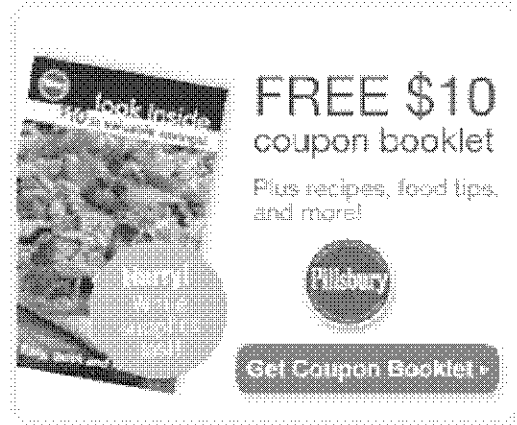


## Printed News

[BACK](#)[PRINT](#)[EMAIL](#)

Published on: Monday, January 12, 2009

## Charlotte reviewing impact fees



**FREE \$10**  
coupon booklet

Plus recipes, food tips,  
and more!

Pillsbury

Get Coupon Booklet

### The Story

Text Size

[PRINT](#)[EMAIL](#)

MURDOCK – The Charlotte County Commission will be asked Tuesday to keep its reduced impact-fee rate in place.

Commissioners will also talk about establishing new tiered impact fees and other options at a workshop scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday.

In the fall of 2007, commissioners approved rolling back both residential and commercial impact fees that new development pays for roads, libraries and other county infrastructure.

Rates were rolled back to 1998 levels, with \$8,000 impact fees decreasing to \$2,500.

Keeping the reduced impact fees in place does have its advantages to the county, Growth Management Director Jeff Ruggieri said. A state grant will assist counties with affordable housing if they keep lower impact fees in place for 18 months or more.

The lower rates have other benefits. A "handful" of small commercial property owners, Ruggieri said, were only able to build under the lower fee schedule. But how this affected the local economy Ruggieri couldn't say, especially in light of factors resulting in the economic downturn.

"I don't know if it made (a difference), but (county commissioners) were very concerned with local builders and the mom and pop shops," he said.

Commissioner Dick Loftus, whose background includes construction contracting, said he was originally against the reduction of residential impact fees.

But once the majority supported reducing them, Loftus said he supported reducing commercial fees as a potential economic stimulus.

Loftus is interested in a tiered impact fee schedule, especially the establishment of impact fees for new development outside the county's urban service area.

"It would be a useful tool for us," he said. "It costs more to provide (infrastructure) outside of the urban service area."

E-mail: [reilly@sun-herald.com](mailto:reilly@sun-herald.com)

By STEVE REILLY

Staff Writer

[Return to Top of story](#)



© 2009 All Rights Reserved  
A Division of Sun Coast Media Group  
Publishers of SUN Newspapers