

**VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD**

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Fire Prevention & Control Committee  
Thursday, September 23rd, 2021  
Virginia Beach Convention Center  
Meeting Room 2 AB  
10:00am-10:50am

A regular meeting of the Fire Prevention & Control Committee was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in conjunction with the First Responders Conference at 10:00am. Ernie Little facilitated this meeting with a quorum present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ernie Little  
Keith Johnson  
Scott Garber  
Dennis Linaburg  
Steven Sites

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Abbey Johnston

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rick Gregory  
Robert Farrell

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Greg Hunter- Fairfax County

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Travis Rickman	Brook Pittinger
William Mackay	Jared Goff
Theresa Hunter	

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### **CHANGES IN THE AGENDA**

No Changes were given and the committee unanimously moved forward with the agenda as written.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were given

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

No Changes to the previous meeting minutes member Dennis Linaburg moved to approve the previous minutes with a second from Steven Sites and the previous minutes were approved.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

The Chair discussed that he had spoken with Travis Rickman about the MOA that was passed at the board's last meeting. Travis Rickman gave an update that he sent the past MOA and accompanying documentation over to the Department of Housing and Community Development. We are now in the process of putting together a meeting with VDFP and DHCD to discuss how edits will be received and sent between the two boards. The Chair Ernie Little spoke to the importance of the MOA.

Keith Johnson in conjunction with Jared Goff gave an update on the last Board of Housing and Community Development Meeting. Jared gave an update at the last meeting on the 1031 rework. He stated that the overhaul has been a team effort within the VFMA. He stated that he looks forward to enhancing the training component. The Chair stated that he was really happy that both DHCD and VDFP are working together to help find solutions and hope that the relationship will continue to grow and move forward to aid in the code process.

Steven Sites asked a question regarding the certification of 1031. Brook Pittinger answered the questions stated that we changed the process into a policy to make the process easier to make changes to the program by passing the Regulatory Process.

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Topic: BHCD/VFSB Memorandum of Agreement Update**

**Topic Discussion:** The Chair gave an update on this matter in his report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Keith Johnson gave a report on the last Board of Housing and Community Development meeting. He asked that the board clerk send out a presentation from Cindy Davis which contains a presentation she made regarding the code update process. The process improvements for the code process are currently under review. In 2018 there were 323 Code proposal changes submitted. Over the last few years the amount has drastically increased not only just in the amount of code proposals but also the word counts of those proposals. Keith stated that the BHCD members receive a board packet that can be hundreds of pages thick and that the members cannot handle the amount and is why DHCD is reassessing the current code cycle process. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> DHCD had 53 participants in discussion of the code cycle update changes. One of the biggest areas of contingent is the consensus/ non consensus delineation. The Technical Advisory Committee was not supported by the members of the BHCD because they believed it would muddy the process. Look for more code cycle changes in the near future. NOIRAS will be published for the next code cycle soon and the code cycle calendar will be published. Additionally BHCD is looking at a process for subject matter experts to give comments and commentary on proposals for member's consideration. Steven Sites stated that he believed it was very important the VFSB play a part in the process. Dennis Linaburg took the time to thank and Highlight Keith Johnson for all that he does as the representative on the Board of Housing and Community Development for the fire service and fire prevention community and the Virginia Fire Services Board.

The Chair did highlight that he would like to take a look at the Fire Prevention and Control Plan at the next meeting. Scott Garber would like the committee to look at VFIRS reporting and increasing those participants for fire prevention efforts. Brook Pittinger stated that the agency has seen a decline in VFIRS reporting but the board will be voting on the VFIRS grant at the next meeting which could be included in the plan for the future to help departments purchase reporting devices. About 20% of departments in the state do not report into VFIRS. Some states do require VFIRS data reporting along with their ATL funds. The Chair stated that one big piece of VFIRS reporting is the training on reporting into the system.

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Steven Sites asked if there was any movement amongst stakeholders to move the Statewide Fire Prevention Code from the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Ernie Little talked about the current process and that it was important that the codes all correlate together. The clerk stated that was the reason for moving forward with the MOA with the Board of Housing and Community Development.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee had a motion to adjourn by Scott Garber which was seconded by Steven Sites the committee adjourned at 10:30am.

Clerk of the Committee

Travis Rickman

**REVIEWED BY:**

Brook Pittinger