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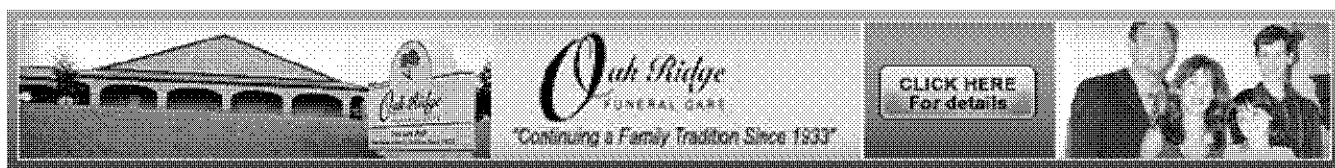
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Impact fee debate shifts to commercial development



Contributed by [Tom Palmer](#) - Posted: February 18, 2009 12:10:22 PM

Polk County commissioners heard more about the evils of impact fees Wednesday. This time the issue was whether Polk County's impact fees are a deterrent to commercial development that was chasing new development - in this case an unnamed restaurant chain - to other Central Florida counties where impact fees are lower.

The majority of the commission appeared to buy the argument and will be discussing the issue in more detail at a work session next month, saying they were concerned that they didn't want to put unnecessary barriers to job growth and economic development.

Commissioner Bob English was skeptical, questioning whether impact fees were the deciding factor in determining whether to locate in Polk County, trumping land costs, property taxes or any other development-related costs.

He was assured by Jim Lee, who brought up the issue, that impact fees were the decisive issue.

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Posted By: Chris (2/19/2009 3:12:10 PM)

Comment: I guess existing residents would not benefit at all from new growth. Maybe all new growth should be pushed off on those counties crazy enough to want it.

Posted By: Franklin (2/19/2009 12:15:22 AM)

Comment: I guess the Commissioners just like to force existing residents to pay for the infrastructure costs of new for-profit development - nothing like more taxation to subsidize the profits of private corporations. No wonder we're having property tax revolts. Get the message - new growth needs to pay for new growth and not be placed on the backs of existing, financially strapped residents.

Response: I believe that sums up the issue.

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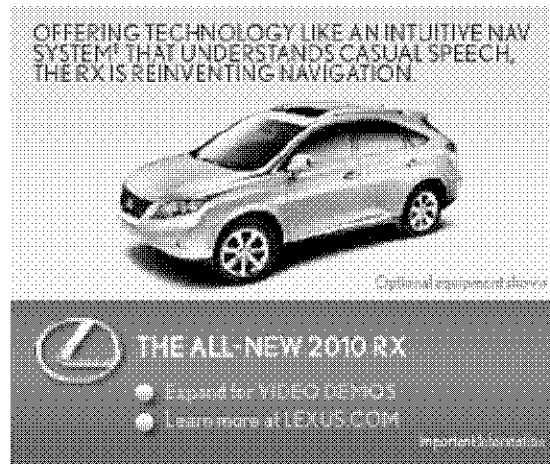
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