

**IDAHO HEATING, VENTILATION AND
AIR CONDITIONING BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday – May 12, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

**Division of Building Safety
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d’Alene
155 North Maple Street, Blackfoot**

MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2021 IDAHO HVAC BOARD MEETING

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

Chairman Ted Sermon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MDT)

Board Members Present:

Ted Sermon, Chairman-Telecon
Bill Carter, Vice-Chairman
Judy Van Cleave
Garret Christoffersen
Randy Hart
Mike LaPray
Mark Ferm

DBS Staff Members Present:

Ron Whitney, Administrator
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General-Telecon
Michael Hyde, HVAC Program Manager
Adam Bowcutt, Regional Manager, Region 3
Josh Nyman, Regional Supervisor, Region 3
Mike Paschall, Regional Supervisor, Region 1
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

◆ **Open Forum**

There were no new issues to address under open forum.

◆ **Approval of the May 12, 2021 Agenda, February 24, 2021 (Special) and March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Judy Van Cleave made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and minutes as written. Mark Ferm seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **New HVAC Apprenticeship Program: Charter College**

With no representation for Charter College, the Chairman moved the topic to the November 2021 Board meeting.

ACTION: The topic *New HVAC Apprenticeship Program: Charter College* will be added as an action item to the November 2021 Board meeting agenda.

◆ **New HVAC Apprenticeship Program: Porter House, Inc.**

Shelley Adult Training Academy (SATA), operated by Porter House, Inc., was recently approved by the Idaho Electrical and Plumbing Boards, established by the Idaho Career and Technical Education, registered as a proprietary school with the State Board of Education, and fully registered with the Department of Labor as a federal apprenticeship program. Having reviewed the program, HVAC Program Manager Michael Hyde requested Idaho statutes and rules pertaining to HVAC be incorporated into the curriculum. Janal

Reimold, Porterhouse, Inc., agreed to include state standards in the HVAC Code section. Additionally, SATA requires 160 hours per school year, compared to 144 hours per year by other colleges, and a passing grade of 80 percent or better.

MOTION: Bill Carter made a motion to approve Porter House’s request for approval of their apprenticeship program. Randy Hart seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Out-of-State Modular Buildings Manufacturers and HVAC Licenses**

In April 2021, Chairman Ted Sermon met with the Chairpersons of the Idaho Building Code, Idaho Electrical, Factory Built Structures Advisory (FBSA) and Idaho Plumbing Boards to discuss the requirements of modular units being built/assembled in manufacturing plants and shipped to other states. The State of Idaho requires licensed tradesmen to perform the work and be inspected by certified inspectors of the same trades; however, other states do not. Units coming into Idaho are inspected; however, it still causes an uneven playing field and burden to Idaho contractors. Anyone with ideas to rectify this situation is encouraged to contact HVAC Board Chairman Sermon or FBSA Board Chairman Markus Alley.

◆ **Definition of Conditioned Space: IECC**

Chairman Sermon has discussed with Idaho Building Code Board Chairman Andrew Bick the issue of installing unit heaters in garages and whether garages are considered “conditioned space.” This topic has also been addressed at several Idaho Building Code Board meetings this year. Energy Circuit Rider Dave Freelove provided draft amendments to Sections R402.1, R403.6.1 and R503.2 of the 2018 Idaho Energy Conservation Code and IDAPA 24.39.30 (j); defining “conditioned space” to meet energy code safety standards. The primary concern is safety; therefore, the installation of heaters should be permitted and inspected to ensure they are operating correctly. Upon adjournment of the 2021 legislature, both chairmen and DBS staff would like to meet with the Governor and/or his staff to define spaces that do not fall under “conditioned spaces”. Currently, there are jurisdictions wanting heating units in garages to meet the energy code safety standards but once a garage door has been opened it’s no longer considered a conditioned space and would be extremely difficult to try to adhere to the energy codes.

