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'Apologetic' vote: Kane rules non-profit must pay roads fee

• *It's the law: County won't exempt social service agency from transportation fee*

By **Steve Lord**
STAFF WRITER

GENEVA — The DayOne Network will pay a \$36,000 road impact fee on its new building on Fabyan Parkway, just east of Kirk Road.

The agency, which coordinates services for children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities, had asked for a waiver of that fee. But the Kane County Board this week turned down the DayOne appeal on a 17-5 vote.

If there ever were an apologetic vote, this might have been it. Many board members said they wanted to give the social service agency a waiver of the fee because of its work, and the hardship the fee could cause. One board member, Aurora Democrat Linda Holmes, even apologized for her vote against the appeal as she made it.

But most board members agreed that, no matter how they felt emotionally, the current county impact fee ordinance does not allow for exemptions for new construction for non-profit organizations.

"The ordinance is straight-forward," said board member John Hoscheit, R-St. Charles. "I don't think it's within our discretion to give exemptions on a case-by-case basis. If we make an exception on this case, we challenge the integrity of the whole ordinance."

Hoscheit actually tried to exempt non-profits and hospitals from the ordinance when the board first enacted it several years ago, but such exemptions were rejected by the full board.

Board members Gerry Jones and Paul Greviskes, both D-Aurora, and Tom Van Cleave, R-Batavia, argued in favor of the exemption. Van Cleave pointed out that money paid for an impact fee by DayOne comes "directly from their money that goes to people in the community." Greviskes said because the board is "a deliberative body," it has the authority to make exceptions.

Joyce Helander, DayOne director, said the agency is building a new facility instead of renting again, as it has in the past, because that is more cost effective.

"The impact fee is a hardship," she said. "It discourages organizations like us to own, but owning keeps costs down. It would have been a misuse of public dollars, in terms of cost, for us to lease again."

Helander urged the board to change its ordinance in the future to exempt social service agencies. The board's Transportation Committee has been reviewing the transportation impact fee ordinance and could see a vote on it by November.

Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay, R-St. Charles, made it clear to board

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members she agrees with Helander about exempting social service agencies.

"You have an opportunity to change that, and I encourage you to do so," she said.

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