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TV Guide

Denied: Builders request lower impact fees

Last updated on: 9/25/2007 6:50:03 PM by Meaghan Smith

CHARLOTTE COUNTY: Builders went before the Charlotte County Commission to ask for help. They want impact fees reduced so homes would be cheaper. But in the end, they did not get what they were asking for.

General Contractor Ron Hill said the builders had great hopes that the reduced impact fees would help turn the building economy around because right now, no one is buying homes.

Charlotte County Commissioner Tom Moore agrees not much is going on in the way of construction.

"There is no building going on to speak of," said Moore.

In fact, the only construction we could find Tuesday was on a church out in the Deep Creek area. But if you drive just a little further down the road, you can't help but notice the empty lots, empty houses, and the for sale signs.

There are even a lot of half-built homes. Developers say those create just one more reason they need the impact fees lowered - so they can finish what they started.

An impact fee is a fee charged to builders or the homeowner of a brand new home to cover things like road and utility construction, law enforcement, etc.

In 1992, the average impact fee was around \$2,000. Today, they are \$8,000.

Commissioner Moore brought an idea to his colleagues Tuesday to drop the impact fee to what it was 15 years ago simply to encourage new building.

"It's debatable as to how much it would be. The point is it can't do any damage in my opinion," said Moore.

That idea was shot down - at least for now. But there is talk about it being brought back to the table. Until then, the builders are going to keep fighting for what they truly need and hoping that they'll get it.

The next regular commission meeting is set for October 9. But there is no word yet if this issue will put back on the agenda.

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- Builders: Reduction would boost industry
- Fees 4x what they were in 1992
- Issue may be brought up again

Denied: Builders request lower impact fees



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- Denied: Builders request lower impact fees
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- Family catches kids doing drugs inside rental home
- Search expands for missing elderly man
- Burglary case solved, residents sleeping easy
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- Tropical moisture going nowhere fast
- Tracking the Tropics: TS Karen and TD 13
- Suspicious package actually a box of cutlery
- Man charged in drug sting
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