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County names impact fee panel

05/19/05

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The Gordon County Commission has appointed a 10-member impact fee advisory committee, and an orientation session will soon be held in Atlanta.

"We need to get to work on it," Commission Chairman Alvin Long said. "And we can go one way or another."

Long said that he's spoken with communities that have implemented impact fees in Alabama without any problems whatsoever.

"The developers are coming in and willingly writing the checks," Long said at a Tuesday afternoon work session. "Building and construction has not slowed down."

He said the advisory committee needs to hear from people on "both sides of the issue" so that members can have a well-rounded view of "what's going on."

"We've got to find new revenue streams for Gordon County," Long said. "This is one of them. If it works, it works. If it doesn't, it doesn't."

The Atlanta workshop on impact fees set aside seven of its 50 slots for Gordon County, County Attorney Suzanne Smith said. The workshop is called "Impact Fees: Practices and Principles."

"We never could have afforded to bring these experts in on our own," Smith said.

"We were lucky to get seven slots."

Another committee is also moving forward. Smith and other county officials said that people are already lining up to offer their service to the newly established Historic Preservation Commission.

Ken Padgett, Betty Ann Surdykowski, and Ann Greeson have volunteered to serve on the committee, officials said.

Each commissioner will have one appointee on the new board.

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Which Ga. legislative effort do you think will be most successful?

- Crime - Meth law/ CriminalJustice Act/Crime Victim's Restitution Act
- Education - Tax cut for teachers/ Delayed Class size reductions
- Health Care - Malpractice tort reform/Small business insurance options
- Driving - Realignment of departments/ Teen driving, Joshua's Law

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The commissioners hope to have the board in place by mid-June.



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