

Minutes
ELECTRICAL CODE BOARD OF APPEALS
Building Services Division
11 AM, Tuesday, December 17, 2013
Greene Square Conference Room, City Services Center
500 15th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA

Board Members Present: Erik Munson, Chair; Vic Brown; Jim Spicer; Mark Robinson; Scott Saylor; TJ Meiners

Board Member Absent: Shane Novak

Also Present: Ray Nees, Jason Garmoe, Dave Rickels, Dave Murray, Rich Good, Tammy Winn, Trevor Tharp, Bob Gleason, Wayne Engle, Jeff Penning, Jennifer Canaday

APPEAL BOARD MEETING

On December 17, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Board Chairman Erik Munson began the Board meeting.

1. Election of Officers: Chairman Erik Munson opened the floor for nominations.
 - a. Jim Spicer nominated Erik Munson for Chairman. TJ Meiners seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - b. Erik Munson nominated Jim Spicer for Vice Chairman. Vic Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Jim Spicer motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as written. Motion carried.
3. Appeal 2-2013 was brought by Dave Murray on behalf of Nelson Electric. TJ Meiners immediately asked to recuse himself from the vote as he is an employee of Nelson Electric, however he asked that he be allowed to participate in the discussion.

Appeal: Nelson Electric petitioned the Electrical Board of Appeals to interpret City of Cedar Rapids code section 34.03i as it pertains to replacing (2) ground flood lights at GE Capital 1010 Thomas Edison Dr SW on grounds that Nelson Electric considers this to be "maintenance work." State Code 552.1(1) Exception #3 was also referenced.

After lengthy discussion the following **three items** were settled upon:

- A. **Language in the current City Code lack clarity** and appears to require permitting/inspections beyond the intent of the Board and the workload capability of the City Inspection staff.
- B. **Appeal upheld.** Jim Spicer made a motion to uphold the appeal, Mark Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously with TJ Meiners abstaining from the vote. The Board voted 5 to 0 with 1 Abstention to uphold the appeal. The basis for upholding the appeal is that the Board determined they are going to rewrite the language of the City Code to clarify the scope of work exempt from permitting, and will allow the Chief Electrical Inspector leeway to operate under the guideline of this intent until such time that the new language has been adopted by the City.

C. **Recommendation.** Mark Robinson proposed that language used to clarify the city code include the following:

Scope of Work exempt from permitting defined to include

- routine maintenance* of residential and commercial properties with no more than 6 single units replaced, and where the installation does not affect the panel
- replacing like kind with like kind
- installation of new units less than 30 amps which does not affect the panel

** "Routine Maintenance" means the repair or replacement of existing electrical apparatus or equipment, including but not limited to wires, cables, switches, receptacles, outlets, fuses, circuit breakers, and fixtures, of the same size and type for which no changes in wiring are made, but does not include any new electrical installation or the expansion or extension of any circuit.
(taken from the state code 103.1 definition 16)*

Language should also define "classified" as applies to the City electrical code.

4. Discussion of pending changes with adoption of 2014 NEC. It was decided that a meeting will be held in February to begin working on clarifying language in the Electrical Code for the benefit of both City inspectors and contractors in identifying projects requiring or exempt from permitting and inspections.

Jim Spicer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mark Robinson seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Canaday
Recording Secretary