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No county fee break for Habitat

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Grey County will collect almost \$2,300 for a development fee from Habitat for Humanity for a home the non-profit group is building in Owen Sound despite opposition to the charge from the city's mayor, Ruth Lovell Stanners.

A bid by Lovell Stanners to have county council reconsider giving the group, which provides affordable housing for needy families, a grant equal to the development charge failed Tuesday. The finance and personnel committee also voted Sept. 28 to turn down a request for a grant equal to the \$2,2995.94 fee the county will collect.

That request came after an earlier bid by Lovell Stanners for the county to waive its development fee was turned down because it ran counter to Grey County policy. She was told that the city, which has waived its development fees for the project, could instead request a grant for the organization.

"My feeling is because the county is responsible for social housing we need to show some leadership and encouragement for groups like Habitat for Humanity," Lovell Stanners said after the vote. "Affordable housing is badly needed . . . (but) the county seems reluctant to put our own dollars into it."

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