

IDAHO BUILDING CODE BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Tuesday – February 21, 2017 – 9:30 a.m. (MST)

Division of Building Safety  
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian  
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene  
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2017 MEETING

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

Chairman Andrew Bick called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. (MST)

**Board Members Present:**

Andrew Bick, Chairman  
Michael Arrington  
Chuck Bleth, Teleconference  
Jason Blais  
Dennis Schaffner  
Jan Welch, P.E.  
Allen Jensen

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Chris L. Jensen, Administrator  
Patrick Grace, Deputy Attorney General  
Arlan Smith, Building Program Manager  
Larry Jeffres, Regional Manager, Region 1  
Jeff Egan, Regional Manager, Region 3  
Shelly Farris, Regional Supervisor, Region 3  
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Introduction**

Chairman Bick welcomed Chris L. Jensen as the new Administrator of the Division of Building Safety.

◆ **Open Forum**

Tiny Homes – Macy Miller, tiny home homeowner and advocate for tiny homes, distributed a code appendix accepted at the International Code Council (ICC) hearing in December 2016 for adoption into the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC).

Board members not in attendance at the DBS Meridian office, as well as the DBS Pocatello and Coeur d’Alene offices, will receive Mrs. Miller’s documentation.

**ACTION:** The DBS Administrative Assistant will provide copies of the code appendix to board members not present at the DBS Meridian office and the Division’s Pocatello and Coeur d’Alene offices.

Mrs. Miller’s primary concern is for safety to be more effective and incorporated into the building of tiny homes. The current appendix does not address tiny homes on wheels; however, the topic of wheels will be addressed at a future ICC hearing for the 2021 IRC.

The appendix offers several exceptions for homes under 400 square feet, with much of the language borrowed from other sections of the codes.

RS25174 (Senate Bill 1067) – Board Member Blais brought forth RS25174. This proposal would allow jurisdictions, by their choice, to exempt homeowners/builders from purchasing building permits. It would also require an engineer for a structure over 2,500 square feet and a stipulation that owners/builders would not be able to build another home for seven (7) years.

Board Member Schaffner stated the Building Contractors Association has taken the position of opposing the proposal.

Chairman Bick suggested this topic be addressed under the informational agenda for further discussion and possible stance by the Board. The Chairman also suggested a statement be sent to the legislature prior to the voting of the bill.

◆ **Approval of the February 21, 2017 Agenda**

The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.

**MOTION:** Jan Welch made a motion to add the topic RS25174 to the agenda as an informational item because a hearing was established at the legislature this week; however, the Board did not have the opportunity to include the topic on the original agenda. Jason Blais seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

Upon further discussion, it was determined the Board may take action as to whether or not to endorse this issue. Board Member Welch amended her motion.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Jan Welch amended her motion to change the topic RS25174 from an informational item to an action item on the February 21, 2017 agenda because a hearing on the topic was established at the legislature after the original agenda had been created and distributed. Jason Blais seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Bick called for a motion to amend the agenda.

**MOTION:** Allen Jensen made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Jan Welch seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the October 25, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the draft minutes.

**MOTION:** Jason Blais made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Michael Arrington seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **RS25174 (Senate Bill 1067)**

February 21, 2017, was the first the Board and the DBS had “officially” heard of the recently proposed legislation; therefore, the topic was not posted to the agenda prior to the meeting.

Concerns of the Board was: 1) Health and safety standards for the citizens of Idaho, 2) Potential issues for financing and insurance, 3) Potential impact from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with regard to flood plains and loss of federal funding, and 4) Impact on general funds for disaster from FEMA.

A hearing on S1067 will be Thursday, February 23, 2017, 3:00 p.m., at the Capitol Building.

**MOTION:** Michael Arrington made a motion the Board take the position to oppose the potential legislation; passing the thoughts of the Board onto the reviewing committee. Jan Welch seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

Administrator Jensen offered, and Chairman Bick accepted, for the Division to draft a letter for his signature stating the reasons the Board does not endorse S1067. The Chairman asked to review the letter prior to the hearing on February 23, 2017.

Board Member Welch requested the Division notify the Board of the correct time and place of the hearing.

**ACTION:** The DBS Administrative Assistant will provide the Board with the hearing schedule on S1067, as well as prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature opposing the bill.

