

**Construction Codes Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2009**

Members Present:

Mark Brunner
Bob Dahm
Gerhard Guth
Bruce Hutchins
James Zyduck for Robert Jewell
John Schultz for Tom Joachim
Kenneth Kammerer
Dan McConnell
Kathleen Ostrom
Luke Stemmer
Larry Stevens
Kent Warden
Kevin White

Members Absent:

Thomas Downs
Robert Jewell
Tom Joachim
Pete Nelson
Tom Seanger
Mike Stillman

Staff Present:

Julie Klejewski

Visitors:

Bill Heaney
Bob Heise
Hue Nguyen
Pete Parris
Gary Thaden

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Schultz at 1:05 p.m. Announcements were made and administrative information was given.

2. Introduction of CCAC Members

Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared. The members of the audience announced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

Brunner made a motion, seconded by Stemmer, to approve the meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Dahm made a motion, seconded by Kammerer, to approve the June 18, 2009 Minutes. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. Reports on Committees

A. Homeowner Warranty Review Committee

- Ostrom reported the group has met twice to date. This group's mandate is to look at prelitigation process, and after discussion, it was determined the existing process takes too long, is too expensive and there is nothing preventing something from happening

again. The 2nd meeting mainly focused on reviewing Representative Obermueller's warranty bill that was brought forward last year (the bill didn't get out of committee). Going forward, the group will look at some existing rules that are in the legal process dealing with prelitigation - #1 being the condemnation proceedings. Their next meeting is scheduled for Oct 14, 2009.

B. Misclassification of Workers Task Force

- Ostrom reported this group met for the first time Sept 16th which was mainly an introduction meeting - there was a report from the Dept of DEED, Commerce and DLI as to the kinds of information they are getting and audits they are performing and the status. They discussed the transfer of knowledge and information between the three agencies. Going forward they will be looking at the barriers of transferring this information, and will be getting some information from Acting Deputy Commissioner Cindy Valentine as to the mandate of this group. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2009.

C. Elevator Annual Inspection Committee

- Schultz reported on the two elevator advisory committees; one relates to elevators in churches and the other relates to elevators/manlifts in grain elevators and feed mills. Both groups had their first meeting on Sept 10th which focused on identifying concerns of the interested parties and ultimately at a future meeting(s) to be able to move forward with a consensus as to what action should be taken. One of the main concerns raised was costs of maintaining their equipment that they would be forced to do because of the annual operating permit and the inspection which would be the result of that. Both groups are scheduled to meet again on October 8, 2009.

6. New Business

A. CCLD Layoffs

- i. Schultz reported that within the past 1-1/2 months due to funding issues, CCLD has had to lay off 4 clerical and 7 technical staff across the different disciplines, in effect, reduced the employed staff by 10% - the vacant executive director position has also been eliminated. Schultz explained the annual transfer of \$1.5 million from the CCLD to the state's general fund, which is in statute.

B. Rules Update

- i. MN Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes, Minn. Rule Chapter 1346 - currently planned to be adopted and go in effect October 26, 2009, - to also coincide with the October 26, 2009, adoption and effective date of Minn. Rule 4715, the State Plumbing Code.
- ii. Minn. Rule Chapter 3800, Electrical Rules - are currently on track to go into effect October 19, 2009. They primarily deal with licensing rules and continuing education rules. Thaden asked that since the department does not have the ability to have classes on the two code changes, will a complete copy of the new code be available for others to use to teach people what will be going into effect on Oct. 26th? Schultz stated he would research that and get back to him.

C. Housing/Property Maintenance Ad-Hoc Committee

- i. The first meeting of this group is scheduled to meet on October 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The department is still in the process of gathering interested parties to sit on the committee.

D. Fee Restructure

- i. Part of the 2005 reorganization order is to restructure both the licensing fees and terms of the different licenses. There are approximately 110,000 licenses issued by the division – including personal, business and also registration in some cases. The intent is to get as many as possible on a two-year term. The model currently being proposed would establish four different categories/types from a fee perspective: an entry level, journeyman level, master level, and a business level. The proposal is to be revenue neutral as possible.

7. Unfinished Business

None

8. Open Forum

None

9. Council Member Discussion

Brunner asked about a department housekeeping bill. Schultz stated there has been a lot of discussion and are still identifying what areas or items will be included – the deadline for the dept is mid-Nov.

Warden inquired regarding the upcoming deadline (that was adopted in rules) for the required retrofit upgrades to elevators, whether it could be extended because of owner financial difficulties especially due to the state of the economy. Is there a way to get more consistency - could the department give some consideration. Schultz stated the department does recognize there is an issue – the two elevator committees have had some discussion on this topic.

10. Announcements

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

- i. Thursday, September 17, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- ii. Thursday, December 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI
- iii. Thursday, March 18, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI

11. Adjournment

Dahm made a motion, seconded by Stevens, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Klejewski

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