



## Beaufort and Jasper Counties proposing new fee

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By [WTOC Staff](#)

BEAUFORT COUNTY, SC (WTOC) - Even as the economy slows, Beaufort and Jasper County residents can look around and see a lot of growth in the area that's just been completed, new businesses, shopping centers and whole neighborhoods.

And with that comes need for schools, a crowd was looking for answers in a public forum at Palmetto Electric on Monday evening. Many wondered, "who's going to pay to build them?"

The counties are proposing a \$6,000 per home "impact fee" on every new home developers build in the area. It's a pretty controversial plan.

"Impact fees are a tax, let me repeat, they are a tax. It doesn't matter what kind of blanket you wrap that pig in, it is a tax," said resident Jim Garman.



"Impact fees by state law cannot be used to pay for existing things like current school operating budgets and things like that. They can only be used to fund needs that are caused by new people moving here and it's a much more equitable way to go," added Wendy Zara of Beaufort County.

"The timing of this couldn't be worse, I'm amazed we're standing here talking about this, the timing is horrible, absolutely horrible," said Rick Saba of Beaufort County.

For now, the fees are only a proposal.



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