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School's impact fees will double

Posted on 04 November, 2005, by bcpres

The Baker County School Board is seeking an impact fee of \$1000 that will automatically double after one year. The flat fee will apply to new construction of single-family homes and multi-family units, as well as move-on permits for mobile homes.

The Board of County Commissioners, which must pass the fee ordinance for the school board, scheduled a public hearing for November 21 at 6:00 pm.

At Tuesday's meeting, commissioners approved a request to advertise the hearing.

The request was part of the board's consent agenda, which was approved without discussion.

There were no representatives from the school district at the commission's meeting.

Likewise, there were no school district officials at the last Macclenny city meeting when commissioners discussed the school board's request for an impact fee ordinance.

At the time, the board had not presented the city with an amount, and some commissioners were reluctant to enact an ordinance for the schools. If the county commission enacts the fee as is, the automatic increase to \$2000 will push the school board's impact fee past the county's \$1500. Macclenny has tentatively settled on a fee of \$3000.

Glen St. Mary is covered under the county's ordinance.

Impact fees, levied on new construction, are intended to help pay for the additional roads, schools, police and fire services needed to accommodate growth.

There are rules governing when, where and how much can be spent, and the fees must be justifiable.

The fees will be paid when a building permit is pulled.

While the city's impact fee will be apportioned among transportation, law enforcement, emergency services, fire services and recreation, the county's is exclusively for transportation.

According to the school board's proposed ordinance, the money it collects from impact fees will be spent on land acquisition, construction of facilities and buses, among other things.

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved a Small County Outreach Program Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the widening and resurfacing of CR 123 from Deck Mann Road to US 90. DOT will kick in about \$270,000.
- Accepted a check from Clerk Al Fraser for nearly \$100,000 in excess funds collected by his office. He also said he spent none of the more than

\$100,000 the commission budgeted for his department.

- Scheduled a first reading of the planned unit development of Greystone. When the developer Forte Macaulay was last heard from, it was ditching Glen St. Mary in favor of the county despite assurances to Glen officials that Greystone's 232 single-family homes on 148 acres east of Baker High would be incorporating into the small town. The first reading is scheduled for November 21, the second for December 6.
- Approved an adoption hearing for land use amendments arising from plans for the Blair Nurseries development.

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