

Dear Ray,

Our contractor needs the permits for construction ASAP, so Kevin will be bringing the check over on Wednesday morning. We need to execute the construction ASAP or a whole series of things get complicated in the construction pipeline, but we still wish to resolve the fee amount.

In short, we'll pay the bill, but it's about double as to what we anticipated. We still wish for the charges to be reviewed.

Sincerely,  
Tom

Give Every Student, Every Chance to Become a Thriving Citizen and Achieve  
Their Potential!

Go Sweet Home!

Tom Yahraes, Superintendent  
Sweet Home School District #55  
Superintendent's Office  
PH: [541-367-7126](tel:541-367-7126)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tom Yahraes** <tom.yahraes@sweethome.[k12.or.us](mailto:k12.or.us)>

Date: Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 9:34 AM

Subject: SHJH Permit Fee Calculation Concerns

To: Raymond Towry <[rtowry@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:rtowry@sweethomeor.gov)>, Raymond Towry <[rtowry@ci.sweet-home.or.us](mailto:rtowry@ci.sweet-home.or.us)>

April 25, 2019

Ray Towry  
City Manager  
City of Sweet Home

1140 12th Avenue  
Sweet Home, OR 97386

Dear Ray:

The Sweet Home School District is diligently reviewing every bill for the Sweet Home Junior High School renovation project to make sure that taxpayers receive their money's worth.

We were surprised to receive an \$83,009.92 charge from the City of Sweet Home for the project's building permit fee, structural plan review and fire/life safety review.

Our architect said this amount is roughly double the cost of other projects of similar size. He also said that the straight fee calculation is not really appropriate for larger projects. Instead, a negotiated fee is often used.

The negotiated fee approach seems reasonable to us. Shawn Eaton with Northwest Code Professionals told us that he expects to visit the job site approximately 100 times during construction. The current fee works out to \$830 per visit. Assuming one hour per visit, this charge seems excessive.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tom Yahraes

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**From:** Tom Yahraes <[tom.yahraes@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:tom.yahraes@sweethome.k12.or.us)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 3:49 PM

**To:** Raymond Towry <[rtowry@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:rtowry@sweethomeor.gov)>; Blair Larsen <[blarsen@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:blarsen@sweethomeor.gov)>

**Cc:** Jason Redick <[jason.redick@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:jason.redick@sweethome.k12.or.us)>; Josh Darwood

<[josh.darwood@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:josh.darwood@sweethome.k12.or.us)>; Kevin Strong <[kevin.strong@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:kevin.strong@sweethome.k12.or.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Building Inspection Fees

Hi Ray,

Blair must have connected with you regarding my response concerning the City's desire for our property. Thanks for the updates and invites. So the right-hand knows what the left hand is doing and for efficiencies in efforts, I am including Blair, Kevin Strong, and Josh Darwood in this message.

What I pitched to Blair is the same thing I pitched to you for a win-win--fair deal. As a starting point:

1) We would partner with the City for wells on school district property. The wells would serve the community as an alternative source of water in case a fire, chemical spill or other event cuts off the City's current water supply. The wells would also provide water so school fields could be irrigated for youth sports and community recreation.

2.) As part of the City-School District partnership, we develop a plan for the Foster Elementary School arboretum allowing a swale to be developed and maintained to handle water runoff from Highway 20 and the proposed sidewalk.

#### Building Inspection Fees

We have already made budget reductions at Sweet Home Junior High School to offset the City's building inspection fees. The reductions include delaying the purchase of gym bleachers and delaying the purchase of lockers for the boys' and girls' locker rooms. There is no need to meet to discuss building inspection fees, beyond what we have stated over a year ago. We have already made reductions to pay for the City's fees. That ship has sailed.

The Sweet Home School District has accomplished a lot in the past five years to help improve our community's livability. Husky Stadium's turf field is a huge community asset. We have seismically upgraded the Sweet Home High School auditorium, Hawthorne Elementary School, Foster Elementary School and Holley Elementary School while also making these facilities more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing. The Sweet Home Junior High School renovation project has received overwhelmingly positive community feedback. We also continue to develop strong academic programs utilizing staff members that work in Sweet Home rather than sending students to other communities for school--and to be clear, we do not prohibit students from gaining academic credit from other colleges or universities from which students can incorporate coursework into their Sweet Home transcript. Moreover, we have accomplished all of this while lowering the school district's tax rate.

Regarding any agreements: In speaking on behalf of all district operations, I will not agree to any City management agreements or expectations of City oversight regarding district properties. We run and maintain our properties for the benefit of our K-12 programs and community.

Sincerely,

Tom Yahraes

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