

Hearing date May 18, 2022

***" In the Matter of Amending Fee Scheduled for Building, Electrical,
and Other Mniscellaneous Permits under the Building Inspections Program;
On-Site Wastewater Program Fees; and Planning Program Fees"
ORDER 25-2022***

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May 16, 2022

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Subject: LDS Technology Fee Amendment
Onsite Services Staffing and Budget

I am requesting that the board not approve the proposed technology fee.

I feel that the fees should be rounded up to the nearest dollar and that LDS should go back to charging a convenience fee for card processing on the transactions that actually pay with a credit card.

While I understand that this amendment is designed to cover more than just the processing fee, by rounding fees up to the nearest dollar you are gaining an average of .1723% (for on-site program). That is more than the .01%-.05% (merchant fee of 2.95%-2.99%) that you would be capturing by moving to a 3% convenience fee and you'd be able to tell system users that you are doing everything you can to keep building fees affordable.

We have already had a 4.4% increase go into effect this year, and will have another 4.5% increase this July. That is 9.9% in 2022 and now you want another 3% on top of that?

Give us the option of keeping our fees down by paying with cash or check if that is what we wish to do.



P. O. Box 838
St. Helens, OR
97051
CCB# 163079
DEQ# 36411

PHONE 503-397-2737
FAX 503-397-4157
EMAIL memoooreconst@msn.com

In order to head off the often used "our fees are lower than surrounding counties" I have provided a snippet of both Clatsop and Washington County onsite fees. I have purposefully left Multnomah out of the equation as they can't seem to operate anything efficiently.

	Columbia	Clatsop	Washington
Lot Eval.	\$844.37	\$850.00	\$935.00
Standard			
Install	\$1,097.02	\$1,200.00	\$1,163.00
ATT			
Install	\$1,659.74	\$1,450.00	\$1,619.00
Capping			
Fill	\$1,659.74	\$1,450.00	\$1,340.00
Major			
Repair	\$1,097.02	\$1,080.00	\$863.00
Minor			
Repair	\$402.76	\$390.00	\$415.00
Average	\$1,126.77	\$1,070.00	\$1,055.83

These are the most common septic permits. The average of these fees by county actually places Columbia County as the most expensive by 5%.

All this talk about numbers leads me into another subject that I have complained about multiple times that is still not fixed, and according to your proposed budget for 22-23 is continuing to head in the wrong direction!

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Our company is a licensed septic installer, pumper, and certified maintenance provider. I have weekly contact with the on-site department, if you can call it that, I only get service from one person. This is in no way a complaint of the service that I am receiving from Erin O'Connell, if it were not for her, we would not get any service at all and I feel she does the best she can with what she has.

My complaint is as follows:

The **19/20** budget year saw a profitable on-site department \$44,645.00 with 1 FTE and .1 department head. Not ideal as far as service since the 1 FTE was spread thin for the amount of work she had. **Budgeted 1.1 FTE** **Actual 1 FTE**

20/21 we were supposed to have 1.82 FTE and .1 department head. The .82 never inspected or processed any of my paperwork I am not sure what he was doing but it was not on-site services. We are paying for more but still only have 1 FTE

The program lost \$68,621.00 due to having more staff but the service level never changed. **Budgeted 1.83 FTE** **Actual 1 FTE**

21/22 we were supposed to have 2.0 FTE, .04 PTE, and no department head. The 1 FTE never inspected or processed any of my paperwork, again I have no idea what he is doing but it is not on-site. The .04 PTE processed several of my lot evaluations.

The 21/22 budget year was projected to lose \$140,587.00. The only change in service is the .04 PTE coming in periodically to process lot evaluations and while it is a huge help, why is this program paying so much money for a position it does not have?

Budgeted 2.04 FTE **Actual 1.04 FTE**

22/23 we are projected to have 1.68 FTE, .4 PTE, and .06 department head. We are projected to lose \$169,125.00 **Budgeted 2.14 FTE** **Actual TBD**

I am sure that by now you see the pattern and it is not good!

