

New study recommends decreasing Bozeman's impact fees

GALLATIN COUNTY

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BOZEMAN, Mont. -

Bozeman's impact fees cover four areas- streets, water, sewer and fire/ems- new business and housing developments are required to shell out the one-time payment.

"We need to know the living area or the square feet of the space, the lot size" said a representative from Maryland firm Tischler Bise.

The firm collected data on Bozeman's development, and came up with proposed fees. They presented the results to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee on Thursday night.

"The current amounts are higher for residential- so our proposed fire impact fees are less for residential development" the representative said.

The firm found current impact fees in many areas are higher than they think are necessary.

The study recommends reducing street impact fees for new development of all types in Downtown Bozeman by 29 percent.

Firm reps say that's because downtown development encourages walking and biking, putting less strain on the streets.

The committee had some questions.

"Say all we wanted to do was put a drinking fountain- a water drinking fountain in a park- how could you calculate that acreage cost?" said committee member Anna Rosenberry.

And the public weighed in.

"I thought they were pretty clear in the presentation" said one Bozeman citizen.

"And I think a lot of them are moving in the right direction, especially the water and sewer, with area allocation. That makes a lot of sense."

The Committee will decide what recommendations to make to the City Commission- who will ultimately decide what to change.

The Commission will also hold a public hearing before taking any action. No date's been set yet for that meeting.

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