



## Impact fees reduction to be discussed today by Collier Commissioners

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NAPLES — Impact fees may be a hot topic today for Collier County commissioners, as might elimination of outdated taxing districts and creation of a new Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

The Collier County Commission will take up all these issues, at the same time that it juggles budget amendments and transfers.

Impact fees have long been a sore point between county government and the development community.

Impact fees offset the costs of stress -- or impact -- on a neighborhood when a new building or project is developed. Those stresses could be on roads, water supply, sewers, schools, public transportation or green space.

While the county's Productivity Committee recommended that all fees controlled by the commission -- including schools -- be frozen, county staff members are suggesting that transportation impact fees see a cut.

Productivity Committee member Larry Baytos said his committee recommended a two-year freeze on all increases; that such action is necessary for developers' long-term planning.

The county staff's approach could bring fee indexing increases next year, depending on land and construction costs, he said.

County government spokesman John Torre said Baytos wanted to roll back impact fees to 2007 levels, or, those in place on Dec. 31, 2007, until the end of 2010.

Another long debate might reignite when commissioners adopt an ordinance establishing a Collier County Emergency Medical Services Policy Advisory Board.

The five-member board would help commissioners decide on issues dealing with pre-hospital emergency medical services. The board might consist of an emergency room physician, ER nurse, pharmacist, fire district official and a member of EMS.

The new board would review and advise county commissioners on all issues concerning pre-hospital EMS services; and to hear disputes arising out of the Advanced Life Support interlocal agreements (ALS is equivalent in many locations to EMS training.)

While the old EMS Advisory Board will expire March 1, according to County Attorney Jeff Klatzkow, it was unclear where an eligible candidate might forward his or her resume.

Board composition will be decided on applications reviewed by the Medical Society of Collier County, although those meetings will have to be public, since the members will advise the commission.

Finally, commissioners will dissolve a number of outdated taxing authorities.

According to Mark Isackson, the county's senior Management and Budget adviser, a search of the Collier County Property Appraiser's files revealed that most of these special taxing units have fulfilled their purpose.

They include the following:

\*\*District 2 Northwest Collier Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU.)

\*\*District 5 MSTU.

\*\*Pine Ridge Industrial Park MST and Benefit Unit.

\*\*Naples Production Park Street Lighting MSTU, original and amended versions.

\*\*Port of the Islands Community Improvement District.

\*\*County Barn Roadside Drainage Improvement MSTU.

For a full list of all taxing units that could be eliminated, read item 16F2, part of the commission's consent agenda, where all issues are decided in bulk with one vote.

The meeting starts at 9 a.m. in the Collier County government center at the corner of Airport-Pulling Road and U.S. 41 East.

The meeting also can be seen on Comcast Cable Channel 97.

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