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Impact fees on tap for county commission meeting

By Pete Gawda, Okeechobee News

The long delayed final report on impact fees will be presented to the Thursday, April 12, meeting of the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners.

Consultant Walter Keeler is scheduled to present the findings of his impact fee study to the commissioners.

Impact fees are designed to require a developer to pay his share of the cost of additional infrastructure that would be needed to accommodate his development. The county has been considering impact fees for roads, corrections, fire and EMS.

Under Mr. Keller's proposal, road impact fees would be used for a west side bypass, improvements on S.W. 32nd Street and S.W. 28th Street and a countywide maintenance facility. Fire and fire/rescue impact fees would be used for building a new EMS station, for equipment and for a county-wide radio system. Corrections impact fees would be used for jail expansion and a county-wide radio system.

Under the proposal, total impact fees for a single family dwelling unit constructed in an unincorporated area of the county would be about \$1,800. About \$800 would be added to the cost of an office building for impact fees.

In other action, the board is expected to:

I consider final plat approval for the proposed 27 lot Ridgway Acres subdivision to be located northeast of the intersection of S.W. 67th Drive and S.W. 21st Parkway;

I consider final plat approval for the proposed 39-lot Palm Creek Estates Unit 4 subdivision adjacent to Palm Creek Estates Unit 3;

I authorize staff to negotiate a lease for office space in the health department building with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

I authorize staff to negotiate a no-charge lease in the industrial park building with the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office;

I clarify the extent to which American Well Drilling is to be authorized to access and conduct operations at the sports complex injection well;

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I transfer funds from the Transportation Trust Fund Resave for Contingencies to Transportation Disadvantaged operating line item;

I authorize a survey of the airport;

I award a bid for pre-cast concrete tables;

I purchase a Ford 2007 F-750 flatbed dump/labor truck;

I purchase an aerial boom lift;

I award a contract for engineering services to provide preliminary project costs for infrastructure improvements in Okeechobee Gardens subdivision; and,

I appoint a member to the Tourist Development Council.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Reporter Pete Gawda may be reached at pgawda@newszap.com.

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