

PSL impact fee case on May court docket

By TCPalm Staff

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The county and Port St. Lucie will spend two days in court in May presenting arguments about how the county collects impact fees within the city.

Circuit Judge Ben Bryan, who is presiding over the case, set the dates of May 22 and 23 with the two sides during a hearing Wednesday. The issue first landed in the court system in late 2005 as the county attempted to get the state's permission to pay for \$43 million worth of bonds — for work on Midway Road, the jail and South County Stadium — using impact fees, or money collected from developers to pay for the effect they have on roads, parks and county services.

The city, which collects its own impact fees, has said the county fees are doubly charging developers and has questioned how the county determines the amount of money to collect. Several developers and builder organizations joined the case, but the county has now settled with all of them, with the final settlement agreement set to go before county commissioners Tuesday.

County commissioners recently rejected a settlement offer from Port St. Lucie that would have led to the county collecting less money in fees. City officials said they thought the offer was fair, as it returned everything back to how it was before the dispute began.



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