

Re: Electrical Inspection Fees

The Chief Building Inspector has reviewed the adequacy of fees that are charged to applicants for electrical permits. The Inspector as the result of this review recommends that Burnaby Electrical Inspection Bylaw No. 761, and Amendment Bylaw No. 3875, be further amended in Section 17 of Bylaw No. 761 by deleting the current schedules for Electrical Permit Fees and substituting therefor the schedules set out in Regulations of the Province of British Columbia, passed by Order in Council No. 1999, June 12, 1973.

The recommended action would bring our Electrical Permit Fees to the level charged by the Provincial Government for Electrical Permits for those areas where the Province has inspection jurisdiction. In the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley areas, the City of Vancouver, the three North Shore Municipalities and the Municipalities of Burnaby, Surrey and Maple Ridge all maintain their local electrical inspection jurisdictions; elsewhere the Provincial Inspection Department has jurisdiction.

Additional information on this matter is contained in the following report from the Chief Building Inspector:

" (1) Present Fee Schedule

In 1957 Burnaby Electrical By-Law No. 761 was amended to adopt the "Regulations Governing Electrical Permits and Inspection Fees for the Province of British Columbia passed by Order in Council 653, dated March 21, 1953."

That same schedule of fees is currently in effect.

(2) Provincial Fees

I recommended to the Manager that we should adopt the latest schedule of fees set out in "Regulations Governing Permits and Fees made by Order in Council 1999, June 12, 1973."

(3) Monetary Effect

The schedule of fees for electrical permits is somewhat complex with a variety of items constituting the final fee. To judge the effect of adopting the 1973 Provincial fees, two types of jobs have been taken and fees developed on the basis of the present By-Law schedule and of the 1973 Provincial schedule.

For a normal residential house-wiring job of an average of 100 outlets, the 1973 Provincial schedule would result in a fee increase in the order of 25% to 30% over the current By-Law fee.

For a commercial or industrial job, for example, 400 amp. service and distribution to 4 - 6 rentals, the 1973 Provincial schedule would be a fee increase of from 70% to 100% over the current By-Law fee.

For the year 1973 the revenue from electrical permit fees for the Building Department amounted to \$49,406.37, while an estimate of costs of our electrical inspection service and office support staff thereof amounted to \$94,487.00.

Re: Electrical Inspection Fees - Cont'd.

ITEM 12

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 15

COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 25/74

(4) Implementation Date

A period of 30 days would be recommended after passage by Council of an amendment By-law before new fees came into effect.

With the recommendation to adopt the 1973 Provincial Schedule of Fees, we would suggest one minor change to that schedule. In the 1973 Provincial schedule a minimum permit fee is called up as \$10.00. It is our belief that for minor alterations, where the permit fee might be calculated as \$4.50 or \$5.00, an arbitrary minimum of \$10.00 will cause many persons to avoid taking out a required permit. Accordingly, we feel it would be wiser to forego a high minimum fee and instead recognize the calculated minimum fee of \$6.00 for 1 - 10 outlets, and let that figure serve as the minimum permit fee in Article 55 (1) of the Regulations.

The fees for building permits and plumbing permits were both checked and increased last Fall at the time of adoption of Provincial Building & Plumbing Regulations. However, gas permit fees charged in Burnaby are low and a separate report will be submitted recommending an increase for those fees."

It is recommended that the proposed fee increases become effective on April 1, 1974.

Following is a breakdown of the affect that the proposed increases would have on revenue during the current year:

Three months at current fees	=	\$ 12,500
Nine months at proposed fees	=	<u>58,500</u>

Total Estimated Revenue from fees in 1974 = \$ 69,000

Approximately \$50,000 would be received from the collection of fees in 1974 if no changes were made to the existing fee structure.

As can be seen from the preceding analysis, total costs for electrical inspection services and administrative staff would continue to be greater than total revenue received from fees even if fees are increased in the manner that has been proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the fees for electrical permits be increased as proposed; i.e., by deleting the current schedules for electrical permits from Burnaby Electrical Inspection Bylaw No. 761 and amendment Bylaw 3875, and substituting therefor the schedules that are set out in regulations in the Province of British Columbia, passed by Order in Council No. 1999, June 12, 1973; and

THAT the minimum permit fee be \$6.00; and

THAT the proposed changes become effective on April 1, 1974.