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May 17, 2006

New Bern, North Carolina

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Pamlico retains its water impact fee

May 17, 2006
 CHARLIE HALL
SUN JOURNAL STAFF

Effort to quash \$1,500 requirement fails, 4-3

BAYBORO — Pamlico County commissioners turned off the spigot Monday night on an attempt to abolish a controversial \$1,500 water impact fee for residential customers.

The board added that fee during a budget session in the spring of 2005. Commissioner Carl Ollison, who was not at that meeting, has railed against the fee ever since.

His attempt Monday night to strike down the fee fell by a 4-3 vote, with Commissioners Paul Delamar and Ann Holton siding with him. Commissioners Doug and Roy Brinson, Chris Mele, and Jimmy Spain voted to keep the fee. The county also has a \$550 tap fee for new customers.

“People are just shocked when they walk in the courthouse and somebody tells them they have to pay \$2,050 just for the privilege of tasting our delicious water,” said Delamar.

Ollison’s motion included removing the impact fee and raising the current \$550 tap fee to \$675 to cover the county’s actual meter installation cost. It did not address impact or tap fees for other size pipe.

Doug Brinson said taking the individual household impact fee to zero while leaving larger pipe fees in place did not reflect equitable sharing of the costs among water users.

Mele and Spain both expressed concerns that without the impact fee, the county would end up high and dry in future infrastructure needs.

The \$1,500 figure came from revenue analysis that projected 144 new homes would be built in the county annually over the next 15 years. A 2005 report pointed to \$4 million in water system expansion spread over 20 years. The \$1,500 fee, based on a projected 2,160 new homes, would bring in \$3.2 million.

In answer to an inquiry by Delamar, interim County Manager Tim Buck said there were 75 new homes built in 2005.

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Yes

Not interested at all

No, because I will be out of town

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May 2006

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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