



# **SEABROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**87 Centennial Street**

**Seabrook, NH 03874**

**Phone: 603-474-2611 Fax: 603-474-5187**

**seabrooknh.info**



*William J Edwards*  
*Fire Chief*  
*603-474-3880*

*Lawrence "Koko" Perkins*  
*Deputy Fire Chief*  
*603-474-5300*

Date: June 28, 2023

To: William Manzi, Town Manager

From: William J Edwards, Fire Chief

Re: Fire Fee Schedule

At the last Board meeting I was asked to review the town's fire fee schedule by the Board of Selectmen. Our fees were last updated in 2018, I've attached a sheet showing our current fees and also the current fees of Exeter, Salem, Portsmouth, and Dover. After reviewing these neighboring communities' fees, I'd recommend leaving our fees as they currently are. We are very similar in most cases.

These other communities have some fees that Seabrook does not have like a Hotel inspection fee for example. This would be a fee specific to hotels only. We currently do not have such a fee, but also do not have the staffing to conduct these inspections. Inspections take a lot of time to walk through each building or business, then apply the code the correct way, meet with business owners and or maintenance personnel and explain the code violations.

After finding a violation and reporting it, we need to follow up and ensure the violations have been remedied. So having just the one person to handle all of this is taxing.

Our Fire Prevention is conducted by our Deputy Fire Chief, Koko Perkins. We handle all the state required inspections, like fireworks, schools and places of assembly. We typically only conduct non required inspections after receiving a complaint.

New construction is also a huge part of the inspections we conduct. Both commercial and residential. We are apart of most of the steps from the initial plan review at the tech review meetings though the final approval to open and operate or to occupy a household.



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We do send our duty crew out to try and help with inspections but these are mostly checklist inspections that we are able to squeeze in around the shifts busy call volume.

If the board would like to add fees or increase fees we are not opposed to doing this. I would however ask that these fees be put into a special account that the Fire Department can utilize to put back into fire prevention. We would like to add a part time fire inspector to assist with inspections. This position could easily be paid for by the fees we currently generate, along with the increased fees we would be able to assess with the part time person conducting inspections.

Respectfully,

William J Edwards

Fire Chief