

Village of Skaneateles
Planning Board Meeting
September 3, 2009

In the matter of the application submitted by James H. Messenger & Geraldine A. Messenger for a 2 lot subdivision called "The messenger Subdivision" for the parcel of land 008-01-18 & 008-01-21, located at 5 East Street in the Village of Skaneateles.

Present: Bruce Kenan, Chairman
 William Eberhardt, Member
 Douglas Sutherland, Member

 Jorge Batlle, Clerk to the Planning Board
 Riccardo Galbato, Attorney for the Planning Board

 Andrew Ramsgard, Architect for the applicant

Absent: Steve Krause, Member
 Lauren Waite, Member

Chairman Kenan opened the meeting at 8:19pm. Andrew Ramsgard, Architect for the project said, "I am here to hopefully see that a motion is set to establish the escrow fee so the Village Engineer can start reviewing the proposal for the Site Plan. Initially you initially passed on the application for the Site Plan."

The Chairman asked, "this is for the Messenger, Ramblewood?" Ramsgard said, "yes." The Chairman asked, "what was the quote that we received?" Member Eberhardt said, "eighteen hundred dollars." Member Sutherland said, "it look like they could maybe spend 2 hours on it, so it's like 900 bucks an hour." The Chairman said, "yes, it seems like it is very high. In any event, that's the quote that we have. Do they want to proceed with that?"

Ramsgard replied, "they want to proceed. It would be great if that was the top side limit. Obviously it is a good idea to get a quote." Member Sutherland asked, "is there a way to get a clarification on an hourly rate with an upside of, and is that enough to get this going while we settle what we need to do?" Attorney Galbato asked, "are you directing me to do that?" The Chairman asked, "what do you think the hourly rate is they're contemplating?" Ramsgard said, "they were anywhere from probably 180 to 2 and a quarter, probably is the standard fee." Batlle said, "I think the killer is the last line – attend one Planning Board meeting." Member Sutherland said, "it sounds like he put in a day down, at 200 bucks an hour and he's also got an hour of travel in there, so he's got a day. If he's 225 an hour, that works out to be about a day." The Chairman said, "they can't possibly spend a day doing this." Galbato said, "they might have a reduced rate because it's municipal work. I do."

Chairman Kenan said, “well, you can either accept the quote and put \$1800 in an escrow account while we discuss with the Engineer his fees and get going. Or, I’m not sure what the alternative is in terms of getting going at the moment.” Ramsgard said, “I think that is what we’d like to do because the issue is we sent the Engineer the stuff. He basically called and said you know what? It’s just going to sit here until we get this decided. The Village, technically because of the requirements – he works for the Village. We can’t just pay him directly because then he’s our engineer. We have to pay the Village and then the Village has to pay him. So we couldn’t do anything for last month because the Engineer wouldn’t do it.”

The Chairman said, “so why don’t you do that. I will take the subject up with the Mayor of their rates.” Member Sutherland said, “in the meantime, Rick will call to get an hourly rate with billing by the hour with the \$1800 as the upset. At least attempt to do that.”

The Chairman said, “I presume that’s what’s intended. It says *the estimated cost is*. They wouldn’t be saying estimated if they were expecting it to be a lump sum.”

Ramsgard said, “we bring a check in for escrow and get going.”

The meeting was closed at 8:23pm.