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Vote scheduled on controversial Will County fee

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By Stewart Warren, Sun-Times News Group

Will County Board members are expected to vote May 15 on a proposed land development fee to fund road improvements.

Faced with that deadline, a few board members gathered for several hours Friday for a presentation explaining the genesis of the proposed fee and issues related to it.

The fee proposal dates to 2002. Members of the county board's public works committee discussed it first, then County Executive Larry Walsh created a committee to study the idea.

Walsh chose Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar, and Tom Bartlett and Bill Slavik, of Will-Grundy Counties Home Builders and Associates, among others, to be members of the committee.

The proposed fee is based on a mathematical formula developed by consultants, said board member Wayne McMillan (R-Bolingbrook).

"It is based on the size of the project, the type of project, and there are various credits for the amount of the actual improvement of the property," he said, adding that board members probably will change the formula if it is approved.

"Once it is in place, we can modify it all we want by a public hearing process," McMillan said.

Board member Ann Dralle (R-Lemont) said if the county board decides to approve the fee structure, it will be "very, very reasonable."

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