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polk county commission

## Panel Votes to Lower Impact Fee

**Growth-funding levy on new, single-family homes is reduced from \$7,447 to \$5,884.**

By [Rebecca Mahoney](#)

The Ledger

BARTOW -- In an effort to soften the financial blow of building a new home or business, Polk County commissioners Wednesday agreed to lower the transportation impact fee and to give it more time to take effect.

Commissioners originally had voted to raise the fee to \$7,447 for new, single-family homes to help pay for the cost of growth, a steep increase from the current fee of \$2,705.

On Wednesday, however, they unanimously agreed to lower the fee to \$5,844, saying new property taxes and other impact fee increases were simply too much to impose in one year.

"A lot of the taxes we've done, a lot of these businesses are paying these taxes, and it's a lot for them to be absorbing at once," said Commission Chairman Jack Myers. "I know a couple deals that (residents) are scrambling around trying to save right now."

The new fee for multiple-family homes will be \$5,300. New mobile home owners will pay \$2,650.

Impact fees are charged on new construction to help pay for the cost of growth.

The decision comes two weeks after commissioners voted to raise property taxes countywide to pay for road improvements. Residents will pay 1 mill more, or an additional \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, in taxes.

At the time, commissioners promised to lower the transportation fee if the property tax passed, saying higher taxes and a hefty increase for roads would be a double whammy to prospective home or business owners.

Commissioners said they had to set the higher fee because if the property tax package didn't pass, they wouldn't be able to raise the impact fee and would have ended up with less money to spend on roads.

At Myers' suggestion, commissioners agreed to implement the new fee gradually.

New Impact Fee		
Polk County commissioners agreed to raise transportation impact fees paid on new residential, commercial and industrial buildings.		
These are the new residential fees:		
HOUSING	NEW <sup>1</sup>	CURRENT
Single family Home	\$5,844	\$2,705
Multi-family Unit	5,300	1,863
Mobile Home	2,650	1,411
<sup>1</sup> Fee will be put into effect gradually and will be implemented in full on June 1, 2006		
SOURCE: Polk County		

People who build new homes before March 1, 2006, will pay only half the fee.

Residents who build new homes or businesses before June 1, 2006, will have to pay 75 percent of the fee, and after that they will have to pay the full amount.

Commissioners also set the rates for the new library impact fee, which will be used to build new libraries in unincorporated areas of the county.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to charge \$197 for single-family homes, \$145 for multiple-family homes, and \$132 for mobile homes. Those fees will go into effect Dec. 1.

Rebecca Mahoney can be reached at [rebecca.mahoney@theledger.com](mailto:rebecca.mahoney@theledger.com) or 863-802-7548.

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