

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 22

**RESOLUTION AMENDING FEES FOR  
FIRE MARSHAL PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTION SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Worcester County Commissioners passed resolutions on February 23, 1993, June 5, 2001 and June 16, 2009 amending and setting fees for Fire Marshal inspections required in conjunction with the issuance of building permits by the Worcester County Department of Development Review and Permitting; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners on August 19, 2014 adopted Bill 14-9 (Public Safety - Quality Assurance Program for Fire Protection Code Inspections and Tests) which established a Quality Assurance Program (QAP) to guarantee that fire protection systems are receiving consistent, quality service testing, inspection and maintenance to ensure that such systems will function as designed in the event of an emergency; provides that the QAP shall be administered by the County Fire Marshal's Office; enables the Fire Marshal's Office to use a third-party vendor and/or data collection system approved by the Commissioners to implement the QAP; and establishes criteria to be followed by fire protection system inspection agencies with respect to completion and submission of necessary forms within established time periods and payment of QAP fees, as established by resolution of the County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have determined that the existing schedule of fees for plan review and inspections performed by the Fire Marshal needs to be amended by the addition of Quality Assurance Program Fees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland, that the following fee schedule shall be effective for Fire Marshal inspections:

- I. Plan Review Fees: For all multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional occupancies, a minimum fee of \$150.00, or 50% of the building permit fee charged by the Department of Development Review and Permitting or an incorporated town's building and permits department, whichever is greater, shall be levied. Not included in these fees are the plan review and related inspections of specialized fire protection equipment and usage fees.
- II. Change of Use or Change of Zoning: For all multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional occupancies, a minimum fee of \$75.00, or 50% of the building fee charged by the Department of Development Review and Permitting or an incorporated town's building and permits department, whichever is greater, shall be levied. Not included in these fees are the plan review and related inspections of specialized fire protection equipment and usage fees.
- III. Use and Occupancy Inspection Fees: Applicable fire safety inspections fees in accordance with Section V of this resolution shall apply for all change of use, change of occupancy or change of zoning.
- IV. Technical Review Committee (TRC) Fees: For all TRC plans submitted to the Fire Marshal's Office, a fee of \$100.00 shall be charged by the Department of Development Review & Permitting.
- V. Fireworks Display Permits: For all public fireworks displays in Worcester County, the sponsor of the fireworks display shall submit an application, including a site plan, to the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office. A fee of \$250.00 shall be charged by the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office for all public fireworks display applications.

VI. Fire Protection System Plan Review & Inspection:

- A. Fire Alarm & Detection Systems: Minimum fee of \$100.00 per fire alarm system; \$50 per fire alarm control panel plus \$1.00 per fire alarm initiating (i.e. a device which activates any alarm signal connected to the fire alarm control panel such as a smoke or heat detector, fire alarm pull station, water flow alarm, valve closure alarm, pump running alarm, trouble alarm, etc. but does not include alarm bells, horns, flashing lights, and other warning or alarm devices which are activated by the above initiating devices). This fee includes plan review and inspection of all wiring, controls, alarm and detection equipment and related appurtenances needed to provide a complete system and the witnessing of one final acceptance test per system of the completed installation. Fee applies only to systems equipped with a fire alarm control panel. All other fire alarm and detection systems are included in the fee charged for Plan Review and Use & Occupancy Inspection as provided for in Section I, Section II, and Section III herein. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.
- B. Sprinkler, Water Spray and Combined Sprinkler & Standpipe Systems: Minimum fee of \$300.00 per system; or \$1.00 per sprinkler head per NFPA 13 and 13R systems; \$100.00 per unit for multi-family dwellings including townhouses, condominiums, apartments, and manufactured homes. \$100.00 per unit for one and two family dwellings per NFPA 13D systems. This includes review of shop drawings, hydraulic flush test, one hydrostatic test, and one final acceptance test per floor or system. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.
- C. Standpipe Systems: Minimum fee of \$100.00 per system or \$25.00 per 100 lineal feet of piping or portion thereof. Fee applies to separate standpipe and hose systems installed in accordance with NFPA 14 standard for the installation of standpipe and hose systems as incorporated by reference in the State Fire Protection Code (combined sprinkler systems and standpipe systems are included in the fee schedule prescribed for sprinkler systems) and applies to all piping associated with the standpipe system including connection to water supply, piping risers, laterals, fire department connection(s), dry or draft fire hydrants or suction connections, hose connections, piping joints and connections, and other related piping appurtenances; includes plan review and inspection of all piping, control valves, connections and other related equipment and appurtenances needed to provide a complete system and the witnessing of one flush test, one hydrostatic test, and one final acceptance test of the completed system. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.
- D. Fire Pumps: Minimum fee of \$250.00 per pump or \$0.50 per g.p.m. of rated pump capacity. Fee includes plan review and inspection of pump and all associated valves, piping, controllers, driver and other related equipment and appurtenances needed to provide a complete system and the witnessing of one pump acceptance test of the completed installation. Limited service pumps for residential sprinkler systems as permitted for NFPA 13D systems are exempt. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.
- E. Fire Protection Water Storage Tanks: Minimum fee of \$250.00 for water storage tanks up to 100,000 gallons capacity, plus an additional \$100.00 per 100,000 gallon for each portion therefore above.
- F. Underground Water Supply Mains: A minimum fee of \$50.00 per main shall be charged for the witness of an underground main hydrostatic test and flush inspection. Reinspection fees as provided in paragraph M.

