

County Commission gives green light for School Board's impact fee plan

By Jeff M. Hardison

BRONSON - A request from the Levy County School Board to impose impact fees on new residential construction met with approval from the County Commission to go forward.

Although the school board's research company found justification to seek impact fees more than twice as much as it asked the county commission to approve, the school board limited its proposed impact fees request.

These impact fees are to help reduce the effect of new students coming into the county, which requires new schools to be built. The school board wants \$1,200 to be paid by builders of each new single-family residence in Levy County.

The impact fee proposed for placing a new mobile home in a park is \$750 and the proposed impact fee for multi-family residences is \$850 per unit.

These school board impact fees essentially match the current impact fees and classifications imposed by the County Commission. Therefore, the impact fees paid today will be about double after the school board's impact fees are added. These fees are on new residential construction alone. Commercial builders do not pay impact fees to the school board.

The commission chose to ask County Coordinator Fred Moody to contact the law firm that helped it create the county impact fees. That firm will review the proposed ordinance from the school board.

County commissioners intend to bill the school board for this legal service, upon Moody's recommendation.

If there is a flaw in the school board's ordinance, Commissioner Sammy Yearty said, the county commission would be liable for it. He wants that law firm to review the ordinance before the county commission adopts it.

Therefore, he believes the school board should pay for the legal review.

Yearty's motion to move forward with the school board's request was seconded by Commissioner Tony Parker and met with a 5-0 vote of approval.