

ELECTRICAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vallieres at 9:00 am.

Board Members Present:

Laurence A. Vallieres	Unlimited Contractor, Chairman
John W. Yusza	Electronic Technician
Thomas J. Sportini, Sr.	Unlimited Journeyperson
Derek Santa Lucia	Unlimited Journeyperson
Richard Bird	Unlimited Contractor
Stephen G. Wagner	Public Member
Paul Costello	Unlimited Journeyperson

Board Members Not Present:

Jacqueline Laramie	Public Member
Keith J. Lacy	Unlimited Journeyperson
Peter L. Jennings	Unlimited Contractor

Board Vacancies: (2) Public Members

DCP Staff:

John Mesner	Occupational Trades Manager
Rachelle Hyburg	License and Application Analyst
Ernest Thigpen	Supervising Special Investigator
Paul Grabowski	Legal Program Director

Public Present:

Tomasz Galas
Jay Bradley
Kendra Levesque
Arcadio Ovalles

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Investigations Division. For more information, refer to DCP Agency website: www.ct.gov/dcp.

BOARD UPDATES

- Swear in new Board Member: Stephen G. Wagner, Public Member
 - Paul Grabowski swore in Board Member Wagner at 9:00 am
- Moment of Silence in Remembrance of 9/11/2001

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

- Review of the August 14, 2026, meeting minutes
 - Board Member Bird moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Yusza seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-0-1) Abst: Wagner

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

- John Mesner updated the Board about DCP's upcoming Ratio Relief Seminar on October 9. Noting that it is open to up to 75 in-person attendees but will be live online and recorded for future reference. The seminar will be an open forum to educate contractors on the new process and answer questions. The board members were invited to join.

DCP INVESTIGATIONS DIVISIONS:

- 07.01.2026 through 08.31.2026
 - Open: 13
 - Closed: 10
 - Fines via AVC: \$26,000
- Board Member Bird thanked Janita and staff for the work they do with investigations.
- Janita Hamel reported that 18 AVC's resulted from the DCP + DOL joint venture site inspections.
 - Ernest Thigpen reported that there are 10 warrants issued and 2 are still in process. Noting that 7 of those warrants were associated with the electrical industry.

- Janita Hamel announced that there are two new inspectors on the team
- Board Member Sportini inquired if the department tracks how many complaints an individual receives and how are repeat offenders handled during the investigations process.
 - Janita Hamel commented that depending on what the violations were, those complaints do end up with Legal for review.

LEGAL

- Paul Grabowski provided an update on the legal team. Attorney James Rocco is no longer with the department; Attorney Cynthia Fernandez will be taking over the case load until a new attorney is hired.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. C8 Prerequisites to Licensure
 - a. Board Member Costello provided the board with an updated packet on the proposed C8 apprenticeship training program
 - b. The board will review the information and continue discussion at the October meeting.
 - c. John Mesner commented that he would like to see this go through DOL to be an approved apprenticeship program

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ratio Relief Applications:
 - a. CE Electrical Contractors – APSP.3791
 - i. Kendra Levesque and Jay Bradley were in attendance on behalf of CE Electrical Contractors
 - ii. The board reviewed the application and inquired about the apprentices that have not finished their education, Ms. Levesque and Mr. Bradley were unable to provide further information on those individuals at this time.
 - iii. Board Member Bird moved to table the application for more information. There are 2 individuals that completed their apprenticeship but have not passed the exam. Additionally, there are 4 apprentices listed that have not completed their education. The board would like further information on those items. Board Member Costello seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iv. Chairman Vallieres educated the representatives from CE Electrical Contractors about the pre-apprenticeship program through the CT Tech High Schools.

- v. Board Member Costello moved to have occupation enforcement to start an investigation against CE Electric, Aidan Koenig is identified as an apprentice on the employee listing in their ratio relief application but there is no record of his apprenticeship with DOL. Board Member Bird seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Nuzzo Electrical Contractors – APSP.730

- i. The applicant was not in attendance for review.
- ii. Chairman Vallieres commented that the applicant will need to resubmit the employee listing filled out in its entirety prior to the October meeting for review.

2. Appearing for Guidance:

a. Arcadio Rafael Ovalles, Sr.

- i. Mr. Ovalles will be appearing for discussion regarding E-2 licensure requirements
- ii. John Mesner advised the applicant to review the education requirements for E2 licensure and self-assess what education has been completed. That way he can start to take the courses that have not been completed for the E2 requirements. As well as registering as an apprentice.

b. Tomasz Galas

- i. Mr. Galas came to the meeting for guidance on E2 licensure
- ii. Mr. Galas applied for licensure via equivalency education/work experience, but his application was denied. He reports that he is an apprenticeship in CT, has 4,872 hours and completed some education.
- iii. John Mesner commented that the application was not denied but expired. He reported that 12 out of 20 required courses were completed.
- iv. Mr. Galas asked for guidance on how to get an equivalent education review, he reported that he has attempted to get an education review through Bullard-Havens but has not received a response.
 - John Mesner recommended he reach out to the head of the adult ed/night program. John also noted that the applicant can submit a comparative analysis request on the Bullard-Havens website.
 - Board Members also noted that there are other schools the applicant could approach for a comparative analysis. Prince Tech, Eli Whitney, Norwich Tech and Kaynor Tech were all recommended.

CORRESPONDENCE:

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

- Chairman Vallieres spoke about the MOU meeting between the board chairs and DCP staff. And asked members to provide comments on any legislative changes so he can propose those to CJ Strand by October 1st.
- Chairman Vallieres also let the board know that there was press conference on September 3 to discuss ratio relief
- Chairman Vallieres let the board know that himself, Rachelle and John will be working on a “plain language” PowerPoint that summarized Ratio Relief for public reference
- John Mesner let the board know that DCP has finished developing the digital licensing process. Noting that it is a live license so when any action is taken against that license it will show up when someone scans the QR code. It will be able to be added to apple/google wallets. It is currently available for HIC registrations and will be rolled out for SPB and well driller licenses soon. Virtual licenses should be released for all licenses by next renewal cycle.
- In relation to the complaints report, Board Member Sportini identified Eric R Smith ELC.0196377-E1 as a repeat offender and asked DCP to review how those cases were handled since this most recent complaint did not get sent to legal.

ADJOURNMENT:

Board Member Bird moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Sportini seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachelle Hyburg
License and Application Analyst

2026 Scheduled Meetings

October 09
November 13