**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Cross Office Building**

**June 5, 2019 9:00 a.m.**

**Board members present**: Marc Veilleux, Mike Pullen, Russ Martin, Eric Dube, Steve Wintle , Barry Chase , Jeremy Martin

**Prospective Board members present :** Randy Poulton, Dave Matero, Steve Martel

**Excused**: Roger Rossignol

**Staff present**: Brianne Hasty, Rich McCarthy

**Review of November 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Financial Report**: $ 530,800

**Report from Board Chair – Brianne Hasty**

Brianne updated the board regarding the vacant positions on the board.

CEO in a non service center community – Ben Breadmore .

Commercial Builder – Randy Poulton.

Mechanical Engineer – Steve Martel

Architect – David Matero.

Lumber Dealers – they have been contacted and are working on it.

All applications are at the Governor’s Office and they have been very responsive when contacted. They are overwhelmed with the need to fill board and commission vacancies left in the previous administration. As soon as these applications are approved Rich will let the board know.

Part OO of the Governor’s Budget permanently moves the Division of Building Codes and Standards from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This language was submitted as part of the budget under the previous administration with the previous department commissioners agreeing on the language and move. Under the new administration both commissioners have asked that this section of the budget be struck and that the duties of the Division be moved back to DPS. This did pass in the new budget

Brianne passed the Chair of the Board off to Rich McCarthy of the Fire Marshal’s Office, Brianne thanked the Board for the years she has worked with Code officials. The Board thanked Brianne for all her hard work keeping the MUBEC going during a difficult time for the Code.

**Legislative Update – Rich McCarthy**

**LD 855- An Act To Strengthen the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code** This bill creates three positions; technical codes coordinator, office specialist, and training coordinator. These three positions would be funded through a $5 surcharge on local permits that are MUBEC related. A budget has been created for the new division within the Fire marshal’s Office. This would consolidate all CEO training under one department. The bill passed out of committee with a unanimous vote. Jeremy martin expressed concerns over the $5 fee, explaining that a 2 million dollar house would pay the same fee as a $30,000 rennovation.

Rich explained the process of bills coming to the House and senate floor late in the session and how the importance of unanimous votes from committees are. Also explained if passed the bills do not become law for 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

**LD 1509- An Act To Amend the laws Governing the Maine uniform Building and energy Code To Ensure it is Consistent with Current standards and Applies to Small Municipalities**

This Bill would make the MUBEC Statewide as it was when first adopted in 2010 it would still require Towns over 4,000 to enforce the Code , but Towns under 4,000 would have to opt in on enforcement .

Russ asked if there was a requirement for Towns to notify the State if they choose to enforce. At this time there is no requirement.

 Randy Poulton asked who determines the population of a Town it was explained that we use the last census numbers.

Mike Pullen explained that there are sections of the IBC that will need to be addressed in rulemaking pertaining to requirements for inspections.

Jeremy Martin asked if builders needed to go through the same training as Building officials. It led to a discussion on contractor licensing and registrations, it was explained that there is currently no requirement for builders to be licensed or registered.

**LD 1543- An Act To Amend The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**

This Bill would require the Board to create a stretch energy code that Towns could adopt if they choose to. This passed out of committee with an 8-5 vote ought to pass.

Dave Matero asked what the difference between 1543 and 921 were it was explained that 921 that failed to pass out of committee allowed Towns to adopt any code they wanted where 1543 requires the Board to create the code which may be adopted at the local level.

Rich explained that all MUBEC bills went through the Criminal Justice committee this session, this makes it a little easier since that is the committee our office works with on a regular basis.

Russ expressed his support for the stretch energy code thus allowing Towns to adopt more stringent energy requirements. Eric Dube commented that there was never anything stopping someone for building in excess of any code. The discussion continued around the section of the bill that was removed that would have required the Board to adopt the most recent version without rulemaking which removes the Boards ability to amend the code. Russ also commented that the Board will need to activate the TAGS once again.

**Unfinished Business**

There were discussions in reference to rulemaking and accessibility chapters and conflicts, and also issues with a conflict resolution that was passed in July. These discussions were decided to be held over for a later meeting.

**New Business**

Jeremy Martin brought up concerns over TPI’s being allowed to perform inspections for relatives, this will be discussed during the reworking of Chapter 2 rules that cover TPI’s.

Board members discussed the need to activate the TAG”s for many of the new codes and also the need to fill the Training committee that is made up of existing Board members.

**Public Comment**

Bill Nash from ICC explained to the Board that Maine is in a similar position as many other New England States, where there has been a major change in how codes are viewed and most States are updating their codes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich McCarthy, Chair