



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Kolenberg, Matherne, McMullen, Pratt and Sherwood. Absent or excused were Reps. Giordano and Lutz. Also present were Jay Fountain, OPM Director; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Michael Toma, Law Department; and Jennifer Calder, Jim Federici and Deborah Miller, Health Department; and Commander Conklin, SPD.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designee(s)
1. PS30.016	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amending Chapter 70, Article 1, Burglar and Fire Alarms to Permit Setting of Fees and Penalties By Resolution. 10/04/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/25/18 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 6-0-0	Approved 7-0-0

Chair Stella opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Jankowski stated that these are reasonable fines. It takes a great deal of time when people fail to register their alarms and is dangerous to have vehicles respond to false alarms. A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Kolenberg, Matherne, McMullen, Pratt and Sherwood in favor).

2. PS30.017	RESOLUTION <u>and approval of public hearing</u> ; Establishing Alarm Fees and Penalties. 10/04/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/25/18 – Held by Committee 4-0-1	No Action Taken
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No action was taken on this item because the fines were approved in item 1, making this item moot.

3. [PS30.018](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Setting Fees For Miscellaneous Health Inspections and Testing. **Approved, as amended, 6-1-0**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder

Dr. Calder explained that many of these fees have not been increased in many years and are lower than neighboring municipalities. Dr. Calder, Ms. Miller, Mr. Federici, Mr. Jankowski, Mr. Fountain and Mr. Toma reviewed these proposed fees with the Committee as follows:

- The non-City beach fee is for 6 beaches in Darien
- Tick submission is charged for by other municipalities
- The City currently pays for the transportation of deceased animals for rabies testing
- The state mandates annual inspections of public pools. It is a very involved process, including structural inspections, such as filters, skimmer baskets; reviewing the testing logs, ensuring there is adequate safety equipment, signage, etc. The City has been conducting these inspections without charging for them; this would not apply to residential pools; the State required the Health Department to review plans for pool construction
- The services with 0 charge are no longer performed by the City; someone would have to go to a state laboratory for these tests

A motion to remove the fees for lab services no longer offered from the resolution which have been reduced to \$0 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Kolenberg, Matherne, McMullen, Pratt and Sherwood in favor).

- The tick test requires evaluation under a stereoscope; the state will only accept certain species of ticks and ticks can be difficult to identify; from a public health perspective a clinical diagnosis would not be made from a positive test result last year the city submitted 284 ticks to the state for testing at a cost of \$30 per test
- The Health Department has been absorbing the \$125 cost for transporting rabid animals.
- Last fiscal year there were 98 full profiles there are approximately 5200 wells in Stamford
- Bridgeport charges \$230 for indoor pool inspections; Darien charges \$600; the range of outdoor pool inspections is \$175-\$400; Stamford is at the low end of the range.

Mr. Fountain stated that these changes would increase fees collected from \$11,600 last fiscal year to \$29,710

- The well water testing full profile takes several days and includes 22 tests which are performed manually; Greenwich charges \$160; the \$80 fee was set in 2000.
- The well water profile is generally a non-recurring charge; people don't usually do it more than once
- Stamford does testing for non-residents

A motion not to increase the cost for well water testing full profile was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-2-1 (Reps. Kolenberg, Pratt, Matherne and Sherwood in favor; Reps. Stella and Morson opposed; Rep. McMullen abstaining).

A motion to approve this resolution, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Kolenberg, Matherne, McMullen and Pratt in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed).

4. [PS30.019](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Setting **Held 4-2-1**
Building and Associated Plan Review Fees Charged
by the Health Department.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder

Dr. Calder, Ms. Miller, Mr. Jankowski and Mr. Fountain reviewed these proposed fees with the Committee as follows:

- The first seven of these proposed fees are new as are soil testing for new septic system and septic plan post-review revision; the City has been performing these inspections and absorbing the cost
- Hotel plan reviews include evaluation of the rooms, public spaces, restaurants, beauty salons, and recreational areas for health and safety; subsequent plan reviews are included; these are complicated and may require review with several different contractors
- Stamford has many more facilities than neighboring municipalities
- Plan review is the best place to catch health issues
- The current fee schedule was established in 2000
- These changes would increase fees collected from \$10,290 last fiscal year to \$39,225
- The fee requests are because there are costs involved in these plan reviews
- The Health Department is not looking at the same issues as the Building Department – they are reviewing safety issues, not construction issues
- These fee increases would place Stamford at the lower end of the range of neighboring communities

A motion to approve this resolution was made, but did not receive a second

At the end of the meeting, a motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-2-1 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne and Pratt in favor; Reps. Kolenberg and McMullen opposed; Rep. Sherwood abstaining)

5. [PS30.020](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Setting **Approved 6-1-0**
fees for Day Care Facilities Plan reviews and annual
inspections.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder

Dr. Calder, Ms. Miller, Mr. Jankowski and Mr. Fountain reviewed these proposed fees with the Committee as follows:

- The City has been performing these inspections, which are State mandated, and absorbing the costs
- Other municipalities charge from \$85 to \$205 and \$85-\$425 for plan reviews
- The department did 25 inspections last year; inspections are every other year

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, McMullen, Pratt and Sherwood in favor; Rep. Kolenberg opposed).

6. [PS30.022](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 141 of the Code of Ordinances, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians Section 141-3 – Plan Review and Preoperation Inspection. **Approved 5-2-0**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder

Dr. Calder, Ms. Miller, Mr. Jankowski and Mr. Fountain reviewed these proposed fees with the Committee as follows:

- The City has been performing these inspections, which are State mandated, and absorbing the costs
- These plan reviews require a great deal of time, including 2 site visits and an office meeting; they are focused on the health code, space requirements and sanitation
- The licensing fee will not be changing
- There are a large number of infections possible at these facilities; heating implements can present a fire hazard or burn someone
- Greenwich charges \$100, New Canaan charges \$50; they have different licensing structures

A motion to approve this ordinance was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-2-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, Pratt and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Kolenberg opposed).

7. [PS30.021](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Setting Fees for Plan Review and Pre-operation Inspections of Barbershops or Hairdressing and/or Cosmetology Shop. **Approved 5-2-0**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Dr. Calder

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-2-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne, Pratt and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Kolenberg opposed).

8. [PS30.032](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Banning of Ghost Guns & 3D Print Firearms. **Held 6-0-1**
11/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Morson and Pratt

Commander Conklin exhibited a ghost gun AR45 that had been seized last week to the committee. Committee members discussed with Mr. Toma what restrictions the Board could enact.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Kolenberg Matherne, Pratt and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen abstaining).

A motion to hold Item 4 item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-2-1 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Matherne and Pratt in favor; Reps. Kolenberg and McMullen opposed; Rep. Sherwood abstaining)

.As a Secondary Committee:

9. [LR30.046](#) REVIEW; Exterior Lighting Regulations
7/11/18 - Submitted by Rep. Lion
08/02/18 – Held in Public Safety Committee
10/09/18 – Moved from Public Safety Committee

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) and [Pt. 2](#))