**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Public Safety**

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

**December 3, 2020 9:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom Meeting**

**Board members present**: Ben Breadmore, Marc Veilleux, Michael Pullen, Barry Chase, Eric Dube, David Matero, Michael Stoddard, Jeremy Martin, Stephen Wintle, Steve Martel, Randy Poulton

**Excused**: N/A

**Staff present**: Rich McCarthy, Paul Demers

Meeting started at 9:05 with a review of the Governor’s State of Civil Emergency authorizing State agencies to conduct meetings through telephonic/electronic means, set expectations of how the meeting will be conducted, and a rollcall of board members was conducted. Quorum confirmed.

**Financial Report**: $728,220

The Building Code Surcharge continues to bring in sufficient funds to allow administrative costs and the training budget to be funded without reducing the fund balance below allowable levels.

**Update from Building Codes Division Supervisor - Paul Demers**

New England Building Officials Group offered free training to the New England area and Maine had the highest attendance of code officials. MBOIA and Maine Fire Chief’s Association have continued to offer free trainings through the end of the year.

The Building Codes Division is working with other agencies on updating training and exams to better prepare code officials. All exams are currently available electronically, either online or PDF.

**Report from Board Chair – Richard McCarthy**

Currently working on writing a grant request through FEMA to assist with the code training budget. If the grant is received, it will allow for three years’ worth of training and will allow about 75% of funds to cover expenses of trainings that prior was free but would now have to come out of the limited budget without the grant. The grant request is for about $120,000, divided up between the three years ($40,000 per year.)

**Legislative update**

Legislators have recently been sworn in, so there are currently no updates to discuss.

**Update on TAG meeting from December 1, 2020 - summarized by Eric Dube**

Meeting discussed the options and what people are leaning towards for the direction they would like to see for the Stretch Code. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:00pm on Zoom to go more in-depth to the options. General feedback suggested to keep it simple and attainable. No votes were conducted during the meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

Review of the September 24, 2020 Minutes – due to technical difficulties, the minutes are not available at this time.

Rulemaking Chapters 1, 2 and 4 – Board should review chapter to discuss at the next meeting.

**New Business**

The Board has requested a plan of priorities and budget expectations of the Building Code Division to get a sense of resources available to help support progress.

**Public Comment**

Feedback: Need for more obvious information available to the public on progress the Board is making and any updates and notices of meetings.

Question: Where is the Board regarding the radon standard that was originally voluntary and is now mandatory in the code (from the last legislative session)?

Numerous comments were made regarding concerns to consider the impact of code changes on costs and unintended consequences.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:00am

**Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am**

Respectfully submitted,

Rich McCarthy, Chair