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Cedar Lake OKs park impact fee

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CEDAR LAKE -- A proposed \$1,170 park impact fee for new homes was unanimously approved by the Town Council on Wednesday. The fee, which will be added to the building permit fee, takes effect in six months.

Approval came during a joint meeting with the Plan Commission. Plan Commission President Tim Kubiak said the fee would be restrictive to developers wanting to build in Cedar Lake.

"I just think we need to start at less than \$1,100," Kubiak said. "I just think it would be a good idea to look out for everybody in town."

The Plan Commission approved recommending the fee 5-1. Kubiak voted against the recommendation.

Town attorney David Austgen said the amount was arrived at through a two-year study by a consultant that complies with all the state statutes concerning park impact fees. To change the amount, part of the study would have to be redone.

Resident Jerry Reiling, a member of the committee that studied the impact fee, encouraged the council to move forward with it. He said a lack of planning for new parks in the past has helped to create a deficiency.

The fee will help enable the town to keep up with future growth.

"The problem is in the past we did not think ahead to develop the parks. This is for the future," Reiling said.

Following the meeting parks director Mary Joan Dickson said she was happy the fee was passed.

"I can't thank everyone enough for all their time, the committee, park board, plan commission and town council," Dickson said. "It was a long journey, but it was worth it."

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