



DEPARTMENT UPDATE: BUILDING

DATE: 2024-10-23
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Wendy Koch, Building Official
ITEM TITLE: **Report: Building Dept. Update**

Summary:

The Building Department is fully staffed again.

Eva Ryan started as our Building Services Assistant on September 12th. She worked part time for the first month and has been working full time in our department for a couple of weeks. She is a great fit for the position. Staff and members of the public are impressed with how quickly she has settled in and we are grateful to have her onboard.

The Code Compliance Technician position has also been filled. Bryan Waldron was hired and began work on September 23rd. He has been getting familiar with the Teton County Land Development Code and basic Building Codes. He is taking complaints via email and phone calls and has been working on templates for letters that can be sent when a potential violation has been found.

Building Permit Tracking:

Despite challenges with turnover in staff, increases in the number of inspection requests and new aspects being added to the plan review process, we ended FY 2024 with more permits than FY 2023. I've included a summary of permit and revenue totals from FY2011 – FY2024.

Staff:

2024 IBC Significant Changes Course

The building department staff will be attending a one day training event in Rexburg that is being offered by the Snake River Chapter of the Idaho Association of Building Officials. Since all of us will be gone, the department will be closed on Thursday November 21st but the public will receive notice ahead of time so that there are no issues with scheduling inspections. Voicemails and emails will be monitored as time allows during the day.

Idaho Association of Building Officials 2025 Education Institute

The dates and course list for the annual IDABO training week have been released. I will be registering the four of us for classes in Boise on January 15, 16, and 17. This years classes offer more variety and several new topics so, even though there are only three days of instruction as opposed to the four days that have been offered in the past, we will all be able to get a lot of useful information in addition to the usual networking opportunities.

Other:

We are winding down from another busy summer building season. As the number of new applications and inquiries starts to decrease we hope to have more time to work on regular housekeeping and record maintenance over the winter months.



With the Planning Administrator position opening up, I find myself spending more time attempting to help out where I can with questions and issues that come up on the Planning side of the office. This is especially so with the Code Compliance Technician since the position is shared between both departments. Though the two departments are separate, we work together closely. Because of this the vacant department head position will undoubtedly impact my time and workload. I will do my best to balance my efforts appropriately but will likely find myself spread thin and short on time. I wanted to share the information in the event that any questions or comments are submitted to the board.

Attachments:

1. Historic Income & Units year to year - building permit data