

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Codes and Standards Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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

Charles Altizer – VFSB – Virginia State Fire Marshal

George Hollingsworth

Charles Gregory

Gary Huffman

Andrew Milliken

Chris Slemp

Jim Istvan

Maurice Wilson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

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

David Thomas

Steve Sites

Dave Diamantes

M. Anthony Barrero, Jr

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Smith

Glenn Dean

Ron Reynolds

GUESTS PRESENT

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Draft VFSB/BHCD MOA for the SFPC Development Cycle
- B. Identified 2012 Building and Fire Code Changes
 - i. Fraudulent submission of testing/inspection documents
 - ii. Removal of building placards
 - iii. Churches
- C. ICC Health Care Facility Update

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review of Department of Housing and Community Development Summary Document

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Robby Dawson thanked everyone for attending as Virginia begins the 2012 Building and Fire Code adoption cycle.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Motion: NA

Discussion: Robby Dawson commented that he had discussed these items with the Board at the October and December Board meetings. Further, he commented that the Office of the Attorney General is still reviewing the Memorandum and Joint Procedures. Therefore, this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Identified 2012 Building and Fire Code Changes, **Enclosure 1 and 2**

Motion: NA

Discussion: The Subcommittee discussed the 2012 International Building and Fire Codes, and the 2012 Energy Conservation Code. The Subcommittee noted that the Commonwealth of Virginia has received funding in the past from the federal government that had stipulations attached concerning energy conservation goals; therefore, the adoption of the Energy Conservation Code will be required. However, states have until 2016 to adopt the Energy Conservation Code. Glenn Dean questioned whether the 2012 Energy Conservation Code could be adopted as a standalone code, thus leaving the 2009 Uniform Statewide Building Code and Statewide Fire Prevention Code for Virginia in place. Based on consensus, the Subcommittee felt that Virginia's 2009 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) should be kept as is, because Virginia has already incorporated many of the changes made in the 2012 International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC). Further, the

Subcommittee members felt that keeping the USBC and SFPC would be fiscally responsible, saving Virginia's localities and state agencies on training and the purchase of new code manuals.

Fraudulent submission of testing/inspection documents, Enclosure 1

Robby Dawson provided the Subcommittee with a proposed code change, Enclosure 1, regarding the falsification of records pursuant to Section 901.6 of the SFPC to enhance criminal prosecution of persons, firms, corporations or associations that are falsifying inspection tests and maintenance records. The Subcommittee discussed that SFPC 901.6, NFPA 17 and 25 provide guidelines for the documentation related to the fire suppression system testing and inspection; however, there is little standardization between the documentation submitted by companies. Charles Altizer commented that the State is looking at this issue from multiple avenues. A fire code change alone would not give the locality the full authority, because the Code of Virginia has to grant them the authority.

No action was taken on the proposed code change, as the State continues to look into this issue. Based on Subcommittee consensus, Chris Slemp will review the SFPC to see if this language proposal would be applicable and necessary for other sections of the code.

Removal of building placards

The Subcommittee discussed Chapter 3 of the SPFC in regards to building placard placement. While the Chapter stipulates the placement of the placard, there is nothing regarding the removal of the placard. George Hollingsworth commented that there is a similar issue with assemblies, which requires permits, but provides no recourse for instances where permits for assemblies are not obtained. Robby Dawson commented that he would draft a code change to help clear up the violation and present it at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Churches, Enclosure 2

Robby Dawson provided the Subcommittee with a proposed code change, Enclosure 2, narrowing the fire sprinkler exception received by churches to only those areas "used exclusively for worship services." The Subcommittee discussed several examples of church worship areas that are also used as gyms, day care facilities and auditoriums, and the need for increased fire protection for multi-use spaces.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: ICC Health Care Facility Update, Enclosure 3, 4, 5, and 6

Motion: NA

Discussion: Charles Altizer distributed and briefly discussed with the Subcommittee several code changes before the International Code Council (ICC) regarding the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Fire Code (IFC) as they relate to health care facilities. **Enclosure 3** pertains to IBC code change proposals on means of egress and locking mechanisms. **Enclosure 4** pertains to IBC code change proposals on care suite sizes and smoke compartments. **Enclosure 5** pertains to draft IFC changes that could also show up in the IBC. The Subcommittee elected to have Charles Gregory delve further into these changes and provide feedback to the Subcommittee at the next meeting.

Charles Altizer distributed the minutes from the December 2011 Code Technology Committee (CTC) meeting and discussed with the Subcommittee, **Enclosure 6**. Charles Altizer cautioned the Subcommittee members to be aware of the changes to the International Building Code (IBC) because if they go into the IBC, then there will be an increased effort for their inclusion in the International Fire Code (IFC).

Vote: NA

Action: NA

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Review of Department of Housing and Community Development Summary Document

Motion: NA

Discussion: Robby Dawson commented that the Summary Document has changed several times and may change again. Therefore, this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: 2012 Virginia General Assembly Bills

Motion: NA

Discussion: Robby Dawson reminded the Subcommittee members that they cannot take official positions on legislation as a Subcommittee, as their positions are that of the administration. Further, Robby highlighted two House Bills to make the Subcommittee members aware of them. Those bills were HB152 (Del. Bell) – Statewide Fire Prevention Code insurance requirements for certain fireworks shows, and HB1111 (Del. Greason) – Fees for enforcement and appeals under Statewide Fire Prevention Code and Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

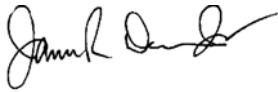
Robby Dawson reminded the Subcommittee members that the next meeting will be on April 18, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

The Subcommittee adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:



J. Robbie Dawson, Committee Chair

January 27, 2012

Date

Enclosures:

- 1) Code Change Form – Falsification of Records
- 2) Code Change Form – Used exclusively for Worship Services
- 3) IBC Code Changes regarding Egress and Locking Mechanisms
- 4) IBC Code Changes regarding Health Care Facility Care Suites and Smoke Compartments
- 5) IFC Draft Code Change regarding Means of Egress
- 6) ICC Code Technology Committee – December 2011 Meeting Minutes