

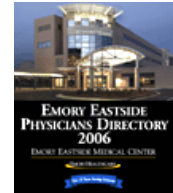
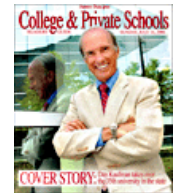
Gwinnett Daily Post

**Meet the
Candidates**

Gwinnett County, Georgia

Thursday July 27, 2006

You Are Here: » [Local/State](#) » Article



NEWS

[Front Page](#)
[Local/State](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Nation/World](#)
[Business News](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Sports](#)
[Life & Leisure](#)
[Weekend/Movies](#)
[Gwinnett Gab](#)
[Health/Wellness](#)
[Home & Garden](#)
[Taste & Travel](#)
[Family & Spirit](#)
[Archives](#)
[Corrections](#)

Search...

SERVICES

[Classifieds](#)
[Legal Ads](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Subscriber Services](#)
[Reader Submission](#)
[Forms](#)
[Career Fair](#)
[Special Sections](#)

Contact Us

[Advertising Dept.](#)
[Circulation Dept.](#)
[Editorial Dept.](#)
[About Us](#)

Links

[Community Links](#)
[Local Traffic](#)
[Information](#)
[Lottery](#)
[Stocks](#)
[TV Listings](#)
[Weather](#)

[Committee discusses impact fees to expand jail](#)

07/27/2006

By Camie Young
 Staff Writer
 camie.young
 @gwinnettdaily.com

LAWRENCEVILLE - The best candidate for developer impact fees, a Duluth city councilman said, is to expand the county jail. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Mundrick reached that conclusion during an exercise to organize his thoughts on the controversial fees. He shared a rubric Wednesday with other members of the citizens committee studying the issue, but not everyone agreed with his thoughts. "It's not quite cut and dry, black and white," said facilitator Jim Vaseff as he lead the eight men in discussions Wednesday. "(The chart) really helped the group focus." After months of presentations and discussions on the finances, philosophies and court battles, the committee has battled for weeks with formulating an opinion on whether the county should impose such fees. Mundrick spent a night "doodling," trying to shape his thoughts. "It's very difficult to discuss each of these," he said. "It helped generate some real questions." In the chart, he attempts to answer seven questions about the seven kinds of projects that state law allows impact fees for. The questions include whether there is a dedicated source of funding and whether it is sufficient, a comparison of how much money will be used to operate and maintain a facility that is built with the funds, the ease of defining service areas, the likelihood of cities to work with the county and if future residents pay their fair share of the cost. The only question that received the same answer to all of these questions is whether new facilities will be needed in the next six years. Mundrick answered yes for each category. Using his chart, the Duluth councilman said he believed water, sewer and stormwater uses should be low on the priority scale, since new residents pay system charges when they buy a home, but homeowner activist Bob Griggs was slow to cast aside any category. "I have a problem with the entire premise," he said. "There's a way to make it better even if it's not broken today." Mundrick said he believed the top priorities for impact fees in Gwinnett should be a new county jail, libraries and fire stations. "The one that jumped out on me in doing this exercise is the prisons," he said. The need for more jail cells comes from the growing population, but the idea isn't popular enough to put on sales tax ballots, he said. Plus, all of the local cities transport criminals to the county jail, so they would likely agree to charge the impact fee within their borders, he said. Later this year, the sheriff will open an expansion to the jail, but officials have said a second tower must be built soon because of the growing number of inmates. Recreation and transportation will be more complicated to make developers pay fees to fund infrastructure for new growth, Mudrick said. "It becomes more complicated because you've got cities doing different things," he said. "Some cities would be really resistant, including my own."

Email This Article
 Printer Friendly

Other Headlines »

Police reports

Developer gets no zoning help from Kenerly

Loganville man enters World Series of Poker

Man accused of helping brother evade police

Man charged with enticing 16-year-old

In brief

Teen dies in accident at Lanier

Divers find woman's body

Barrow Commission asks for fourth judge

»