

Building Advisory Board Meeting

February 21, 2013

The City of Twin Falls Building Department agrees with the concept of allowing qualified registered professional Electrical Engineers to evaluate some electrical equipment to determine compliance with applicable standards. The goal is to create an approval process within the City of Twin Falls jurisdiction that is consistent with the State proposal. Raub went over the NFPA 790 & NFPA 791 that was included in the agenda packet. So far, the State has not adopted the NFPA 790 standard.

Jeffrey Fitzloff with Underwriters Laboratories gave a brief explanation on the process of third party evaluations on electrical equipment.

Discussion:

- Darren Hall is worried about the cost and would like to table the item and have Jeff come back to present the process in detail.
- Mitch Humble understands that the State has asked for our feedback on NFPA 790 and NFPA 791. He feels that we should wait to see what the State does.
- Scott McClure is concerned that not every PE is qualified to do these evaluations.

Darren Hall made a motion to table the topic and have Jeff return to give an explanation on the process of evaluation on electrical equipment at a later time. Sean Knutz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. IBC, IRC 2012 – Jon Laux

Jon Laux, Building Inspector with the City of Twin Falls, presented on the IBC, IRC 2012 updates. Jon was part of a Idaho Code Collaborative meeting that is made up of Engineers, Officials from the Governor's Office, Building Officials and Inspectors, etc. This group was set up to discuss any issues with the 2012 version of the codes. At this point, the Building Code Board met last Tuesday and the 2012 IBC and IEBC are looking at being pushed through for adoption in January 2014. The IRC, IECC, IMC and IFGC are looking to be pushed out until January 2015.

Jon went over the changes to the codes that were discussed. They went through the IECC section by section and adjusted accordingly to what fits with Idaho. One of the biggest changes in the IRC was removing the section requiring the installation of sheetrock in ceilings of crawl spaces more than 4 feet and also in unfinished basements. One benefit to the new IRC code is the simplified wall bracing. Wall bracing is a big hang-up with contractors and this should eliminate some confusion. Jon mentioned that approximately 80% of homes would benefit from this simplified wall bracing in Idaho. There are some jurisdictions that will be going with the 2012 Code under the provisions of what the current code allows.

3. HVAC Update – Jarrod Bordi

Jarrod Bordi, HVAC/Building Inspector with the City of Twin Falls, updated the Commission on the HVAC code changes. The State HVAC Board originally voted to wait a year before adopting the 2012 codes but at the last board meeting they changed their mind and tried to adopt the 2012 codes this legislative process. They are setting up a Code Collaborative and are trying to adopt it in 2013. There aren't many changes to the 2012 IMC and IRC. One change is requiring mechanical ventilation in homes. The exception in the past was using windows as ventilation.

4. Idaho State Plumbing Code – Stephen Harr

Stephen Harr, Plumbing Inspector with the City of Twin Falls, updated the Commission on the Idaho State Plumbing Codes. They are still working out of the UPC but put the Idaho code

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amendments in the book. One of the changes they have added is horizontal wet vent. This eliminates individual venting on plumbing systems. It was adopted for less piping, money savings and labor savings. It has been proven to work; it was how they used to plumb in the past.

5. Discussion of Department Fees – Mitch Humble

Mitch Humble, Community Development Director with the City of Twin Falls, informed the Commission that they are looking at re-evaluating the building fees. The fees are based on valuation now. Our valuation data is based on values from February 2004, which is outdated. The City is also looking at purchasing a new software system. Currently, we cannot do any permitting online because our software doesn't allow it.

Mitch wants to simplify the fee structure and would like to form a sub-committee to discuss this fee structure. He would like for the Board to make a recommendation to Council for a new fee structure. Jay Reis, Sean Knutz and Darren Hall volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

IV. INPUT AND/OR ITEMS FROM THE BUILDING ADVISORY BOARD

V. UPCOMING MEETINGS/SCHEDULE: March 21, 2013

VI. ADJOURN MEETING:

Chairman Scott Standley adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.