



Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2024

The Kent County Board of Electrical Examiners met on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. The following members were in attendance: Victor Shepard, Acting Chair, and William Baldwin, Member. Also, present were Bill Mackey, Director; Bryan Foreman, Chief Code Enforcement Officer; Mike O'Neil, Code Enforcement Officer and Beth Grieb, Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Prior to the approval of minutes, the number of new members for the "all trades" board was discussed. There will be at least two new members. Bryan F. stated that Craig B. of MDIA suggested including a general contractor on the board along with the specific trades. Craig's recommendation was David Holman, general contractor. Two members from each trade (electrical, plumbing and HVAC) and a general contractor for a total of (7) seven members total is the ideal amount. Low-voltage or alarm companies are within the electrical trade.

Previously, the County Commissioners asked if there are any other counties with an "all trades" board. Bill Mackey has posed this question to other counties through MACO. At this time, we haven't received notice that another county has an "all trades" board. We are still waiting for additional responses.

Bill Mackey asked the board members for their thoughts regarding the purpose of the board. The electrical board members responded that they want to keep up to date with state regulations and gain clarity on job sites from MDIA inspectors. The county needs the expertise of the master electrician, master plumber and/or HVAC companies in their respective fields.

Reading through the MUELEC notes from the November 15th zoom meeting, Mike O. noted it appears that some counties are still performing electrical testing.

The Board approved the minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting.

Discuss Muelec Notes from November 15, Zoom Meeting

It was helpful that the state provided the fees and costs for electrical licensing.

The boards' understanding is that everyone working in the electrical trade must be registered with the state of Maryland. However, how will this be enforced? The board noted that electrical projects that involve a grant are more closely monitored for compliance with electrical licensure.

The Kent County master electrician registration certificate will now list Victor Shepard as the Acting Chair of the Kent County Electrical Board. Mike O. described the county's registration process to the board members.

Discuss including Plumbing and HVAC to the Electrical Board

The Board continued to discuss expanding the electrical board to become a multi-discipline trades board to include plumbing and HVAC. Possible new members are Mike Starkey, Rick Hudson, David Holman, contractor, and/or the manager of Capital Electric, Brian. Bryan F. asked the board to consider possible new members.

The board asked how many master plumbers and HVAC companies are licensed with Kent County. There are approximately 100 master plumbers licensed with Kent County. Kent County does not register or license HVAC companies. The board asked why HVAC companies are not registered/licensed with Kent County. The board stated that HVAC companies are licensed with the State of Maryland. Beginning last year, inspections are required for HVAC work. We would need to review the state law with regards to registering or licensing HVAC companies with Kent County. MDIA checks that electricians and/or plumbers are licensed with the state of Maryland. However, MDIA does not check with our office as to whether the electricians and/or plumbers are registered/licensed with the county. Our registration/licensure process involves checking that the electrician and/or plumber has a Maryland license.

A question was posed as to whether members of the trade board need to live in Kent County. Currently, the electrical board members must be residents of Kent County. It was suggested that being registered/licensed with the county is more important than living in the county to be a board member.

The appointment of new board members is made by the County Commissioners. So far, Bryan F. has spoken with Mike Starkey and Rick Hudson about joining as new members of the “all trades” board. Bill M. would like to work through the process of changing the code to create the new board. Then, it would be presented to the county commissioners before asking for new members. Creating a new trades board/non-zoning bill will take approximately 4 months. Finding another county in Maryland that has an “all trades” board would be helpful.

Discussion began as to how often future board meetings should occur. Is it best to meet quarterly or bi-annually? It was suggested that meeting quarterly in the morning is preferable and not meeting in December nor on Mondays. For county staff, it is preferable not to have the board meeting on the first Thursday of the month because there is also a Planning Commission on the first Thursday of the month. Now, the electrical board meeting is an open meeting. Board members are encouraged to e-mail future agenda items to Bryan F.

General Discussion

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 14th at 8:30 a.m. This is the second Thursday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

/s/ Victor Shepard
Victor Shepard, Acting Chair

/s/ Beth Grieb
Beth Grieb, Clerk

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