



Virginia Fire Prevention Association

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2022

1. Meeting Opening:

- a. Call to order 1805
- b. Roll call

Ernie Little, Jeremy Luttrell, Gerry Maiatico, Mike Armstrong, Shawn Maddox, Jimmy Csizmadia, Steve Phillips, Robert Paxton, Matt O'Daniel, Mike Yingling, Jonathon Bowden, Austin Cucciardo, Todd Bedwell, Glenn Dean

2. Committee and Other Reports:

- a. Fall Conference Report: We are in the black 60 people registered
- b. Finance and Audit: Audit completed last year all good, we have 41013.84 in the general account
- c. Code Review and Legislative: Gerry updated the board of the happenings on Oct 3 at DHCD code hearings see attached report from Chief Johnson. Shawn updated the board on the Agra Tourism Legislation.
- d. Meritorious Award
- e. Grants/Funding: Will apply for the training grant from VDFP
- f. Technology: We have enough A/V equipment to set up 2 classrooms
- g. Trust Agreement: Will be updating language to satisfy insurance requirements.
- h. Training Conference/Special Events Spring conference is May 21-24 Hotel will offer our rate from Friday the 19th before to the Friday the 26th after
- i. Merchandise: working on solutions for online sales
- j. Nominating Committee: Ernie will be the Chair and should be reaching out in the spring
- k. Events/Special Functions: We will be setting up a table at the Virginia Fire Chief's Conference at the beach in February 20-25 please watch for info to sign up to work the table.
- l. Howard Summers Scholarship: We will be working on application process and criteria to be sent out prior to the spring conference.



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3. Old Business:

a. None

4. New Business: Long discussion on the 1031 update/ curriculum

a. VFMA 1031 Curriculum Update

5. Adjournment: 1810



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From: "Johnson, Keith" <Keith.Johnson@loudoun.gov>

Date: October 8, 2022 at 08:42:13 EDT

Subject: Board of Housing and Community Development Meeting UPDATE - 2021 Code Development Proposals

Good morning Virginia Fire Services Board Members,

On Monday, October 3, 2022, the Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) held its board meeting to include members of the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB). This meeting was to consider the 2021 code proposals for the Uniform Statewide Building Code, Statewide Fire Prevention Code, Virginia Amusement Device Regulations, and the Industrialized Building Safety Regulations.

The meeting began at 9:00 am at the Virginia Housing Center in Glen Allen. The full board convened to hear public comment followed by the joint VFSB/BHCD Statewide Fire Prevention Code Development Committee, the BHCD Codes and Standards Committee, and a reconvening of the full board to address the rest of the agenda. While there were only two non-consensus items for the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, there were several significant items which were associated with the Virginia Construction Code, Virginia Residential Code and Virginia Existing Building Code.

Typically, code proposals brought before the Board of Housing fall into one of three categories.

- Code proposals recommended by Workgroups as Consensus for Approval
- Code proposals recommended by Workgroups as Consensus for Disapproval
- Code proposals recommended by Workgroups as non-Consensus

1. Regarding the numerous code proposals recommended by workgroups as consensus for approval, one specific item was removed from the consensus list as motioned by BHCD board member Sean Farrell and voted upon individually. This item included:

FP107.11-21 which sought increases in existing State Fire Marshal Office fees for permits and inspections and adds requirements for new operational permits for certain hazardous operations in localities where SFMO acts as fire official. After a lengthy debate and my strong opposition, this consensus item was reversed and ultimately disapproved by the board.



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2. Regarding code proposals recommended by workgroups as consensus for disapproval, each of these items were voted for disapproval by the board.

3. Regarding code proposals recommended by workgroups as non-consensus, this is where much of the discussion centered.

Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFBC):

FP906.1-21 was disapproved which would delete the existing Virginia amendment which exempts groups A, B and E occupancies from the requirements to provide portable fire extinguishers, if the buildings are equipped throughout with quick response sprinklers (SFPC Portion of Proposal Only) The VFSB recommended approval of this change.

B1010.2.8-21 was approved which intends to comply with SB 333 and HB 670 by adding "public buildings" to the list of uses/occupancies already allowed to be provided with ESH. The proposal was generated as a result of discussions during the Active Shooter and Hostile Threats in Public Buildings. The VFSB recommended approval of this change

Uniformed Statewide Building Code (USBC):

In a surprising motion, BHCD board member and VFSB representative Claudia Cotton made a motion to disapprove all 33 code proposals that exceed the 2021 Model Codes (International Codes) and the 16 code proposals that exceed the existing 2018 Virginia Regulations (Virginia Amendments). This motion would basically remove all 49 code proposals from board discussion/consideration and disapprove them in a block. I immediately voiced extreme opposition to this motion, which in my time on the Board of Housing, this motion was unprecedented. After much discussion and opposition from other board members, the motion carried by a majority of the board, and these 49 code proposals received no consideration, no dialogue among board members, and ultimately were approved for disapproval.

Many of these 49 code proposals were extremely important to the fire service. Some examples include:

Restores International Residential Code (IRC) requirements for providing fire protection of engineered wood floors.



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Requires fire sprinklers in all townhouses and a secondary proposal for fire sprinklers in townhouses with more than 3 units.

Adding the requirement of CO alarms in each room where "combustion occurs". It also adds a requirement for gas detectors and alarms to be provided in each room where "combustion occurs".

Adding new requirements for existing energy storage systems to the VEBC

Moves 2021 International Fire Code (IFC) requirements for electrical vehicle charging stations to the body of the Virginia Construction Code.

Changes responsibility of providing in-building communication systems from the locality to the building owner.

Requirements when retrofitting energy storage systems.

Removes the requirements for habitable attics from the definition and places them in the body of the code.

Deletes exception that allowed removal of fire extinguishers if the building is protected with fire sprinklers.

There were only 7 non-consensus items that were discussed among the board which included:

B1006.3.4-21 which would have allowed for a single stairwell in R-2 occupancies that are four or five stories tall. This was strongly opposed by me and the VFSB. This was disapproved and recommended to be sent to a DHCD study group.

B1010.2.8-21 was approved which intends to comply with SB 333 and HB 670 by adding "public buildings" to the list of uses/occupancies already allowed to be provided with ESH. The proposal was generated as a result of discussions during the Active Shooter and Hostile Threats in Public Buildings. The VFSB recommended approval of this change

In conclusion, this 2021 Code Change final approval meeting was extremely disappointing as the voices of Virginia's Fire Service was silenced. By recommending and approving the non-consensus items in a block, the fire service views was not able to be discussed at the board level. Remember that in Virginia, only one person needs to object for an item to be considered



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non-consensus, it is NOT a majority vote. We will seek to discuss future legislative options that will ensure Virginia's Fire Service is not only heard, but that FIRE and LIFE SAFETY is once again a priority in Virginia's Codes and Standards.

If you have any additional questions, please contact VFCA Immediate Past President and Chair of the VFSB Keith Johnson at keith.johnson@loudoun.gov or at 571-465-0119. Thank you.

Keith

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