



This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.theledger.com](http://www.theledger.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

*Published: Wednesday, February 20, 2008*

# County Will Consider Cutting Impact Fees

## Commissioners meet today to study proposed ordinance.

By [Tom Palmer](#)  
The Ledger

BARTOW | Polk County commissioners today are poised to consider slashing impact fees for at least the next year.

A proposed ordinance would reduce the impact fee for a new single-family home from \$11,821 to \$7,993. The bulk of the \$3,828 reduction would be a \$3,124 cut in the road-impact fee.

The hearing begins at 1:30 p.m. in the commission chambers.

In addition to the road impact fee, the reduction would affect impact fees for police, fire, ambulance service, parks and libraries. The school impact fee, which is \$4,171 for a single-family home, would not be affected.

Impact fees are charged on new construction. The proceeds are used to offset the impact of traffic and demand for public services, such as police, fire parks and libraries, that new development creates.

Cutting the fees would mean the loss of \$18.3 million in revenue, according to a county staff analysis of the proposed ordinance.

The bulk would be \$15.3 million in lost revenue for road-improvement projects.

County Commissioner Jack Myers, a real estate agent, proposed the cut earlier this month as a way to aid the local economy.

His main ally in the move is the Polk County Builders Association, which has long been critical of impact fees and has worked for decades to keep them from being adopted or kept as low as possible.

Other commissioners are noncommittal on their position going into the hearing.

"I haven't heard anything that has convinced me to go with the reduction," said County Commissioner Randy Wilkinson, a real estate agent.

He said it also might be difficult to restore the cuts after they've been made.

Commission Chairman Sam Johnson, who sells real estate, and commissioners Bob English, a business owner, and Jean Reed, a community activist, said they're still studying the issues and want to hear the testimony today before deciding.

"I'm trying to keep an open mind," Johnson said.

[ Tom Palmer can be reached at 863-802-7535 or [tom.palmer@theledger.com](mailto:tom.palmer@theledger.com). Read more views on county government at [county.theledger.com](http://county.theledger.com). ]



Jack Myers, left, and Randy Wilkinson