

Public Hearing Monday, May 24, 2021

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Rizzitano, Secretary. Also present were Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Chairman Smith opened the Public Hearing at 4:30 PM to discuss proposed Permit Fee Schedule increases.

Roll Call: Martha Eldridge, yes. Susan Simpson, yes. Jonathan Smith, yes.

Discussion:

Rick Cousins presented the Board with a proposal to increase building application fees to keep in line with other Towns. He gave examples with the current fees and with the proposed increased fees. He also added a Solar Farm Permit to the fee schedule. The increases are as follows.

Building Permit minimum is \$50.00

Electrical Permit is \$50.00 for up to 5000 sq. ft./ \$100.00 up to 10,000 sq. ft./ \$150.00 over 10,000 sq. ft.

Plumbing Permit is \$50.00 for up to 5000 sq. ft./ \$100.00 up to 10,000 sq. ft./ \$150.00 over 10,000 sq. ft.

Sign Permit is \$50.00.

Solar Permit is \$50.00.

Solar Farm permit is \$1000.00/megawatt- prorated beyond 1st mw

Swimming Pool Permit is \$50.00.

Reinspection Fee is \$35.00.

Certificate of Occupancy is \$25.00.

Public Input:

Dallas Emery asked when this was proposed and mentioned that the only time he heard anything about fee increases was at the last Selectmen's Meeting. Cousins advised that the former Building Inspector started the process last year. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that there have been a lot of discussions about this in the Work Sessions. Emery asked why the fees are being increased and is concerned because he thinks more people should know about this increase. Smith advised that user fees make for higher revenues which leads to lower tax rates. M. Eldridge advised that this hearing has been well advertised. Smith confirmed there has been no increase to these fees since 2010. Emery asked if it is still allowed for homeowners to do their own work. Cousins advised yes. Discussion ensued.

Lois Sweeney asked that if this is passed, would people who already have a permit be grandfathered. Cousins advised yes and that all future permit requests will be on the new fee schedule.

Emery asked about the Solar Farm permit. Smith advised that they have been waiting for legislation to pass regarding Solar Farms and that has passed. Solar Farms will be coming to Town.

M. Eldridge advised that the Board is doing what they are supposed to do by posting Public Hearing Notices. Sawyer Jr. advised that it has been posted on the bulletin board, at the post office and on the

website. Emery mentioned it could have been posted on the sign in front of the Town Hall. Smith agreed and said he will keep that in mind for future hearings. Emery was told that he can sign up for automatic emails via the website, so he does not miss notices of hearings or meetings.

Maria Moulton asked if the proposed fees are in line with other Towns fees. Cousins advised yes and mentioned an increase in Wolfeboro next month. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Smith made a motion to accept the new fees effective May 25, 2021. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Smith made a motion to adjourn. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Martha B. Eldridge

To be approved 6/7/2021