

JAC Meeting – 9/29/14

Convened: 11:30 a.m. - Fraizer's Restaurant, Dover, DE

Present: P. Ryan (BOA), T. Breck (BOA), D. Barbato (DAPE), S. Gharebaghi (DAPE), A. Wright (Sussex County), and P. Abshagen (DAPE)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Gharebaghi, the Minutes of the 6/18/14 meeting be approved as submitted. Approved unanimously.

### **Previous Issues:**

- **Building Code Update**
  - P. Abshagen reported the Del.Bldg.Officials Assoc. (DBOA) reports:
    - Kent: 2012 I-codes (eff. 10/1/14)
    - City of Newark: 2012 w/amendments (eff. 1/2012)
    - City of New Castle: 2003 I-codes
    - City of Middletown: 2006 I-codes, 2009 IMC, 2012 IPC
    - City of Wilmington: 2012 IRC/IBC
    - New Castle Co.: 2006 IRC and IBC, 2009 IECC, IPC IMC & FGC
  - T. Breck stated the building code issue is a timely one and a statewide code has been under discussion. (P. Ryan will share with the Committee a chart of all municipalities and the building codes they are utilizing.)
    - The question arose as to whether the boards would support a statewide building code managed by local municipalities. This would assist in having codes that didn't conflict with other codes. There seems to be a fear that a statewide code would cause municipalities to lose their authority; when, in fact, it could be mutually beneficial to building officials, as well as designers.
    - T. Breck offered that the City of Wilmington recently participated in a meeting with a broad representation to discuss the building code issue.
- **Fire Marshal Submissions (Ryan)**
  - Fire Marshal regulations permit the FM to grant a waiver of the requirement for either an architect or engineer, when in his opinion the scope of the project does not warrant the need for signed/sealed plans. (P. Ryan to provide a copy of the document.)
  - This, of course, does not relieve the requirements upon the submissions to the counties.

- Code Officials Handbook
  - The handbook is designed to be a reference tool outlining minimum standards.
  - The JAC reviewed the draft and made some editorial revisions.

*(12:45 p.m. – S. Gharebaghi excused)*

- Legislation
  - DAPE is reviewing the definition of the practice of engineering and the incidental surveying by engineers.
  - DAPE is considering legislation to de-couple the PE exam from the experience requirement.
  - BOA has recently formulated regulations for digital seals and signatures.
  - BOA is looking at revising wording for reciprocity in its law and regulations. Changing regulations to clarify, although a board decision utilizing NCARB guidelines, it still wants the flexibility to approve each potential licensee based on merit.

### **Other Business**

- Architect/Engineer Responsibilities (Wright)
  - The JAC has discussed defining these responsibilities since its inception. It has looked at the New Jersey laundry list, as well as the JAC recommendation that indicated both professions can do all.
  - It was pointed out the intended use of the project and/or the occupancy of the building determines whether an architect or engineer is required.
  - Engineer is required for structural work; architect is required for occupancy, exits, etc.

**New Business** -- None

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/2/2014 at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.