

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BUILDING OFFICIAL/CODE ENFORCEMENT SCOTT GEBHART

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FEE INCREASE

DATE: JULY 8, 2020

At the May 2020 City Council meeting, Council gave permission for the Building Department to open a comment period for the proposed fee adjustment of the building fee schedule. Since May 28, 2020 multiple notifications have been posted asking for comment on the City's website, BBQ, Facebook, and verbal communication with contractors and homeowners asking for comments.

As of today, I have received a total of two written comments in support of the proposed fee increase and no comments opposing. Over the past 4 months I have had a chance to talk to approximately 30 different homeowners and contractors about the proposed fee increase. The few responses in opposition I received were against the fee increase and did not see the need for it. After explaining that the Building Department has had a shortfall in revenue of over \$30,000 a year for the past 3 years, most people opposing were more supportive of the increase. Some of the positive comments include, it will be nice to have someone local and readily available to answer questions, consistency in days for inspections, and someone out enforcing business license requirements.

Currently we are in the process of having a fee model developed to better monitor our fee structure to help determine if the fees need to be adjusted up or down with the goal of having 100% cost recovery for the building department.

Building

From: Building Dept Questions <building@ci.manzanita.or.us>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Building; jlamar@onelevendesign.com
Subject: Building Department fee comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jane Ediger
ediswan@comcast.net
I support the changes to the permitting fees and new system of E-permitting

Date: July 5, 2020
Time: 5:09 pm
Page URL: <https://ci.manzanita.or.us/building-department/>
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_14_6) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/13.1.1 Safari/605.1.15
Remote IP: 71.59.211.58
Powered by: Elementor

Building

From: Lee Hiltenbrand <leehiltenbrand@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Building
Subject: Permit Fee Increase

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Fellow citizens of Manzanita,

The shortfall of local building department revenues can be attributed to any number of conditions and actions. One could claim the fees need to be adjusted. Another could find malfeasance within the system due to limited oversight. Still another would point to a downturn in the building economy current in Manzanita.

Whatever the reasons behind the current downturn in department revenues, the fees must be updated to reflect the economy and the need for a self reliant building department. Very few, if any, building departments in the State of Oregon obtain funding from a general fund. The fees must reflect the department expenses to remain solvent.

A failure to update fees could result in a major short-coming for the local building community. That is, relying on Tillamook County to take over local services. My communication with many local builders find that situation untenable. Having a local building department benefits the building community through ready access and allows for better communication between labor and the permitting process as well as timely inspections.

One only need read the State law which states that building revenues exceeding expenses during a fiscal year must be maintained and used like a rainy day fund for times of slower building cycles. This law prevents the local jurisdiction from using the excess revenues for any other program.

The planned permit fee increases are fair, reasonable and necessary.

In Spirit,

Lee Hiltenbrand