

# The Morning News

## Local News for Northwest Arkansas

### Election Commission Certifies Impact Fee Vote a Tie

*By Dug Begley - THE MORNING NEWS*

FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville's road impact fee election is a tie.

The Washington County Election Commission certified the April 10 election today, but a legal quandary remains. An overseas absentee ballot, from Fayetteville resident Michael K. Lee, lists the wrong address on the application for absentee voting.

"There is a question as to whether that is enough to disqualify," said George Butler, Washington County attorney.

Lee listed 1630 Timbercrest Ave. as his address on the ballot form and on his voter registration information. On his most recent request for absentee voting, Lee wrote 1632 Timbercrest Ave.

John Logan Burrow, chairman of the election commission, and commission member Pete Morris opted to certify the election and count Lee's vote against the proposed fee. They did so on the advice of Butler, who instructed them to open the ballot to "see if it changes the outcome of the election."

It did, Burrow told seven people awaiting the results. The commission then signed the certification papers, but asked Butler to research the address discrepancy. Burrow said the commission could file an amended certification at a later date, but had to approve the election by today.

The road impact fees would have been assessed on new development throughout the city, based on the type of building constructed. Residential homes of any size would have paid a flat fee, and commercial development would have been charged based on every 1,000 square feet of space.