

News

Hatfield Township raises fees for developers, wood stoves

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By Bradley Schlegel

HATFIELD TWP. — The township's board of commissioners voted Wednesday to amend its fee schedule. The members formalized a 20 percent increase in traffic impact fees and added a stipulation for the installation of outdoor wood burning furnaces.

Developers who conduct traffic impact studies in the township will be required to pay \$2,281.88 for each new trip created during weekday afternoon rush hour, according to Manager Andrew Haines. The old fee was \$1,903.12 per new peak-hour trip.

The commissioners adopted a resolution recommended by the township's Act 209 Traffic Impact Fee Advisory Committee at its Aug 25 meeting, according to Haines. He said Wednesday's action updated the current fee schedule.

The increase could add more money to the township's capital improvement fund, according to the manager.

Traffic impact fees in the township were last raised in December 2008 from \$1,669.40, according to The Reporter archives. The recommendation by the traffic impact advisory committee was based on a study of three new intersection projects and construction cost adjustments.

The study adds proposed improvements at the intersection of Derstine Road and Clemens Road along with Unionville Pike/Richmond Road/School Road.

"You may look at it and ask why? But it will meet warrants in time," Haines said in August. "In the event down the road the intersection meets thresholds to make improvements, the committee identified it as an artery in time that would need control."

Residents installing a wood burning stove are now required to pay an initial \$60 fee, according to the manager. He said the charge would be required to make sure it is installed per the manufacturer's requirements and that the required setbacks are maintained.

An annual \$25 fee is also required, Haines said.

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