



Eagle Valley Library considers impact fee

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EAGLE, Colorado — After the public voted down a request to fund a multi-million dollar expansion and upgrades to local libraries last year, the Eagle Valley Library District has come up with a new plan that may meet its most urgent needs.

The library district is approaching local towns with a request to impose an impact fee on new construction.

The premise is that the impact fee will help growth pay its own way. The impact fee, by law, can only be used for capital improvements such as physical expansions. It may not be used for materials, such as books, or for day-to-day library operations.

“The fees would go a long way toward the capital improvements we will need for youth centers, teen centers and historical documentation of our county’s development — and just the overall adult services,” said Eagle Valley Library District Director Charlyn Canada.

The district estimates it will need approximately \$10 million for two expansions. About \$5 million is needed to expand the Eagle Library; and another \$5 million is needed to expand and possibly relocate the Avon Library to the Village at Avon. Both libraries have reached their capacity and are straining to accommodate programs and users. The Eagle expansion is already planned to begin in 2008, while the Avon expansion is on hold.

The impact fee would apply to new residential construction only in the district’s service area, which stretches throughout the county, with the exceptions of Vail and Basalt, which have their own library systems. The fees would be charged based on 3,000-square-foot building increments. Any new construction 3,000 square feet or less would be charged a one-time \$700 impact fee. Larger homes, up to or more than 10,000 square feet, and could be charged the equivalent of two or three impact fees.

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