



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/7/12
Agenda Item #: R.3
Est. Start Time: 9:40 am
Date Submitted: 5/22/12

Agenda Title: Public Hearing and Consideration of a Resolution Establishing Fees and Charges for Chapter 27, Community Services, of the Multnomah County Code and Repealing Resolution No. 2011-083

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: June 7, 2012
Time Needed: 5 minutes
Department: Non-Departmental/County Surveyor
Division: Chair's Office /LUTP
Contact(s): Denise Kleim, City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services, and Jim Clayton, County Surveyor
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D. Kleim) (J. Clayton) 455/123/Clayton
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Denise Kleim, Administrative Services Manager; Jim Clayton, Multnomah County Surveyor

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approve resolution to increase environmental soils fees under Chapter 27 of the County Code in the area serviced by the City of Portland under intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and repealing Resolution No. 2011-083, effective July 1, 2012. Adopt by resolution certain County Surveyor fee increases under Chapter 27.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

A. CITY OF PORTLAND FEE CHANGES. The City of Portland provides plan review, permit issuance, and inspection services in certain areas of unincorporated Multnomah County under an IGA which stipulates that fees charged for those services must cover the full cost of their provision. One of the programs that has been delegated to the City of Portland is the subsurface sewage (environmental soils) program, in which the City permits and inspects cesspools, septic tanks, and other localized sewage disposal systems. The City serves all of Multnomah County for this program and is compensated via revenues that the bureau collects from program permit fees.

Since the end of the Mid-County sewer hookup program in 1998, environmental soils permit revenues have dropped substantially. Fee increases were implemented in

FY 1999-2000 to bring the fees up to the State of Oregon fee schedule, and in FY 2001-02 staffing was reduced to match the workload. Fees were increased by 57% in FY 2004-05 and more modestly in subsequent years. By the end of FY 2010-11, the program had a cumulative deficit of approximately \$1.4 million. The bureau, in order to eliminate the deficit and improve program's cost recovery, raised the fees by 70% in FY 2011-12. However, the program is projected to have a cumulative deficit of approximately \$1.3 million by the end of FY 2011-12.

The City of Portland is therefore proposing an overall increase in environmental soils fees of 10% beginning July 1, 2012 in order to address the program deficit and maintain full cost recovery as required by the IGA.

BDS is continuing a comprehensive approach to its work focused on addressing service levels, funding, and staffing issues. Key elements of this effort include:

- Seeking efficiencies in bureau programs and services
- Closely monitoring finances
- Pursuing cost recovery for services through moderate fee increases

B. COUNTY SURVEYOR FEE CHANGES: Most functions of the County Surveyor's Office are funded by user fees. These fall into three main categories: Public Land Corners, Survey Records, and Plat Reviews.

1. Public Land Corners

The Public Land Corner Program is funded entirely by fees that are assessed to the recording of certain documents in the County Records (MCC § 27.061). This fee has stood at \$5.00 since 2003. Over time, inflation has eroded the value of this fee income while our costs for labor, equipment, and other expenses have increased. We are proposing to increase the fee to \$10.00 in order to continue this important program.

2. Survey Records

Our survey records functions are funded entirely by the filing fee that is collected when records of survey and land division plats are submitted to our office (MCC§ 27.060). Again, inflation has eroded the value of this fee income while our costs have increased, even after making several staff reductions in order to reduce costs and to align staffing levels with workload. We are proposing to increase the filing fee to \$400.

3. Plat Reviews

Land division plats (subdivisions, condominiums, partitions) are reviewed on an actual cost basis. A deposit is collected at the time of submittal, which we bill our review expenses against (MCC § 27.062). We increasingly find ourselves in the position of requiring additional review funds at the time of releasing plats for recording in order to cover our review costs, as opposed to issuing refunds for unused review funds. Our proposed deposit increases will cover the full cost of nearly all plat reviews.

This action affects the County Surveyor's Office Program Offer (91012). The program offer submitted reflects these proposed fee increases.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The subsurface fee changes cover actual costs of services as required by the City/County IGA. The increase in Public Land Corner recording fee will generate approximately \$500,000 in additional revenue at current recording levels, while the increase in the survey filing fee will generate approximately \$40,000 in additional revenue at current submittal

level. There is a reasonable expectation that we will see an increase in both survey activities going forward.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Complies with ORS 294.160. The County Surveyor functions described above are mandated by various provisions under ORS Chapters 209, 92 and 100. Our ability to perform these functions at an acceptable level will be compromised without these increases.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The County is holding the public hearing as required under ORS 294.160. In addition, the County Surveyor's Office has notified by individuals by e-mail and entities that regularly engage in the activities affected by the proposed County Surveyor fee increases.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Cecilia Collier /s/

Date:

May 22, 2012