

County impact fees will need revision

By Mike Bowdoin

The impact fees on new construction for parks and recreation that were recently approved by the Levy County Commission will likely be slightly increased in an upcoming ordinance amendment that will reflect the reappraised property values of some county parks.

The reappraisal of eight county parks came after the Nov. 17 public hearing in which County Commissioner Sammy Yearty questioned some of the property values that were used in calculating the parks' impact fee as outdated. At the Commission's Dec. 20 meeting County Coordinator Fred Moody announced that a review of the park properties by Property Appraiser Francis Akins had resulted in an increase to the appraisal of the county parks' total land value from \$3,275,000 to \$4,222,000.

Some examples cited by Moody after the meeting were the Waccasassa Boat Ramp and Park and the Shell Mound Campground. The updated appraisal for the Waccasassa Ramp's four acres went from \$9,634 to \$262,046, and the new appraisal for Shell Mound, with 9.8 acres and a RV park, was increased from \$29,400 to \$316,834.

According to Moody, Akins said his office had not bothered to adjust the land value appraisals for the parks in many years because they are tax exempt and his office is usually very busy with other concerns.

The increase in the parks' value means that the county's impact fee amount for parks and recreation will also go up, although Moody said he was unsure what the amount would be and it would not be known until the impact fee formula is reworked with the new figures. Moody said he did not expect the fee to go up very much. He added that the reappraisals had also been conducted for other purposes, such as improving the county's bond rating by adjusting the value of its holdings.

Moody said the amendment would have to be voted on by the board but would not require a public hearing, and he didn't know if the amendment could be voted on before the new fees are scheduled to go into effect in January.

On Nov. 17, the county's parks and recreation facility impact fees were set by dwelling unit at a rate of \$150.21 for single-family houses, \$123.73 for multi-family dwelling units, and \$158.21 for mobile homes.

The total impact fee for a new single-family home, which also includes fees for road maintenance and emergency medical services, was set at \$1,269.59 on Nov. 17.