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Bay County Commission Impact Fees Reduced Again

Wednesday the Bay County Commission decided to reduce impact fees again.

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Eighteen months ago, Bay County Commissioners reduced impact fees in a move to help the sagging housing market.

Those reductions were supposed to end next month, but Wednesday the commission decided those reductions are still needed.

The commissioners say the economy has still not recovered, and in Wednesday's meeting they voted to extend the 50% reduction in fire, library, parks and other impact fees for another 24 months. □

The roads impact fee which had been totally suspended, was also scheduled to go back into effect next month, and that fee is also being waived for another two years.

"I'm real happy to see we've put off impact fees another two years so that we can try to give the bay county building economy a break and we can continue to keep the impact fees workable for the next two years," says George B. Gainer.

Also, in Wednesday's Bay County Commission meeting commissioners voted to do away with an ordinance that originally set term limits on people serving on county boards.

Mike Nelson says from now on citizens and appointees serving on various boards through the county will now be able to hold their positions regardless of when their time runs out.

But Nelson says before automatically re-reinstating the candidate the commissioners will of course do their research.

If a candidate does not live up to expectations commissioners will still be able to remove them from the position.

"I think it's a great idea as long as if we've got people on board that several people a lot of times that have served and served well and attend all the meetings and participate than I think they deserve to stay on there and if they want to stay on there I think they deserve to stay on there. Hopefully the economy will come back and we'll have a better way to go," says Mike Nelson.

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