G. Commercial Kitchen Hood Systems: A minimum fee of \$100.00 per hood system shall be charged for the review and inspection of a complete hood system of piping, controls and equipment and appurtenances, as well as one witnessed performance or acceptance test. Reinspection fees as provided in paragraph M.

H. Gaseous and Chemical Extinguishing Systems: Minimum fee of \$100.00 per system; \$1.00 per pound of extinguishing agent. Fee applies to halon, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, wet chemical and other types of fixed automatic fire suppression systems which use a gas or chemical compound as the primary extinguishing agent. Fee includes plan review and inspection of all piping, controls, equipment, and other appurtenances needed to provide a complete system in accordance with referenced NFPA standards and the witnessing of one performance or acceptance test per system of the completed installation. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.

I. Foam Systems: Minimum fee of \$100.00 per system: \$50.00 per nozzle or local applicator device and \$1.00 per sprinkler head for combined sprinkler/foam system. Fee applies to fixed extinguishing systems which use a foaming agent to control or extinguish a fire in a flammable liquid installation, aircraft hangar and other recognized applications. Fee includes plan review and inspection of piping, controls, nozzles, equipment and other related appurtenances needed to provide a complete system and the witnessing of one flush test, one hydrostatic test and one final acceptance test of the completed installation. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.

J. Smoke Control Systems: Minimum fee of \$200.00 per system of protected or controlled space or \$100.00 per 30,000 cubic feet of volume or portion thereof of protected or controlled space, whichever is greater. Fee applies to smoke exhaust systems, stair pressurization systems, smoke control systems and other recognized air handling systems which are specially designed to exhaust or control smoke or create pressure zones to minimize the hazard of smoke spread due to fire. Fee includes plan review and inspection of system components and the witnessing of one performance acceptance test of the completed installation. Reinspection fees as provided in Paragraph M.

K. Exception Request: All requests for code exceptions must include a non-refundable processing fee of \$100.00 per code section, or subsection involved.

L. Consultation Fees

- 1. Fire Protection Specialist . . . . . \$45.00 per hour
- 2. Deputy Fire Marshal . . . . . \$50.00 per hour
- 3. Fire Marshal . . . . . \$60.00 per hour

M. Re-inspection and Re-test Fees: If the maximum number of inspections or tests allowed by this fee schedule are exceeded:

- 1. First Re-inspection . . . . . \$75.00
- 2. Second Re-inspection . . . . . \$100.00
- 3. Third Re-inspection . . . . . \$200.00

VII. Fire Safety Inspections:

A. Assembly Occupancies:

- 1. Class A (more than 1,000 persons) . . . . . \$125 .00
- 2. Class B (301 to 1,000 persons) . . . . . \$90.00
- 3. Class C ( 50 to 300 persons) . . . . . \$75.00

- B. Education Occupancies:
  - 1. Elementary School (includes kindergarten & pre-K facilities) . . . . . \$65.00
  - 2. Middle, junior & senior high schools . . . . . \$112.00
  - 3. Family & group day care homes . . . . . \$50.00
  - 4. Nursery or day care centers . . . . . \$75.00
  
- C. Health Care Occupancies:
  - 1. Ambulatory Health Care Centers  
. . . . . \$50.00 per 3,000 square feet or portion thereof
  - 2. Hospitals, nursing homes, limited care facilities domiciliary care homes  
. . . . . \$50.00 per bldg plus \$1.00 per patient bed
  
- D. Detention & Correctional Occupancies: . . . . . \$50.00 per bldg plus \$1.00 per bed
  
