

Building Committee – July 6, 2023

Attendees: Chairman Chris Bell (CB), Councilman Jerry Canton (JC), Mayor Bill Koons (BK), Ruth Griswold RG, Dave Hocevar (DH)

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

JC gave an update on 508 Laurelbrook. As noted in previous meetings, neighbors communicated with JC that the property has blighted landscaping and they begrudgingly go to the property occasionally and fix it up. DH reported that the property owner cleaned up the property quite a bit before neighbors went over this year and the property was compliant prior to their efforts. DH noted that at this time there is not a visibility issue exiting the road to Bell Road due to the landscaping. If it becomes an issue, the Village can clean up the right-of-way and bill the homeowner. DH will call the property's renter to emphasize the importance of maintaining the property.

The Committee reviewed the proposed reinspection fee increase legislation the Solicitor created at the Committee's request. DH said the number of inspections needed depends on the type of construction. Each inspection requires a different certification, which DH has, so he tries to complete multiple inspections at one time. He noted that when the property is not ready when an inspection was scheduled, or the contractor does not show up, it's the contractor that is charged the reinspection fee, not the homeowner. The proposed increase is in line with other communities. The Committee agreed to move forward with presenting the legislation to Council.

BK reported that DH would like have a backup for building inspections when he is not available. Dan was hired as a zoning and building inspector last year at \$40 per hour. His primary work would be zoning, but would serve as a building backup. BK feels that we should pay Dan \$50-60 per building inspection since we pay DH \$75. It was noted that DH is an independent contractor and Dan is an employee of the Village. The Committee felt it may be appropriate to hear the opinion of the HR committee since such a program would be a new compensation model for employees.

There were no building or zoning issues this month.

RG reported that City Force continues to be working well.

JC suggested investigating a Village smoke alarm program for senior citizens who need them. The Committee agreed to invite the Fire Marshall to the August meeting to hear his thoughts.

BK reported that BZA met with a renter on Bell Rd. who erected a fence that is out of code. The hearing became very emotional and BZA decided to table the issue for 60 days in hopes that the renter and neighbors can work it out. The neighbors were upset that the code violation was put on their shoulders to figure out, rather than the Village handling the matter. BK will speak

with the Chair of BZA to communicate his disappointment that this is how the matter was handled.

DH reported that after two years of sending letters to 151 Lakeview Lane about property maintenance, the issue went to court. The court failed to communicate to the Village that the case was being heard. DH believes the charges may have been dropped after the homeowner told the judge that everything was cleaned up. DH has placed a call to get more information.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Submitted by Chris Bell, Chairman