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Mon, December 1, 2008

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### Emmitsburg to consider water, sewer fee ordinances

Originally published November 27, 2008

By **Ashley Andyshak**  
News-Post Staff

EMMITSBURG -- Commissioners will discuss two ordinances Monday that would slash total surcharges for builders and would raise water and sewer rates for some users.

The discussion comes in response to several requests from builders and residents over the past few months.

Representatives from Ryan Homes and residents of Ryan's Brookfield development have said waiving the water and sewer surcharges imposed on builders would allow Ryan to sell more homes and complete the Brookfield neighborhood, maintaining property values and adding to the town's tax base.

The town has proposed doubling the initial sewer tap fee to \$8,000 and halving the water and sewer surcharge fees to \$3,500. The ordinance would also cut the new home impact fee from \$3,200 to \$1,200. In total, new home surcharges and fees would drop 20 percent, from \$25,725 to \$20,725.

The water and sewer surcharges were imposed on all new homes in 2004 to help cover the cost of state-mandated repairs to the town's aging sewer system.

Board President Chris Staiger said the proposed fee structure more accurately reflects a new home's effect on the town's infrastructure.

Commissioners also will consider a water and sewer rate increase Monday to help cover a \$100,000 deficit in the town's sewer system enterprise fund.

While water and sewer surcharge revenue has exceeded budgeted figures this fiscal year, expenses have exceeded incoming revenue, Staiger said. Town staff has proposed raising rates up to 15



#### IF YOU GO

— **WHAT:** Emmitsburg commissioners meeting

— **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Monday

— **WHERE:** Emmitsburg town office, 300 S. Seton Ave.

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percent for customers who use more than 20,000 gallons of water per quarter.

Commissioners may vote on the ordinances Monday, though Staiger said the evening may only yield discussion.

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