

[Back](#)

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Board Adds Two Impact Fees

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BARTOW -- New impact fees for fire and police protection in Polk County will take effect Oct. 1.

But county commissioners are considering a reduction of more than \$2,500 in the school impact fee.

County commissioners last week passed the new fees for fire and police protection on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Sam Johnson opposing.

Under the ordinance, the county will levy a \$216 fee for new single-family residences, including mobile homes, for fire and \$278 for law enforcement services.

This is the latest impact fee commissioners have imposed in the past two years in an attempt to find ways to pay to provide services for the new development that is flooding Polk County and which at times overwhelms public services.

The other impact fees are:

- \$8,596 for schools.
- \$5,844 for roads.
- \$444 for parks.
- \$197 for libraries.
- \$131 for jails.
- \$96 for emergency services.

The parks and library impact fees were enacted for the first time last year. The other fees have existed longer but had not been increased to cover the growth costs they were intended to fund. So commissioners increased them based on the results of a consultant study.

Commissioners plan to review a reduction in the school impact fee at a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. July 12.

Commissioners last year increased the fee from \$1,607 to \$8,596 for a new single-family home.

At the July 12 hearing commissioners are scheduled to consider decreasing the impact fee for new single-family homes to \$6,006.

School impact fees are based on available revenue for school construction. This year the Polk County School Board received an additional \$81 million to implement the class-size amendment, which has to be taken into account when calculating the impact fee.

The change will also lead to a decrease in the impact fee for multi-family units, from \$5,843 to \$4,082, and for mobile homes, from \$4,613 to \$3,223.

Impact Fees



Impact fees are charged on new construction to help pay for growth. For a single family home, the impact fees are:

USE	AMOUNT
Emergency services	\$96
Fire ¹	216
Jails	131
Law enforcement ¹	278
Roads ²	5,844
Schools	8,596
Libraries	197
Parks	444
Total	\$15,802

¹Adopted last week.

²County Commissioners are considering cutting the fee to \$6,006.

SOURCE: Polk County Commission, Sept. 14, 2005

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