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## County raises road impact fee

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February 13, 2008

OURAY —County commissioners agreed Monday to adjust the Road & Bridge Maintenance Impact Fee from \$3,162 to \$3,244.22.

As per the county's Land Use Code (LUC), the county may adjust the impact fee annually based on the Denver/Boulder Consumer Price Index. BOCC Chairman Keith Meinert asked staff the basis of the proposed 2.6% increase. County Attorney Mary Deganhart said staff conducted a thorough study and exhaustive analysis, and interim land use department head Doug Canright said some county fees have not been changed in 10 years.

Canright also noted that all monies from the impact fee go to the Road & Bridge Department, not land use.

According to the LUC, impact fees shall be collected at the time a building permit for new single-family residence or accessory dwelling unit is issued, or upon approval of a special use permit for non-residential uses. The monies will be placed in a separate fund to be used for maintenance and improvements of roads on a county-wide basis.

In another matter related to road impact fees, the BOCC approved the release of \$247,222.95 in escrow funds, as per the development agreement, remaining from \$396,800 paid by the Cornerstone developer toward improvements made to Government Springs Road.

Commissioner Don Batchelder said the developer had paid impact fees for a specific project, the upgrading and paving of Government Springs Road. Also per the development agreement, Cornerstone will provide up to 80% of the cost to maintain the road. "The net benefit is significantly beyond anything the county could have accomplished solely in the collection of impact fees," said Batchelder.

Meinert agreed, saying it best served the county, "to direct those particular fees to an area where it did the most good."

In other business Monday, Feb. 11, the BOCC:

n Agreed to discuss at an upcoming work session a request from Ridgway area residents Jill Markey and Leif Juell that the county support proposed state legislation regarding tax rebates or credits for the installation of alternative energy sources.

n Tabled proposed amendments, specific to the old Ironton townsite area, to a previously approved resolution regarding the use and speed limit of snowmobiles; agreeing instead to work with the U.S. Forest Service next spring and summer to install signage that will designate trails for snowmobiling and those for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

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n Held its monthly meeting with department heads and elected officials, which included a report from Canright that the county processed three building permits in January, including the Divide Ranch clubhouse project valued at \$1.2 million.

n Approved a letter to the Ouray City Council expressing shared support for the Mount Sneffels Mining Company project at Ruby Trust Mine, and inviting city officials to participate in a March 11 work session regarding seasonal maintenance of back-country, four-wheel drive roads, including Country Road 361.

– By Patrick Davarn, news editor

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