

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Amending Fee Schedules for Building,  
Electrical, and Other Miscellaneous Permits under the  
Building Inspection Program; On-Site Wastewater  
Program Fees; and Planning Program Fees

ORDER NO. 16-2021

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 455.210(3)(a), a municipality may adopt, by ordinance or resolution, fees that are necessary and reasonable to provide for the administration and enforcement of building and specialty codes for which the County has assumed responsibility under ORS 455.148 or 455.150; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 454.725, Columbia County and the Department of Environmental Quality of the State of Oregon entered into an agreement dated June 26, 1981 for the local evaluation, inspection, and regulation of on-site sewage disposal systems; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 215.416, a municipality may establish fees for the processing of land use permits that is no more than the actual or average cost of providing that service, provided that the charge for appeals of administrative decisions is no more than \$250.00; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 1990, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 90-8, "In the Matter of Adopting Fee Schedules for Services Provided by the Columbia County Building Department" which adopted fee schedules for structural permits, mechanical permits, and plumbing permits provided by the Columbia County Building Department; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of Ordinance No. 90-8, the Board may, by order or resolution, amend the fee schedules as necessary to conform to fee schedules adopted by the Building Codes Agency of the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Order No. 28-2018, which amended the fee schedules for permits under the Building Inspection Program, On-Site Wastewater Program and Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Order No. 28-2018 provided that fees would be adjusted annually beginning on July 1, 2020, based on the annual average CPI for the Portland metro area for the prior year; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County paused implementation of the automatic CPI fee adjustment for 2020, which would have been based on the average annual CPI for 2019; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the CPI for the Portland metro area has been discontinued and has been replaced by the CPI-U West index; and

WHEREAS, the County must therefore amend its fee schedule to refer to the CPI-U West index and incorporate the CPI-U West annual average for 2019, which was 2.7%, and 2020, which was 1.7%; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was scheduled for the Board of County Commissioners to consider the proposed changes, and in accordance with OAR 918-020-0220(1), the County provided a 45-day notice of the proposed fees to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services; and

WHEREAS, notice was also published in *The Chronicle* and mailed to contractors at least two weeks prior to the scheduled public hearing; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing on July 14, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt the proposed fee changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

A. Paragraph 3 of Order No. 28-2018, "In the Matter of Amending Fee Schedules for Building, Electrical, and Other Miscellaneous Permits under the Building Inspection Program; On-Site Wastewater Program Fees; and Planning Program Fees" is hereby amended to read, as follows, with new text shown in **bold** and deleted text shown in ~~strikethrough~~:

"3. The above fees shall be adjusted annually, beginning July 1, 2020, based on the annual average CPI-U West (**not seasonally adjusted**) ~~for the Portland metro area~~ for the prior **calendar** year."

B. The fee schedules for permits under the Building Inspection Program, On-Site Wastewater Program and Planning Program shall be adjusted to incorporate a CPI increase of 2.7% for 2020 and 1.7% for 2021, for a total increase of 4.4%.

C. The fees adjusted under this order shall go into effect on July 15, 2021.

DATED this 14, day of July, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By:   
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By:   
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel