**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Public Safety – Augusta, Maine**

**Fallen Heroes Conference Room**

**March 11, 2015**

Meeting opened at 9:10 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**: Russ Martin, Richard Tarr, Jeff Ohler, Roger Rossignol, Robert Ellis, Eric Dube, Richard Lambert and Mike Pullen

**Excused**: Barry Chase, Marc Veilleux and Stephen Wintle

**Staff present**: Richard McCarthy, Building Codes Supervisor and Kathy Robitaille, Secretary.

**REVIEW OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2014 MINUTES**

**Motion:** by Mike Pullen to accept the minutes as amended with one typo fixed.

**Seconded:** by Eric Dube

**Vote**: Unanimous with four abstentions

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

$298,000.00 currently in the building codes account according to Rich.

**REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – RICH M.**

There will be five bills pertaining to Building Codes in this Legislative Session. None have been printed yet (as LDs). The bills include everything from deleting it altogether to the definition of warehouse to removing the mandatory enforcement of MUBEC. One raises the population to 5,000 from 4,000 as mandatory to enforce MUBEC. The one sponsored to delete it all together is sponsored by Senate President Michael Thibodeau. This bill was submitted by Maine Municipal Association.

We have received the six “chapters” back from the AG’s office, all signed from our last Rule-making process. They will be posted on our website [www.maine.gov/dps/bbcs](http://www.maine.gov/dps/bbcs).

Rich had sent a request to the Committee Clerk to hand deliver our LCRED letter to the Committee. Nothing heard as of yet.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION TO ADOPT THE 2015 CODES – RICH M.**

We can continue discussion on adoption of the 2015 ICC Codes, but a lot will depend on what happens in this Legislative Session.

**Request from Bob Stilwell, Radon Leader from DHHS for the Board to consider adoption of the 2008A Radon Standard**.

Currently the 2006 version is adopted – the difference between 2006 – 2008A is pg 36 diagram and a summarization of the diagram which makes it more user friendly. That would still be considered a Standard, not a code so it is not mandatory, but if it is put in, these guidelines would have to be adhered to in the Standard adopted. LCRED letter did ask the Board before for

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recommendations on whether the Standards adopted originally should be mandatory as Code. The Board’s recommendations were sent back to the Committee but we have not heard anything back. In the IRC, Appendix F is the Radon Appendix that would have to be adopted and then replace it in the IRC with the 2008A version.

ASHRAE 90.1 is allowable by reference in IECC as an alternative. IBC refers to International Mechanical Code which is not adopted in Maine. It contains a reference to ASHRAE as well.

**Motion**: By Dick Lambert to confirm the position the Board has taken and enact that through Rule-making on the new standards to be adopted.

**Seconded**: by Jeff Ohler

Options: 1. Board can send it again to LCRED and ask for Guidance.

2. Rule-making to make standards a code

3. Leave it as is.

Further discussion before vote and…….

**Motion** to withdraw previous motion: by Dick Lambert

**Seconded**: by Bob Ellis

**Discussion on adoption of newer ASHRAE Standards - Russ Martin, Board member**

Russ remarked that now the board is looking at adopting ASHRAE 62.1, 62.2 and 90.1 – the 2013 version – it would be a good time to enact the Mechanical/Ventilation and Energy TAGS to look these over for changes from the 2007 versions currently in place. He advised that Architects prefer to use the IECC and there are significant changes to that code from 90.1.

**Motion**: by Russ Martin to have the TAGS on Energy and Mechanical/Ventilation convene to review ASHRAE standards for 2013 for any changes in the newer cycle and should it be adopted. If there are no issues, then we would adopt and change it from the 2007 Standards to the 2013.

**Seconded**: by Mike Pullen

Unanimous vote

\*\*Rich will get copies of all for the Board – digital copies are preferred by all.

Bob Stilwell was asked to put bullet points together for the changes that occur from the 2006 Radon Standard to the 2008A that will be considered for adoption.

**TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION OF 2015 CODES?**

Rich is reviewing codes as some sections have changed their numbers. Probably target date is this fall. We still need to wait to see what Legislature does in this session with these Mubec-related bills, before we do Rule-making.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Continued discussion on the IRC/Life Safety/Sprinkler TAGS Recommendation for a Conflict submitted at the last meeting by Mike Hangge, Ellsworth Fire Dept. on Townhouses/Apt Houses/Sprinkler Systems.

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Roger Rossignol advised that if we choose the NFPA definition of townhouses, making the system required a 13-R in an apt house – then one unit can’t be shut down. Many builders he knows build 8-12 etc. units with two hour walls after every two units and no sprinkler system. This will not change what they do.

Suggestion of three options offered to address this Conflict between the NFPA and IRC:

1. Option 1- provide two hour separation wall in compliance with section 302.2 of the 2009 IRC. If the wall is compliant with this section of the code then a 13-D sprinkler system could be installed in the structure. If this form of code compliance is used all units within the building would need to be protected with a sprinkler system meeting the standard.
2. Option 2- Provide a two hour fire wall in compliance with NFPA 221 if this done then the building will be considered a 1 & 2 family dwellings and if so, no sprinkler system required.
3. Option 3-Provide one hour separation between units then the building would be considered an apartment building and a sprinkler system complying with 13-R Sprinkler standard is required.

**Motion**: by Roger Rossignol to have Rich investigate this language – if it is the Board’s intent using the Townhouse definition from the IRC – offering three options for building townhouses that are considered 1 & 2 family – whether 13-D, 13-R system or no sprinkler, and report back to the board with this.

**Seconded**: by Mike Pullen

**Unanimous Vote**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dick Tarr provided materials to the Board on a new truss product from Barrett Structural Distribution Inc. in Canada called OJ Series prefabricated open web joists.

The new truss is in compliance with Sec R501.3 of the IRC. FYI.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Drew Morris from DECD advised that he would like to meet with the Training & Certification Committee soon to figure out what should be done for training on the 2015 Codes the board plans to adopt. Dick Lambert, Chair of the T&C Committee will send Kathy some available dates for a meeting.

Chief Tupper, Ellsworth Fire Dept also addressed the board.

Russ Martin would like to compliment this Board on the way it does things, your process of working through things proving to be successful.

Meeting ended at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Robitaille, Secretary