landing. Mr. Wilber says that Mr. Lidinsky has a Master Electrician license and it is currently inactive, which is the top of the pile. Mr. Wilber asked the board if there some education requirement that hasn't been met yet or if the board would want to have Mr. Lidinsky to meet? Mr. Landing indicated that there was confusion with the State Fire Marshal exam was only a 2-hour test on bonding. Mr. Landing stated he did not see any reason why the board couldn't issue the inspector license.

Mr. Simmons asked the question to Mr. Lidinsky if his continuing education was up to date & if the board had seen the fire marshal exam. Mr. Coppage asked if we have an inspectors test. Mr. Landing responded that yes we do and it is basically the same as the Master Electricians exam, that comes from MUELEC. Mr. Wheeler wanted to verify that the two test are the same.

Mr. Callaway inquired whether the inactive Maryland Master license would preclude one from obtaining a Master license in any County. Mr. Coppage explained that the idea of the Master State license would allow you to receive a license in any county as well as Baltimore City, but it did not seem to do that due the rules of individual county rules. Mr. Coppage explained that MDIA has a policy that you cannot hold an active license while being a licensed inspector.

Mr. Wheeler asked if Mr. Lidinsky obtained his Somerset County license, and it was explained that that Somerset does not do licensing. The only requirement for the inspector license was the State Fire Marshal certification.

The board agreed to contact someone from the State Fire Marshal office to verify the exam and look into the information and get back to Mr. Lidinsky & Mr. Coppage. Mr. Lidinsky explained to the board that his updated license from the State would be in this week and he would provide a copy to the board.

