

Mechanical Board of Appeals
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2015

Board Members Present:

Dave Huston, Chairman
Bret Brecke
Brian Joyner
Russ Allen

Board Members Absent:

Also Present:

Randy Croft, Chief Mechanical Inspector
Duncan McCallum, Plans Examination Coordinator
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary

Chairman Dave Huston brought the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Minutes from the March 27, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Russ Allen made a motion to accept the minutes; Bret Brecke seconded. All in favor; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Discussion began regarding the changes to the 2015 International Mechanical Code with regards to the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code. The Joint Board of Appeals Meeting between the Mechanical Board of Appeals and the Plumbing Board of Appeals will be held on April 23, 2015, at 1:00pm in the City Services Center. Bret Brecke requested clarification as to who will be running that meeting as there will be two Board Chairpersons at this meeting. Duncan McCallum requested the Board Chairpersons work together to mutually run this meeting since this will not be an official Board of Appeals meeting but rather a discussion session; each Board would meet separately at a later date to vote on the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code.

The reference to the Fuel Gas Code will not be pulled out of the 2015 International Mechanical Code because the 2015 International Fire Code references the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code 27 times; in turn, the 2015 International Building Code references the 2015 International Fire Code. Each I-Code works hand in hand. In addition, the International Building Code and the International Residential Code each reference the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code. The change will be in the 2015 Plumbing Code. They will either accept the Fuel Gas Code as part of their Plumbing Code or not, and if they don't it will be status quo. The State of Iowa references NFPA 54 with regards to the Plumbing Code. A clear path needs to be created for the inspectors; this also allows for better customer service. Chapter 12 is the Fuel Gas Code in the Uniform Plumbing Code; it is not a stand-alone Code like the Fuel Gas Code. A stand-alone Fuel Gas Code addresses materials, venting chimneys, specific appliances, items a chapter out of the Plumbing Code wouldn't. To not adopt the Fuel Gas Code would be a mistake; it has to be a stand-alone Fuel Gas Code. This is the route the Code books are heading towards. Bret Brecke asked if there have been any discussions with the Plumbing Board of Appeals to move away from the UPC; Duncan stated no discussions have been held but there are more factors involved in this decision (external groups, etc.) and probably won't happen at this time. Duncan did re-iterate that we are moving towards a more Metro Code and might visit this issue in the future. The Fuel Gas Code would be a good direction to go to with the Plumbing Board of Appeals and appreciates the Mechanical Board of Appeals assistance with this discussion. From a trades standpoint, a lot of the outfits perform both

Plumbing and Mechanical work and to have one Code would make more sense for everyone. The idea being presented tomorrow is that Chapter 12 in the Uniform Plumbing Code will be removed and replaced with the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code. Bret Brecke asked what the training centers were teaching out of. Belief was that they were teaching out of the I-Codes. The State Plumbing Code has adopted the UPC and removed the Fuel Gas chapter and replaced it with the NFPA 54 as a reference. The City of Cedar Rapids is looking to remove the Fuel Gas Code from the UPC and replace it with the International Fuel Gas Code.

Chairman Dave Huston reiterated that the items being discussed tomorrow:

1. Fire Code and Building Code tie in with the Fuel Gas Code
2. We are already using it
3. Other communities are already using it
4. We need consistency with inspections
5. We are trying to improve customer service and department consistency

Duncan asked the Board what their thoughts were on adopting 2015 International Mechanical Code amendments this summer but have it go into effect 01/01/2016. This gives the City of Cedar Rapids time to implement when the construction season is less busy and gives any projects currently in process within the Building Services Dept time to get implemented prior to the Code change. Bret Brecke stated a 01/01/2016 implementation date would be ideal for everyone.

Russ Allen asked about the Energy Code. Duncan stated the City of Cedar Rapids does not adopt the Energy Code because the State of Iowa adopts it and then has language at the State level stating if localities adopt their own Energy Code, the locality could not be less restrictive. A program on the residential side uses HERS raters for enforcement; enforcement on the commercial side is the next step for Duncan. Russ wanted to know if COMcheck would come into play soon; Duncan would like to bring this subject to the board at a later date. By adopting the State of Iowa's Energy Code, we have also adopted their removal of an appeals process; the appeals would be done at the local level.

Bret Brecke made a motion to adjourn; Russ Allen seconded. All in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Kolosik, Recording Secretary