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Okaloosa County opts against impact fees

DUSTY RICKETTS

Thursday July 12th, 2007

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CRESTVIEW — Impact fees will not be instituted in Okaloosa County for the foreseeable future.

Commissioners have decided not to go forward with a \$90,000 study by MuniFinancial that would have looked at the feasibility of implementing impact fees.

"The people in this county and the surrounding counties are fed up with any fee," said Commissioner James Campbell.

"They voted against the sales tax. Although this is an impact fee, it is a form of a tax. I said we need to be careful. People are going to be saying 'The county's going to start sticking it to you.' I'm not going to be a part of that."

The commission as a whole had previously expressed interest in moving forward in studying impact fees.

Commissioners held a workshop earlier this year and decided then to look into impact fees. They agreed to seek proposals from companies to study the issue.

The vote to not move forward with impact fees was approved Tuesday 4-1, with Commissioner John Jannazo voting to continue with the study.

"We determined it was worth pursuing, so now I am extremely disappointed it's going to be business as usual for Okaloosa County," Jannazo said.

Commissioner Don Amunds was concerned impact fees could have been perceived as a way for the county to recoup money lost through recent tax reform, which he says is not the county's intention.

With the county possibly having to cut minor services because of less property tax revenue, Amunds said it would not look good to then spend \$90,000 on a study.

"It's not completely off the table," Amunds said. "Sometimes, timing is everything."

Daily News Staff Writer Dusty Ricketts can be reached at 863-1111, Ext. 1448.

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Comments:

fees By: craig - 08:53:12 pm on July 12, 2007.

that's exactly why people don't vote for any new taxes/fees. these idiots just wasted \$90,000 on a study to see if developers should pay for the impact on services the developers cause, and they've had an almost 200% increase in revenues in the last 5 years that they've happily wasted on "studies" and "educating" the public as to why they need more money. the commissioners and developers want the taxpayers to pay for the damage already caused by bad planning and overdevelopment. so their solution is more of the same. there have to be a bunch of college degrees in this crowd, because you can't get this dense on a high school education.

Contributers By: PJ66 - 10:02:18 pm on July 12, 2007.

"The people in this county and the surrounding counties are fed up with any fee," said Commissioner James Campbell.

What people are really tired of is problems associated with excessive growth and no money to address them, whether it be roads, water, police, fire, sewers, etc. How much money did these commissioners take from developers during their campaigns?

Please read the article before posting By: flutter - 10:04:03 pm on July 12, 2007.

I believe it states that the "Commissioners have decided NOT to go forward with a \$90,000 study" You might want to read the article before you go making fun of education levels.

study By: craig - 07:10:58 am on July 13, 2007.

doesn't matter. if they're talking about it, they've already spent it. have you ever tried to get a budget breakdown on money spent? like how many cars bought, how much equipment, paper, pencils etc.?seems they can't provide it.ever wonder why? another good example of idiocy. "we need a yellow river reservoir. we're running out of water." then they start piping water down to the overbuilt south, and have a development up here using 1.7 million gals. a day for a golf course. that's why nobody listens to these clowns. they say money talks and the county commission listens to every dollar as long as it's not coming out of their personal pockets.

A Simple Explanation By: Rock - 07:16:24 am on July 13, 2007.

If impact fees were imposed the developer's profits would fall. Why should they lose profits when taxpayers can pay for the infrastructure needed to support the projects? It's called corporate welfare.

What's this world coming to when a developer can't make a fat profit on the backs of us taxpayers, whatever happened to the American dream? Besides if it wasn't for developers there'd be nobody to hire the illegal aliens that are infesting the area.

Quit thinking about yourself, somebody has to pay for private school for the developer's kids and his wife's lavish lifestyle and shopping sprees. It's up to us to sacrifice for their greater good.

That's what they think and they've convinced the politicians of it, so don't expect any changes anytime soon.

SubJect By: UserName - 08:14:35 am on July 13, 2007.

They're halfway there. We shouldn't have impact fees because we shouldn't have anymore development until the infrastructure catches up to the development we've had the past decade. Then we should only develop after we have a workable plan to provide the infrastructure for that development. At that time they can squabble over who pays, but until we have adequate infrastructure to serve the current population we don't need anymore.

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