



Thursday, November 15, 2007

## School board OKs new \$354 impact fee

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A one time \$354 assessment via building permit applications for houses on vacant lots was approved by Salida school board members Tuesday.

Superintendent John Rouse explained the in lieu of fee will operate through an intergovernmental agreement involving Salida School District R-32-J, Chaffee County, Salida and Poncha Springs.

Rouse noted Chaffee County has agreed as has Fremont County, a portion of which is within the local school district. Chaffee County will collect the money and turn it to the district.

Rouse said it will be up to the county to decide when the money will be released to the school district.

Property taxes won't be affected and tax money will continue as a source of income for the district, Rouse reported.

After discussion, board members agreed the fee will be subject to review every two years to allow adjustments for things such as affordable housing.

Earlier, members talked about waiving the fee for affordable housing, but subsequently decided the amount is low enough waiver won't be necessary.

In other business, remaining board members thanked exiting members for their service and welcomed three newcomers.

Tracy Smith, Ken Brandon and Becky Massey relinquished their seats to Penny Wilken, Cheryl Schleicher and Dan Short respectively.

Gifts were presented and the Salida High School girls choir performed. Exiting members were thanked for their years of service and gave advice to incoming board members.

"It's been real," Brandon, who was term limited, said. "It's amazing how four years turns to eight."

Smith and Massey explained how their children attended Salida schools and achieved success. Smith, who was term limited, said he hadn't intended to stay on the board as long as he did, but enjoyed himself nonetheless.

"I've always been a doer," he said.

Massey chose not to run for reelection and stepped down.

Remaining board members thanked outgoing members for their time and dedication.

Changing members necessitated a written election for board officers. Lezlie Burkley will be president, Linda Chelf will serve as vice president and Short will be treasurer. Brandy Coscarella will continue as secretary.

In other business, board members approved:

- Continuing membership in the Colorado Rural School Caucus
- The Head Start grant.
- Policy changes.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 27 in the district administration building board room.

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