



**Question:**

Why is there a \$160 fee to apply for a hearing with a voluntary board - Zoning Board of Appeals? As the applicant I have to do everything required except put the legal notice in the paper and that does not cost \$160.

**Answer:**

The Planning and Zoning Department and Land Use Commissions set fees for all applications that are submitted for several reasons. First, the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection requires a \$60 fee to be submitted on every application reviewed by the Land Use Commissions, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. We send \$60 of what we collect from each of these applications to the DEEP as per their requirement. Second, these fees help to offset costs incurred by the department during the review process. We are required to publish legal notices in the local newspaper, conduct a review of the plans, write minutes for the commission meetings, provide staff for those meetings, write permits, conduct field inspections, and complete reporting requirements for the CT DEEP. Without assessing a fee to each application, we would rely solely on tax dollars from everyone in town to subsidize those that are using the services of our department.