

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATION EXAMINERS AND APPEALS**

**MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY**

**July 15, 2021**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. by Chair Strait.

**Board Present**

Scott Bohne  
Eric Cowling  
Don McCann  
Craig Fredeen  
Keith Sobolesky  
Sterling Strait  
Royal Fields

**Board Absent**

Tyler Loken  
Troy Feller

**Staff Present**

Garrett Harvey  
Robert Doehl  
Wayne Bolen

**Public Participation**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chair Strait asked for a motion to approve **Mr. Bohne moved to approved. Mr. Sobolesky second. Unanimously approved.**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**a. Minutes of July 15, 2020**

**Mr. Sobolesky moved to approve. Mr. Bohne second. Unanimously approved.**

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Elections**

Chair Strait turned over the gavel to Vice-Chair Sobolesky. Vice-Chair Sobolesky called for Chair nominations. Mr. Bohne nominated Mr. Strait. Mr. Fredeen second and requested closing nominations. **Vice-Chair Sobolesky closed nominations and called for the vote. Unanimously approved.**

Vice-Chair Sobolesky turned over the gavel to Chair Strait. Chair Strait called for Vice-Chair nominations. Mr. Fredeen nominated Mr. Sobolesky. Mr. Cowling second and requested closing nominations. **Chair Strait closed nominations and called for the vote. Unanimously approved**

**b. Three-Member Panel**

Staff read through the three-member panel list, noting the Electrical panel was lacking members and asked for volunteers. After a short discussion, Mr. Fredeen, and Mr. Sobolesky added their names to the panel. Mr. McCann was added to the Mechanical/Plumbing Panel. The Civil/Structural Panel and the Architectural Panels stayed the same.

Chair Strait asked if there had been any panel hearings last year. Staff replied there was only one hearing and it was on an elevator modification.

5. **REPORTS**

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Staff reported on new in-coming permit activity, noting the permits are down about 11% from last year due to industry reporting difficulty finding labor, a supply shortages and high prices. Staff noted the recent change in administration and myself and my managers have been retained. Ron Thompson has returned with a role overseeing Planning, Development Services, and Traffic to tie together the planning-development process to hopefully expedite things. We recently introduced some policies to help facilitate that, like the Limited Roads standards for four houses with dedicated ROW; and last year we introduced remote video inspections. The usage is growing slower than we would like, as it is a tremendous savings, and time for the Contractor.

Gary Hile retired after many years of service. We would like to introduce Garret Harvey as the new Chief of Inspections. Mr. Harvey introduced himself and spoke of his construction history since 1999.

Wayne Bolen is here to explain Assembly Member Weddleton introducing of an ordinance dealing with some structural issues on how we did the 2018 code update. AO2021-58 is amending AMC Title 23, Chapter 15 and 65 to make technical corrections to issues identified since the 2020 Title 23 rewrite related to seismic design categories D through F and permit requirements for roofing. After some discussion it was agreed staff would write a cover letter of explanation, and then email the Board the cover letter, ordinance, and the email notification that was sent out. The Board discussed addressing it at the next meeting.

Chair Strait called for a motion. **Mr. Sobolesky motioned for staff to send out the cover letter, the ordinance, and the email notification for the board to review and then scheduled it for the next meeting. Mr. Fields second. Unanimously Approved.**

**6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

It was asked if staff felt additional pressure or concern from the new administration with the processes that work in Building Safety. Staff replied not pressure as more support to enable us to do this process less painfully and aligning of support from other departments. Easing the process, allowing you to go forward with F&Fs and F&Gs. Better resourcing to do more electronically. We have come along way with ePlans using CARES funding from last year and some cleanup of INFOR, but we still have a way to go. They are in support of Title 21 and Title 23 executions, and they support us to continue using remote video inspections, citizen's portal, and submitting more electronically.

It was noted we went from ten percent electronic process to about 70 percent. There are still limitations to ePlans where it waits to bundle all the comments before sending them back. Inspections side we adopted remote video inspections and it was a tremendous help to us with the plumbers plus all our reroofs have gone remote video inspections and re-inspections. The Board thanks staff for all their efforts to stay open and working.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. **Mr. Bohne moved to adjoin. Mr. McCann seconded. Unanimously Approved.**

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Sterling Strait, Chair                      Date  
Board of Building Regulation Examiners and Appeals

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Doehl                                      Date  
Building Official