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Impact fee deferral option provides relief

Required hookup to sewer, water mains suspended

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TOWN OF MENASHA — Claude Foster and his wife, Christine, have lived on their 15-acre hobby farm on Irish Road for 22 years and don't want to move.

Like other residents in the northwest section of town, the Fosters have been watching closely as the town re-examined its \$1,500-per-acre impact fee imposed in 1995.

On Monday, they got some relief in the form of a deferral approved by the Town Board on a 4-1 vote. The action means that about 70 residents in the area will be able to defer payment of a fee to hook up a sewer line to connect across town parkland.

"It's definitely a good thing for us," Claude Foster said. "It helps, it really helps. It shows us the town is trying to work with us."

The deferral was proposed by Town Administrator Jeff Sturgell as a way to appease northwest-side residents who think the town unfairly imposed a \$934-per-acre area-wide special assessment on them for extending the sewer line across 63 acres of town parkland in 2006.

Town officials suspended the requirement that residents must hookup to the sewer and water mains within one year of when they are in place within 100 feet of their properties because of opposition.

Town officials said Monday they now must figure out how and when to start the clock again since the sewer and water have been installed for more than a year.

"The idea is we will get the impact fees, it's just that the developer would be paying for them," Sturgell said.

Another Irish Road resident, Barb Knaack, asked the town to consider another issue: the distance between hooking up from the road to the home since many are setback quite a distance creating a large expense for the laterals.

The Fosters will be watching closely since their septic system and well are in good shape.

"We don't care to hook up because we're 400 feet off the road," Claude said. "We're going to see if we don't have to hook up for a period of time."

"At this point in time we're not requiring the one-year connection until we hear from the commission on what way to go," said finance director Myra Piergrossi. She said the town needs "some kind of guidance" from the board on how to proceed.