I saw the job posting to hire a supervisor for the environmental health department. I don't understand this decision at all. We need the person who is being paid out of on-site fees to actually show up and do on-site duties. If that person is not capable, move them to the budget that their current duties fall under and hire someone that is capable. The work load is too much for one person to handle.

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You need to move on-site back to the building department, that is where it belongs.

Although on-site does affect public health it is very much building department dependent and that is where it runs at its most efficient. It would also make it easier to determine if we actually have more than one sanitarian or if he actually belongs to another department and is just a line item making the on-site department run in the red.

In looking at the county job description I notice that the EHS are tasked with on-site duties along with drinking water, food, and lodging inspections. I suspect that our 2nd sanitarian position spends his time carrying out those other duties, those duties have their own income source that is not tied to or accounted for in on-site.

Move on-site and its budget back to the building department where it will not require a middle management position.

Drinking water, food, and lodging inspections should stay with public health as they are more closely tied to that department than they are with building.

Sincerely,

M. E. Moore Const., Inc. By: Sabrina Moore, Secretary

P. O. Box 838
St. Helens, OR
97051
CCB# 163079
DEQ# 36411

PHONE 503-397-2737
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TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Suzie Dahl, Land Development Services Director

DATE: May 13, 2022

RE: Amend Board Order 16-2021 to implement a 3% Technology Fee to Land Development Services Building and Planning Program Fees and Public Health On-Site Wastewater Program Fees *and* round up fees to the nearest dollar.

STAFF REPORT:

The purpose of amending Order 16-2021 is to implement a 3% Technology Fee to all permits across all program areas within Land Development Services for Planning and Building specialty codes as well as the Public Health On-Site Wastewater program and round fees up to the nearest dollar.

The 3% Technology Fee is a solution to recoup third party merchant fees the County is currently incurring related to accepting credit card payments. Any surplus of the Technology Fee will help offset additional expenses related to doing business electronically which includes items such as electronic document storage, larger computer monitors, GIS services, electronic plan review, scanning, etc.

Electronic technology and increasing online payment transactions with credit cards ultimately increases the cost of doing business and assists with higher departmental efficiency. This fee would apply to all permits associated with Planning, Building, Electrical, and On-Site Wastewater since the same electronic systems and tools are used for daily operations.

Rounding fees up to the nearest dollar not only is administratively easier for staff, it is also easier for customer to remember the costs of permits for effective budgeting and estimating purposes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board move to amend Order No. 16-2021 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 to include a 3% technology fee *and* rounding of fees up to the nearest dollar.

Affidavit of Mailing

I, Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

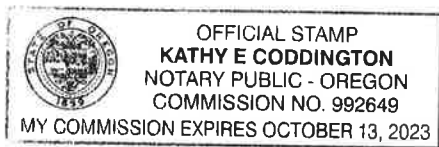
That on the 27th day of April, 2022 I mailed a copy of the attached notice "In the Matter of Amending the Fee Schedule for Building, Planning and On-Site Sewage Fees- Effective July 1, 2022". To person(s) entitled.

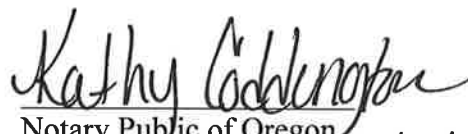
Dated this 27th day of April, 2022


Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
County of Columbia)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27 day of April, 2022




Kathy Coddington
Notary Public of Oregon
My Commission Expires: 10/13/2023

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Amending the Fee
Schedule for Building, Planning and On-
Site Sewage Fees - Effective July 1, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(MAILING)

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on this matter on May 18, 2022, Wednesday, at or after 10:00 a.m., at the Columbia County Courthouse, located at 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon.