Suggestions were: 1) “Habitable space” in the building code. (It’s a little clearer and can be a very simple exception, as garages are considered habitable space), 2) Semi-heat--ASHRAE, referenced in the energy code. (Semi-heat lowers the R value requirements, as well the allowable heating requirements), and 3) Maximum BTU per square foot. The Chairman asked Board Member Garret Christoffersen to provide him with the definition of “Habitable Space”.

Board Member Mark Ferm stated the code specifically states any room “conditioned” needs to be in compliance with the energy code. The code allows for heating outside areas; however, it has to be on a timer.

HVAC Program Manager Hyde agreed “habitable” would be a new approach as it does provide a definition for eating, sleeping, living quarters, etc., whereas, the definition of “conditioned space” is any space that is indirectly or directly heated or cooled within the

building envelope. To use “conditioned space”, the garage door would have to pass a blower door test.

◆ **Apprentice CEU Update**

Provided in the packet was a list of apprentices whose registration expires throughout the remainder of this calendar year. The HVAC Program Manager has been working with three national CEU providers; however, has not received their courses for approval. With only six CEU courses available, apprentices who are not currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program, and whose registrations expire by December 31, 2021, will be able to renew without the required CEUs. At the Board’s November meeting, HVAC Program Manager Hyde will provide an update on the number of online courses available.

◆ **Program Manager Report**

Permit Activity – By the end of FY 2021, close to 8,000 permits will have been issued by DBS. Through all of the Division’s trades, the first four months of 2021, compared to the same time in 2020, permit activity is up 19 percent.

NOV Activity Report – From March 11, 2021 through April 30, 2021, there were 104 violations; 80 of them warnings to contractors for failure to permit, pay fee or request an inspection.

Compliance – The Compliance Program has picked up significantly with \$4,300 in civil penalty fines being issued. When asked, compliance questions/issues should be directed to the HVAC Program Manager.

Budget – Each year DBS requests additional full-time employees when submitting the budget to the Division of Financial Management. When looking at the financial report, permits (87%) and licensing (12%) make up the majority of HVAC’s revenue.

Journeyman First Exam Attempts Report – Currently, first time journeymen can take the journeyman exam on either the 2012 or 2018 Mechanical Codes.

◆ **Administrator Report**

Legislative Update – The legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 111, which allowed the Senate and House to go into recess for a week. The Governor had five days to veto any legislation submitted by the legislative body. Upon reconvening, legislators will have an opportunity to override any vetoed bills.

The Senate passed SCR 108; reauthorizing the fee rules with the following exceptions: 1) Contractor registration, 2) Electrical journeyman to apprentice ratio and supervision, and 3) Agricultural. Upon resuming the session, the House will need to approve the SCR for it to become effective.

Senate Bills 1024 and 1026 (effective July 1st), and 1056 (effective April 14th) were signed into law. DBS is officially under the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL).

House Bill 346 relates to DOPL’s funding for fiscal year 2022. There is one appropriation for the Division; however, each board has its own account detail. Legislative appropriations shall not be transferred from one fund to another fund unless expressly approved by the legislature.

Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2021 ends June 30th. Projected revenue, through March 2021, is 111 percent of what was budgeted, and 90 percent for expenditures.

Database – DBS is having issues with its current database, TRAK-iT. DOPL has hired a full-time Project Manager and Business Analysis to begin the “Request for Proposal” process for a new licensing software.

◆ **New HVAC Apprenticeship Program: Charter College (Cont’d)**

On teleconference, Shane Reeder, representative for Charter College, apologized for being late and requested to address this topic. Chairman Sermon stated Charter College’s topic will be heard at the Board’s November 2021 meeting and to contact the HVAC Program Manager to ensure the Board has everything it needs to review.

◆ **Adjournment**

With no further questions or comments, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Judy Van Cleave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Carter seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. (MDT).

TED SERMON, CHAIRMAN
HEATING, VENTILATION AND
AIR CONDITIONING BOARD

RON WHITNEY, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE

08/03/2021rb