- E. Residential:
  - 1. Hotels and Motels  
. . . \$100.00 minimum, or \$1.00 per Guest Room, whichever is more
  - 2. Dormitories. . . . . \$50.00 minimum, or \$1.00 per Bed, whichever is more
  - 3. Apartments (includes townhouses):
    - with less than 5 units . . . . . \$75.00
    - with more than 5 but less than 25 units . . . . . \$150.00
    - with more than 25 units . . . . . \$200.00
  - 4. Lodging or Rooming House . . . . . \$75.00
  - 5. One & Two Family Dwellings (including "alternate living units") . . . . \$45.00
  - 6. Board & Care Home (14-16 residents) . . . . . \$75.00
  - 7. Board & Care Home (Over 16 residents) . . . . . \$125.00
  
- F. Mercantile Occupancies:
  - 1. Class A (Over 30,000 square feet) . . . . . \$125.00
  - 2. Class B (3,000-30,000 square feet) . . . . . \$75.00
  - 3. Class C ( Under 3,000 square feet) . . . . . \$50.00
  
- G. Business Occupancies: . . . . . \$50.00 per 3,000 square feet or portion thereof
  
- H. Industrial or Storage Occupancies - (Per 5,000 square feet or portion thereof):
  - 1. Low or Ordinary Hazard . . . . . \$50.00
  - 2. High Hazard . . . . . \$75.00
  
- I. Common areas of Multi-Tenant Occupancies (i.e. shopping centers, high-rises, etc.):  
. . . . . \$75.00 per 10,000 square feet or portion thereof
  
- J. Trailer Parks & Campgrounds:  
. . . . . minimum of \$25.00, or \$1.00 per site, whichever is more
  
- K. Outside Storage of Combustible Materials (Scrap tires, tree stumps, lumber, etc.):  
. . . . . \$50.00 per acre
  
- L. Outside Storage of Flammable or Combustible Liquids, (Drums, Tanks, etc.):  
. . . . . \$50.00 per 5,000 square feet or portion thereof

- VIII. Quality Assurance Program Fees:
  - . . . . . \$35.00 annually per fire protection system type
  - . . . . . \$35.00 semi-annually per kitchen fire protection system

IX. Miscellaneous Fees:

- A. Copies of fire reports . . . . . \$25.00 for cover sheet, \$1.00 per page thereafter
- B. Research for fire investigation . . . . . \$45.00 per hour, (1 hour minimum)
- C. Additional copies of plan review transmittal  
. . . . . \$25.00 for first page, \$1.00 per page thereafter
- D. Code research for exception ruling . . . . . \$45.00 per hour, (1 hour minimum)
- E. Reimbursement for Fire Company Response for Nuisance and Unauthorized/  
Non-Permitted Outdoor Burns  
. . . . . \$250.00 per hour, per piece of apparatus (1 hour minimum)

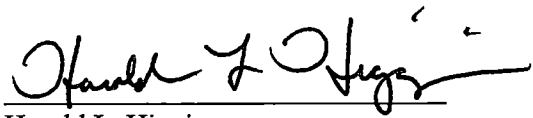
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any other plan review or inspection fees of the Fire Marshal not stated above shall be in the amount presently in effect.

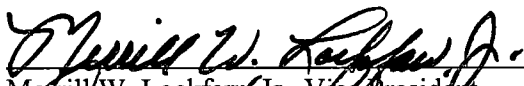
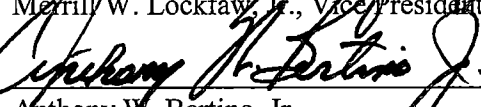
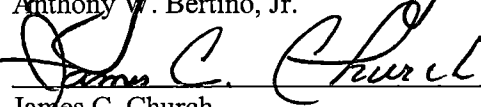
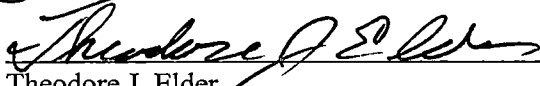
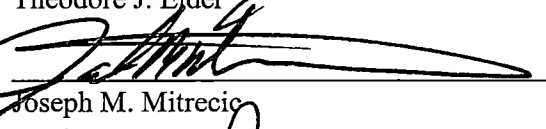

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect nunc pro tunc, July 1, 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

ATTEST:

WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold L. Higgins  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Madison J. Bunting, Jr., President  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr., Vice President  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.  
  
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James C. Church  
  
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Theodore J. Elder  
  
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Joseph M. Mitrecic  
  
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Diana Purnell