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County to Consider Jail Impact Fees

Amount charged to a home would be \$131; but cost to a business would vary.

By [Tom Palmer](#)

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BARTOW -- Proposals for lower jail impact fees for homes and a first jail impact fee for businesses will be coming to the County Commission for consideration July 13, commissioners agreed Wednesday.

Commissioners set the hearing date after hearing a report from consultant Randy Young, who has been working with the Polk County Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

Under Young's proposal, the jail impact fee charged to new homes would drop from \$152 to \$131. But new commercial construction, which has not been charged the fee, would pay varying rates, depending on the type of structure.

The committee in reviewing the fees concluded that it was inequitable to only charge homes when businesses are also the site of crimes.

Proposed commercial rates would range from 7 cents per square foot for industrial property to \$1.48 per square foot for restaurants and bars.

Commissioners will not decide when the revised fees will take effect until the hearing next month.

Commissioners recently increased the ambulance impact fee and levied the first-ever parks impact fee. The fees are intended to defray the cost of providing services for new development.

County Manager Mike Herr also provided commissioners with an update on other pending impact fees proposed to be increased or initiated.

The amounts for the fees have not been determined.

Public hearings on revised school and road impact fees are scheduled for Aug. 10.

Public hearings on new impact fees for fire, law enforcement and libraries are scheduled for Sept. 14.

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