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Developers waiting on board to discuss impact fees

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WAYNESBORO, PA. — The Washington Township (Pa.) Supervisors said Monday they haven't discussed impact fees as a board since last week's meeting in which developers and real estate agents claimed the fees are hurting commercial growth.

Representatives of at least 10 major commercial and housing projects talked to the supervisors Jan. 27 about the municipality's practice of collecting \$3,147 per "traffic unit" created by new development. The fees, which apply to a certain geographic zone, are used to pay for the construction of Washington Township Boulevard, a \$16.7 million relief route being built north of Waynesboro.

Some developers asked for a two-year grace period in which fees are cut in half or not collected.

The supervisors said that night they might ask the already-established impact fee committee to look into some options, such as changing the length of the relief route. The supervisors have not yet given the committee any direction.

"We really haven't discussed among us what we want to do," Supervisor Jeff Geesaman said.

When the supervisors were asked about their personal views on the matter, Supervisors Chairman Stephen Kulla said he didn't feel it "would be appropriate" to talk about them before a board discussion.

The supervisors said they'll add impact fees to the agenda for their Feb. 10 workshop meeting.

In other business, Township Manager Mike Christopher and the supervisors talked about the highway occupancy permit issued for the intersection of Washington Township Boulevard and Country Club Road. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation permit, the application for which was submitted 2 1/2 years ago, clears the way for relief route construction in that area if funds become available.

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