◆ **Building Code Coalition Resolution**

Board Member Jensen explained his reasons behind the creation of the Building Code Coalition Resolution, included in the Board packet.

As part of the negotiated rulemaking process, the Deputy Attorney General has posted in the March Administrative Bulletin, two public hearings, April 25th and June 27th.

Per discussion, and agreement, at the October 2016 Board meeting, the Administrator has met with IDABO President Jon Laux, as well as has had several meetings with the Idaho Building Contractors Association.

The Administrator offered the Division's facilities; however, stated it is not the function of the DBS to be the facilitator for collaborative meetings.

In the past, Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) Representative Leon Duce was the facilitator. Mr. Duce is no longer with the AIC. Johanna Bell, AIC Policy Analysis, stated they have resources to provide some facilitation toward collaborative efforts, and meeting space at the AIC offices.

On March 1, 2017, 10:00 a.m. (MST), a collaborative meeting will be held via tele/videoconference at the Division's Meridian, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello offices.

◆ **Collaborative Meetings – Update**

The Chairman reiterated the pertinent information on the upcoming collaborative meeting.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Legislation – Both the House and Senate Committees have approved the rules to adopt the 2015 International Building Code and commercial provisions of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The effective date will be January 1, 2018.

Building Code Services – The DBS contracts with certain local governments to provide building code services. Since October 2016, the Division has established contracts with Menan, Ririe, Bellevue and Lava Hot Springs; totaling ten jurisdictions.

Boise State University (BSU) Project – BSU is working on plans for a new fine arts building. The building is 97,000 square feet and estimated to cost \$40 million dollars to build.

Negotiated Rulemaking – The Division has a page solely on the negotiated rulemaking process. Following is a link to notices, instructions and submittal forms for each board, as well as public comments. <https://dbs.idaho.gov/boards/rulemaking.html>.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Financial Report – The Idaho Building Code Fund FY 2017 financial statement, as of January 31, 2017, was addressed.

Reorganization – There has been, and continues to be, reorganization within the DBS to better utilize the talents of the staff.

Plan Reviews – Construction slowed down during the winter months; however, plan reviews were steady. If this is any indication, construction will be booming in Idaho come spring.

Nuclear Fuel Facility – Construction of a new \$1.6 billion facility, to process and store spent nuclear fuel from the nation's nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers, will begin in 2019. The structure will be located on the northeast side of the existing Naval Reactors Facility property east of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

School Bonds – In March, a number of school bonds, across the state, will be up for election. The Boise School District has a \$172.5 million dollar bond that would facilitate improvements for all 48 schools, plus major building projects for 22 schools.

Solar Projects – Construction on some solar farms are just finishing, while others are beginning. With the adverse winter, there have been issues with electrical equipment under water.

Submersible Pumps – The DBS's Electrical Program Manager, Warren Wing, recently sent a notice, via email, to all electrical license holders on the installation of submersible pumps, panels, pivots, etc. As stated under the topic *Solar Projects*, there have been reports of pump panels submerged in water.

Publication – The Division has a proposal from the ICC to publish, online, the IRC. Currently, the DBS is waiting to see if the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will

authorize the funds. The online publication will be read-only; however, hard copies will be available to purchase. The intent is to have amendments (appendixes) in the body of the code, not in the back of the book.

School Safety and Security – Located within the Division is the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security (OSSS). The new program provides security assessments to Idaho schools and serves as a repository of best practices information for public schools. Every three years the OSSS collaborates with the Division’s Industrial Safety program to combine inspections.

Snow Loads – With the recent extreme Idaho winter, the Chairman asked if local jurisdictions have voiced concern to revise snow loads. The DBS has been involved with the Office of Emergency Management to inspect hundreds of facilities. The OSSS sent a winter safety alert to Idaho School Superintendents about snow loads and roof structures. Individuals stated the snow load measurements in their areas did not exceed the minimum requirements.

◆ **Adjournment**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Michael Arrington made a motion to adjourn. Jan Welch seconded. Vote called. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m. (MST)

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ANDREW BICK, CHAIRMAN  
IDAHO BUILDING CODE BOARD

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CHRIS L. JENSEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE

03/13/2017rb

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DATE