

## Letter: Developer wants to waive, freeze impact fees

By TCPalm Staff

Sunday, October 5, 2008

On Sept. 17, there was an impact fee workshop with out-of-town consultants and county staff. A little over a year ago, I asked staff to compose a formula that would justify the reduction of commercial/industrial impact fees. To date, that formula hasn't been completed.

The importance is to give our local economy a boost. We are worse off now than a couple years ago. We need to help ourselves now and correct the damage that some out-of-town developers have inflicted upon us, and not rely on the advice of out-of-town consultants.

I suggest we have a one-year moratorium on impact fees for all commercial/industrial construction and leave residential impact fees as is. This may be a great enough incentive to turn some of these projects from conceptual to reality, resulting in more jobs for construction and create jobs permanently. This will bring more people here and help reduce the abundant housing inventory here.

Reality may dictate that some of these commercial projects don't adversely impact our roads, etc., thus justifying zero impact fees.

Consider this: A bank is built near a community of 500 homes. This may become the bank of choice for some of the residents, who will visit this bank closer to their home and thereby reduce travel time to another bank.

The county admits our current commercial/industrial formula is flawed and needs to be overhauled. Why don't we do something now and take charge of our future? Together, we can do this. □

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