

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Codes and Standards Subcommittee

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

A regular meeting of the Codes and Standards Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Mr. Robert Dawson served as Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Robby Dawson – Chair- Chesterfield Fire & EMS

Ed Altizer – VFSB – Virginia State Fire Marshal

David Thomas

Elaine Gall – VFSB – Committee on Fire Prevention and Control Chair

Charles Gregory

Gary Huffman

Maurice Wilson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Bobby Bailey – VFMA Chief

Steve Sites

Dave Diamantes

M. Anthony Barrero, Jr

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Brook Pittinger

Billy Shelton

Matthew Smith

Russ Chandler

Ron Reynolds

GUESTS PRESENT

Andrew Milliken

Jim Istvan

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Potential International Building Code changes related to Health Care Facilities
- B. Proposed Group I-1 Code Change
- C. Interpretation of Kongming or sky lantern from the State Building Code Technical Review Board

- D. Proposed Changes to NFPA 72 regarding fire alarm false alarms
- E. Future Codes and Standards Subcommittee Meetings
- F. Codes and Standards Subcommittee Composition
- G. Draft VFSB/BHCD MOA for the SFPC Development Cycle

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Robbie Dawson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and helping Virginia's fire service through the codes development process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Potential International Building Code changes related to Health Care Facilities, Enclosure 1

Motion: NA

Discussion: Charles Altizer provided three enclosures on suggested changes to the International Building Code related to Health Care Facilities, which would then be incorporated into the International Fire Code.

The Subcommittee discussed the suggested changes and the need to conduct scientific experiments to test the theories behind the suggested changes. Otherwise, changes will be made without technical justification.

Charles Altizer commented that with many of the suggested changes, he has recommended that they reference Virginia's codes, where safety measures have been tested and verified.

David Thomas commented that there were a series of experiments conducted in San Diego Veterans Affairs Hospitals, that might be beneficial for the discussion of these suggested code changes. Reference: NIST Report NBSIR 85-3297, http://www.nist.gov/customcf/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=101709

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Proposed Group I-1 Code Change, Enclosure 2 and 3

Motion: NA

Discussion: Charles Altizer provided information on care facility changes related to Group I-1. The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed changes; see **Enclosure 2 and 3**.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Interpretation of Kongming or sky lantern from the State Building Code Technical Review Board, Enclosure 4

Motion: NA

Discussion: Robby Dawson discussed the interpretation on Kongming or sky lanterns as a “recreational fire” and is considered unattended once released; see **Enclosure 4**.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Proposed Changes to NFPA 72 regarding fire alarm false alarms, Enclosure 5 and 6

Motion: NA

Discussion: Charles Altizer provided information on proposed changes from the Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee, **Enclosure 5**, and International Association of Fire Chiefs, **Enclosure 6**, to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 72 regarding fire alarm systems.

At this time, there Agency and the Department of Professional Occupational Regulations are discuss the ability to require training and/or certification for fire alarm maintenance company personnel

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Pyrotechnicians Certification

Motion: NA

Discussion: Charles Altizer provided an update on the Pyrotechnicians Certification process's progress. So far, 115 have passed the test. Information on the Pyrotechnicians Certification information is listed on the Agency website, http://www.vafire.com/state_fire_marshall/fireworks.htm.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Future Codes and Standards Subcommittee Meetings

Motion: NA

Discussion: The Subcommittee discussed the ICC code cycle at the federal level and Virginia's code cycle. The Subcommittee set its meetings for 2012 as follows:

- Wednesday, January 18, 2011 starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 18, 2011 starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 18, 2011 starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 17, 2011 starting at 10:00 a.m.

The Subcommittee discussed the impact of adopting the 2012 edition of the ICC Codes. Members are going to review the 2012 editions for any significant changes that may need to be addressed in Virginia and evaluate the cost to localities associated with the transition to the new codes. The Subcommittee will discuss national steps and options at the January meeting.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Codes and Standards Subcommittee Composition

Motion: NA

Discussion: The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of dividing into workgroups to review and focus on specific portions of the Code update process, i.e. Fireworks, Group I use, etc. The Subcommittee welcomed Andrew Milliken and Jim Istvan to the group. Robby Dawson noted that their addition to the Subcommittee is pending the approval by the Virginia Fire Services Board Chairman, and requested information from the Subcommittee members on other interested persons and parties for the Subcommittee.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Draft VFSB/BHCD MOA for the SFPC Development Cycle

Motion: NA

Discussion: Brook Pittinger commented that the Memoranda of Agreement was updated with the Agency's Legal Counsel. The Subcommittee discussed the Memoranda of Agreement; specifically, how and when the Ad Hoc Committee process and the Public Hearings process will be conducted. Robbie Dawson commented that he has discussed with the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development that the Public Hearings should mirror the ICC Public Hearing process; however, he is unsure how the process will occur. Elaine Gall commented that she would take the Legal Counsel changes and message of the Subcommittee with the Memoranda of Agreement to the Board for approval.

Vote: NA

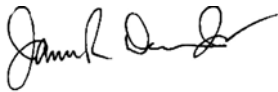
Action: NA

ADJOURNMENT

The Subcommittee adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:



J. Robbie Dawson, Committee Chair

September 29, 2011

Date

Enclosures:

- 1) ICC Ad hoc Committee on Health Care (AHC) Proposed Code Changes
- 2) Care Facilities Spectrum
- 3) Group I-1 Proposed Code Changes
- 4) Interpretation on Kongming or Sky Lanterns
- 5) Southern Regional Fire Code Development Committee's Proposed Changes to NFPA 72
- 6) International Association of Fire Chiefs' Proposed Changes to NFPA 72