

IDAHO BUILDING CODE BOARD VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Tuesday – February 8, 2011 – 9:30 a.m. (MT)

Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Meridian, Idaho
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
2055 Garrett Way, Building 2, Suite 7, Pocatello, Idaho

NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

Chairman Ron Whitney called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MT).

Board Members Present:

Ron Whitney, Chairman
Carol Alexander, Vice Chairman
(Teleconference)
Michael Arrington
Chuck Bleth
Jan Welch
Andrew Bick
Mike Tracy
Dan Hunter

DBS Staff Members Present:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Janice Foster, Deputy Administrator, Administration
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General
Kirk Weiskircher, Financial Specialist, Principal
Chris Jensen, Regional Manager, Eastern Idaho
Rod Freligh, Program Supervisor, Region 1
Brad Ziel, Inspector/Advisor
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2/Board Secretary

Board Members Absent:

Bobby Ball
Scott Buck

◆ **Open Forum**

No items or concerns were brought forth.

◆ **Approval of the February 8, 2011 Agenda**

MOTION: Carol Alexander made a motion to approve the amended Agenda as presented. Mike Tracy seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the October 19, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Andrew Bick made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Michael Arrington seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Possible Statutory Change in Building Code Act**

Idaho Code § 39-4115, “Personnel”, states in part, “The division shall employ a bureau chief, who shall in addition to his other duties, function as the executive director of the board ...”

As a cost-saving measure, the Division eliminated the bureau chief and plan examiner positions; merging their duties with other responsibilities within the Agency to create three new program manager positions in the HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical Programs.

The Idaho Building Code Board is the only board in the Division with an executive director in statute. An individual must be an exempt/non-classified employee to serve in that position.

The statutes of the Division's remaining boards basically stipulates the administrator functions as the secretary and is a non-voting member of the Board.

For consistency throughout the Boards, it was recommended the Division maintain the executive director position; however, reference the administrator or his designee as the responsible party.

Ron Whitney encouraged DBS staff to provide to the Board actual statutory change and text for its review prior to the April Board Meeting.

ACTION: Prior to the April 2011 Board Meeting, the Division will provide the statutory change and text to the board members for their review.

◆ **Legislative Issues Update**

Docket # 07-0301-1001 – This temporary rule amends the International Residential Code (IRC) and the IECC relative to log buildings. It has been reviewed and approved by the Senate Commerce and Human Resources and the House Business Committees. It will become permanent and effective on the adjournment of the Legislature.

Docket # 07-0301-1002 – This rule reflects changes in the building permit and plan review fees. It has been reviewed and approved by the Senate Commerce and Human Resources and the House Business Committees. It will become permanent and effective on the adjournment of the Legislature.

◆ **Deputy Administrator Report**

Fees – Steve Keys briefly mentioned the building permit and plan review fees generated by the Division from FY 2010 through January 2011.

Construction – The Meridian School District plans to build a new elementary school. It has selected DBS to provide the plan review functions on the school instead of the local jurisdiction.

Plan Review Program – The Division's Plan Review Program has been restructured. It now has one dedicated employee. The former plumbing, electrical, and mechanical staff have been reassigned responsibilities within the Agency. They will; however, continue to review plans on an as needed basis; allocating their time appropriately.

◆ **Administrator Report**

CAS – When the Customer Access System (CAS) was originally implemented in 2009, the Division anticipated approximately 20% of its permits would be sold online. As of today, 55% of the permits are purchased online.

Website – The Division's new website went "live" in December 2010. One of the main goals for the new website was to guide customers to use the online services. Janice Foster provided a brief overview of the functions.

Electronic Telephone/Fax System – The Division has upgraded its telephone/fax system to an automation call distribution center. The three Division offices are connected to this system and are able to work amongst themselves.

Customer Resource Team (CRT) – In April 2008, the CRT team had 25 full-time and two temporary full-time employees. As of today, there are 15.5 employees, for a reduction of 40%.

Personnel – In 2007, DBS was authorized 152 full-time positions; today there are only 118 employees.

Building Remodel/Rental – The Department of Labor (DOL) will rent from DBS 47% of the Meridian office. Over the next ten years the Division anticipates saving \$1.5 million in rent. Kelly Pearce provided a description of the changes within the building.

Exams – Exams are currently administered through an independent testing institute out of Florida. The Division has received many complaints. The most common is that test information is not provided in the study guides and questions pertain to Florida laws rather than Idaho laws. There has been discussion of setting up an interim exam until DBS staff can go through the full exam development process and create an exam that would be administered internally.

City of Ketchum Contract – The Division has signed a contract with the city of Ketchum to undertake the building official duties. DBS has also regained the HVAC inspection responsibilities, which the city has been doing for the past 18 months.

Arlan Smith with DBS trained Ketchum staff in the extended use of the DOX plan review system, as well as other systems relating to plan reviews.

State of the City Address – Mike Tracy stated that on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, the city of Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd held the State of the City Address. In her speech, the Mayor outlined many of the construction projects currently underway in Meridian.

Poultry Plant – The construction of a poultry plant, to be built inside the city limits of Burley, is expected to begin in the spring of 2011.

AREVA – It is projected construction will commence on the AREVA facility in the spring of 2011. Upon completion of the job, approximately 150 employees will be hired, primarily security guards and technicians, to operate the plant.

Polysilicon Solar Cell Plant – HOKU, the company that plans to build a plant in Pocatello to produce polysilicon solar cells, has received an offer of infusion money from the Chinese government to expand its facilities.

High-Tech Industrial Park – There is speculation the Chinese plan to secure 10,000 to 30,000 acres south of the Boise airport to build a high-tech industrial park. There would be two large commercial and residential areas as part of the complex.

Furloughs vs. Layoffs – Kelly Pearce explained the difference between furloughs and layoffs, and why the Division has chosen layoffs. He also expressed there will be additional layoffs in the near future.

Financial Report – Kirk Weiskircher reviewed the Idaho Building Code Fund Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Statements as of December 31, 2010.

◆ **New Business**

2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – Ron Whitney reiterated that the Board approved the 2009 IECC with the understanding that DBS, OER, and Governor’s office sent a letter to the Department of Energy confirming the state of Idaho would be 90% compliant with the Code within eight years.

The 2009 IECC is currently in place. A task force, funded by OER and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), will provide training throughout the state of Idaho to building officials and contractors on the new code.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – On a trial basis, the Division has purchased several CO2 detectors for HVAC inspectors to use when performing inspections. These small devices can be carried on a person’s body, and are much more sensitive than normal residential detectors currently installed in homes.

April Meeting – The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12th at 9:30 a.m. (MT). Any recommendations for code changes need to be brought to the April meeting for review.

◆ **Executive Session**

An Executive Session was not required.

MOTION: Chuck Bleth made a motion to adjourn. Andrew Bick seconded. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. (MT).

RON WHITNEY, CHAIRMAN
IDAHO BUILDING CODE BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

03/21/11rb