

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Fire Prevention & Control Committee
Thursday, October 1st, 2020
Video Conference utilizing Google Hangouts
1:00pm

A regular meeting of the Fire Prevention & Control Committee was held electronically through Google Meets because of the State of Emergency initiated by the Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia. Ernie Little facilitated this meeting with a quorum present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Johnson
Ernie Little
Walt Bailey
Scott Garber
Dennis Linaburg
Robert Farrell

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

James Moore Stokely

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Gregory

GUESTS PRESENT

Larry Gwaltney
Andrew Milliken

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Travis Rickman Brook Pittinger
William Mackay

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CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

No Changes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry G said good to see everyone and he was glad he was able to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

No Changes to the previous meeting minutes member Keith Johnson moved to approve the previous minutes with a second from Denny Linaburg and the previous minutes were approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chairman discussed how it was great to see everyone due to the COVID pandemic we have not been able to meet for a while. He stated that there were some items that we will be discussing today that are very important to us and was excited to be able to meet virtually. The Chairman talked about how there is a lot going on currently in the code world and invited Andrew Milliken the Chair of the Code and Standards Subcommittee to report. He stated that we have not received the official non-consensus consensus from DHCD as of yet but we have created a short list of what we were able to capture. We have covered about 2000 amendments this cycle working through several code work groups with DHCD. From those discussions there was about 900 consensus amendments and about a dozen of nonsenses items that moved forward without compromise. The Chairman added that the Subcommittee has done a lot of work and thanked Andrew for his hard work and composure during these hard meetings. The Chairman talked about the code change for the minimum quorum that will be up for a final vote at the full board meeting on Friday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Topic:** BHCD/ VFSB Memorandum of Understanding

Motion: N/A

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Topic Discussion: The Chairman discussed how the current MOU has not been updated since 2012. The Chairman discussed that we are trying to have this MOU completed and in full effect for the next code cycle. He explained that the edits that were sent out were made from discussions with the Chairman and made by the clerk for the committee to discuss. The Chairman spoke that this is supposed to be a cooperate effort but the final line says the BHCD has the final say. He also discussed the need for a change to the consensus/ non consensus so that only one person does not count for non-consensus. Lastly the Chairman asked if there would need to be an AG approval for the MOU once constructed by the committee and the Clerk informed the Chair that an opinion would only be need if BHCD had issues with the MOU that would be proposed. Ernie Little said this should be a cooperative effort between both boards and not done in a vacuum. We need to formalize the definition of Consensus as we move forward. Keith Johnson spoke about how we were looking at the MOU and that this committee would be developing a draft and that we should develop something then send it over the BHCD for review and receive there edits and find a compromise. The Clerk clarified the current posture of the documents that were sent out to the committee and stated that the changes that were made strengthen the cooperatively developed for the Code of Virginia. The biggest changes to the MOU are that it adds a separate Policy and Procedures for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code Development Committee (SFPCDC). Those procedures outline the steps that would be taken when a consensus is reached in the committee and that a conference committee would then be called for two members to come forward from each board to find a compromise.

Motion Action: The Chairman wants to have the committee look at the current MOU and make suggestions by the end of the month on November 1st. The Chairman instructed the clerk to collect the changes for the members to bring forward at the next meeting. Then we will take those changes and try and bring forth a final document at a virtual meeting that should be held in the 3rd or 2nd week of November.

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Topic:** Review and approval of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code edits from the Code and Standards Subcommittee

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Motion: Denny Linaburg made the motion and seconded by Scott Garber to approve the code and standards subcommittee edits as written and send to the full board for final approval

Topic Discussion: Andrew Milliken spoke that this was just procedural as the BHCD process is moving very quickly.

Motion Action: Move the proposals to the full board for final approval on October 2nd, 2020

FINAL COMMENTS: Keith Johnson gave a report of the last BHCD meeting, he stated that the next meeting will be on October 19th which will have fire code proposals and the 3 on 3 Statewide Fire Prevention Code Development Committee. The other joint meeting will be on December 14th. There was also the election held for the chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development has four new Sunny Abbasi and vice chair Brett Meringoff Chair of the codes and standards committee is Andrew Freeman, The BHCD 3 for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code Development Committee is Sean Farrell, Sunny Abbasi, and Brett Meringoff. Keith said that we need to designate our 3 and 3 members ahead of the meeting on the 19th so that we can ensure proper attendance. Keith discussed that they are to expect the 19th meeting to go for 6 hours plus and that they expect the board materials within the next week. One of the items that was raised for staff was that there was an action item to convene stakeholders to look at changes for active shooters in regards to the SFPC and Building code. It was asked how DHCD looks to represent all aspects of fire to convene on this study group. The chairman stated that a door manufacturer is reaching out to fire service as it relates to door latching and barricade devices.

Walt Bailey said he wanted to make sure they had set in stone and that at the full meeting that they would designate three individuals as Keith Johnson, Ernie little, and Scott Garber and Denny Linaburg will be an alternate for the meeting. This will be established at the full board meeting at the clerk will make sure to reach out to BHCD to advise of the change.

October 19th- Statewide Fire Prevention Code Development Committee
December 14th- Joint meeting of the VFSB and BHCD

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ADJOURNMENT

Committee had a motion to adjourn by Denny which was seconded by Scott Garber the committee adjourned at 1:48pm.

Clerk of the Committee
Travis Rickman

REVIEWED BY:

Brook Pittinger

DRAFT