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Commissioners Reduce Road Impact Fee

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Polk County commissioners on Wednesday agreed to lower the transportation impact fee, saying they didn't want to charge new residents twice for the cost of building roads.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to charge \$5,844 for new single-family homes to help pay for the cost of growth.

That's down from \$7,447, which commissioners originally approved in August. But it's still a 116 percent increase from the current fee of \$2,705.

Commissioners also agreed to implement the new fee gradually, levying only half of the fee for new residents who build homes before March 1, 2006.

Residents who build homes before June 1, 2006 will have to pay 75 percent of the fee, and after that they will pay the full amount.

The decision stemmed from a vote earlier this month to raise property taxes by 1 mill, or \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value, to pay for road projects.

Commissioners said that because new homeowners have to pay those property taxes, they didn't think it was fair to also levy such a steep impact fee for road improvements.
