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Builders' Consultant Says Impact Fees \$1,500 Too High

BROOKSVILLE - The county's proposed impact fee increase will charge future homeowners at least \$1,500 more than is warranted, a consultant hired by the Hernando Builders Association contends.

Kirk Sorenson of Government Solutions said he found errors and inconsistencies in the county's calculations that would charge new homeowners about \$10,200 in impact fees when they begin building their homes.

Sorenson, and the builders' association that hired him, are asking for a 60-day delay to give Government Solutions more time to review the county's impact fee data.

Impact fees are one-time taxes imposed on property owners when they build a home. The impact fees are earmarked to pay for services within the geographical areas where they are collected. County commissioners doubled the fee meant to pay for new parks, roads, libraries, schools and other government facilities in 2002 to \$4,894. They will hold their first of two public meetings today to discuss raising them again to about \$10,200.

The county issues at least 300 building permits per month. With an impact fee increase of about \$5,300, a 30-day delay would cost the county about \$1.6 million.

Fred Hiers

This story can be found at: <http://news.tbo.com/news/MGBXA27I98E.html>

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