

## Indian River County commissioners stall on fee increase, opt for more workshops to study impact

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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — County commissioners, who were scheduled in a special meeting Friday to vote on an average 72 percent increase in impact fees, instead decided to have more workshops on the fees.

“This was our eighth meeting on impact fees over the last year and we still sent them back (for more staff work),” County Commissioner Gary Wheeler said after the meeting.

In a 3-2 vote, commissioners asked county planners to recalculate the car trips generated by new businesses and return in a future session. Part of the basis for an impact fee is the number of cars a new home or business will put on local roads.

Commission Vice Chairman Wesley Davis, who made the motion, said the proposed fees were too expensive for residents who want to start small businesses.

“We’d be playing into the hands of the chains,” he said.

Chairwoman Sandra Bowden and Commissioner Joe Flescher supported Davis, with Wheeler and Commissioner Peter O’ Bryan dissenting.



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