Interested parties may attend the meeting in person or virtually. You may access the virtual meeting room by:

Joining from a computer, tablet or smartphone at:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/357054141>

Joining by phone at: United States (Toll Free): 1 866 899 4679

Access Code: 357-054-141

2. The purpose of the hearing is consider an amendment to the Land Development Services Fee schedule, which includes: Building fees (including Structural, Mechanical, Plumbing, Manufactured Housing and other miscellaneous fees), Planning fees, and On-Site Sewage fees. The amendment will add a 3.0% technology fee and will also authorizing the rounding up of fees to the nearest whole dollar amount. The purpose for the technology fee is to recoup third party merchant fees the County is currently incurring related to accepting credit card payments and to provide additional funds to help offset technology related expenses incurred by Land Development Services.
3. The proposed amendments will become available for viewing at least seven days prior to the hearing at:
[Columbia County, Oregon Official Website - Hearings \(columbiacountyor.gov\)](http://Columbia County, Oregon Official Website - Hearings (columbiacountyor.gov))

Copies of these materials may also be obtained at a reasonable cost upon request at the Board of County Commissioners' Office, Room 338, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon 97051.

Additional information about the proposed amendments may be obtained from Jacyn Normine at (503) 397-4322 ext. 8400.

4. Comments may be submitted to Board of County Commissioners' Office, Room 338, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, Oregon 97051 or by email to Jacyn Normine jacyn.normine@columbiacountyor.gov prior to the hearing.
5. Columbia County does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and will provide reasonable accommodations in accordance with the County's ADA Policy. To request accommodations or to review the County's ADA Policy, please contact the Board of Commissioners' office at (503) 397-4322.

0.25.22

DATED this 27 day of April, 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By Jacyn Normine
Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

Chronicle: Please publish in your May 4, 2022 issue.

Adair Homes, Inc.
1311 SE Cardinal St #100
Vancouver WA 98683

Andrew Niemi ~~RTND~~
Lower Columbia Engineering
36200 Pittsburg Rd.
St. Helens, OR 97051

Bradley McKay
P.O. Box 1349
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Can Do Electric
P.O. box 1277
Longview, WA 98632

Carlson Heating & Air
1414 S. Pacific
Kelso, WA 98626

Circle 'K' Construction
300 Spinnaker Way
Columbia City, OR 97018

Clark Signs
P.O. Box 1113
St. Helens, OR 97051

Columbia N.W. Heating
P.O. Box 622
Scappoose, OR 97056

Dennis Wellington
P.O. Box 667
Rainier, OR 97048

Donald Hooper
75960 Delena Rd.
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Earl Scott ~~RTND~~
76658 Heath Rd.
Rainier, OR 97048

Earth N Sun
222 "B" St. W
Rainier, OR 97048

Entek Corporation
1021 Columbia Blvd.
Longview, WA 98632

Felton's Heating & Cooling
P.O. Box 717
Longview, WA 98632

Gerry Parmley
19276 Beaver Falls Rd.
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Gregg Welter Construction
29710 Dutch Canyon Rd.
Scappoose, OR 97056

Hamer Electric
126 Industrial Way
Longview, WA 98632

Hiline Homes
1888 Belmont Loop
Woodland, WA 98674

Hobby Logging
334115 Canaan Rd.
Deer Island, OR 97054

Interstate Electric
P.O. Box 7342
Salem, OR 97303

Kessi Construction
34366 E. Columbia Ave.
Scappoose, OR 97056

Kevin Schwarz
P.O. Box 1173
St. Helens, OR 97051

M & W Building
P.O. Box 220
Canby, OR 97013

M.E. Moore Construction, Inc.
P.O. Box 838
St. Helens, OR 97051

Mark's Custom Exteriors
P.O. Box 276
St. Helens, OR 97051

Justin McMullen
~~P.O. Box 1471~~
St. Helens, OR 97051
*Lyleco Cooperhead
Deer Island, OR, 97054*

MDM Contracting & Excavation
35024 Maple St.
St. Helens, OR 97051

Robert Watts
PO Box 65
Vernonia OR. 97064

JH Kelly
PO Box 2038
Longview WA 98632

Morrison Remodeling Inc.
67175 Nehalem Hwy North
Vernonia, OR 97064

N.W. Plumbing Services
P.O. Box 492
St. Helens, OR 97051

Parker Buildings
P O Box 407
Hubbard, OR

Portrait Homes N.W.
P.O. Box 519
Scappoose, OR 97056

Randall Trass
78316 Rutters Rd.
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Reality Homes, Inc.
1905 Belmont ~~RTND~~
Woodland, WA 98674

~~Renaud Electric~~ ~~RTND~~
2300 Talley Way
Longview, WA 98626

Rich Bailey Construction
P.O. Box 613
St. Helens, OR 97051

Richard Louie
58628 Louie Court
St. Helens, OR 97051

~~Richards Const.~~ ~~RTND~~
28934 Grandview Dr.
Rainier, OR 97048

Rick Smith Construction
55559 Fullerton Rd.
Warren, OR 97053

Rick Richmond
11910 Eddings Rd.
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Robert J. Watts
P.O. Box 65
Vernonia, OR 97064

Rofinot Heating, Inc.
P.O. Box 1461
St. Helens, OR 97051

Rose Heating
9945 N.E. 6th Dr.
Portland, OR 97211

Stone Builders
50606 Crystal Ridge Dr.
Scappoose, OR 97056

The Soot Busters
~~1370 Columbia Blvd.~~
~~St. Helens, OR 97051~~
33734 SE Elm St
Scappoose, OR. 97056

Olson Const. & Dev. Inc.
34671 Smith Rd.
St. Helens, OR 97051

Vilardi Electric
P.O. Box 1200
Rainier, OR 97048

Western Heating & Cooling, Inc.
P.O. Box 386
Scappoose, OR 97056

OHM Equity Partners
33470 Chinook Plaza, #213
Scappoose, OR 97056

Bighaus Construction
P.O. Box 1476
Rainier, OR 97048

Kneeland Brothers, LLC
P.O. Box 336
St. Helens, OR 97051

JAW's Contracting
231 Allendale Ct. ~~RTND~~
St. Helens, OR 97051

Peak Electric Group, LLC
11007 NE 109th st.
Vancouver, WA 98662

Dennis Olson Construction
34671 Smith Rd
St Helens OR 97051

Makana Trucking
34154 Bennent Rd
Warren OR 97053

Happy Hollow
31868 Pittsburg Rd
St Helens OR 97051

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON**

In the Matter of Amending the Fee Schedule for)
Building, Planning and On-Site Sewage Fees) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Effective July 1, 2022) (PUBLICATION)

STATE OF OREGON)
) SS.
COLUMBIA COUNTY)

I, Jacyn Normine, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and say the following is true as I verily believe:

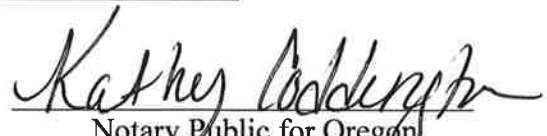
1. I am the duly appointed Board Office Administrator to the Board of County Commissioners for Columbia County, Oregon.
2. A copy of the attached Notice of Amending Fee Schedule for Building, Planning and On-Site Sewage Fees- Effective July 1, 2022 was emailed to the Chronicle, April 25, 2022 for publication in their May 4, 2022 addition

Dated this 25th day of April, 2022


Jacyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 25 day of April, 2022

(Seal)


Notary Public for Oregon
My commission expires: 10/13/2023



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Amending the Fee Schedule
for Building, Planning and On-Site Sewage
Fees - Effective July 1, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(Publication)

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (PUBLICATION)

DATED this 25 day of April, 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By Jaeyn Normine
Jaeyn Normine, Board Office Administrator

Chronicle: Please publish in your May 4, 2022 issue.