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City assesses large sewer connection impact fee on P.A.C.E. Complex

By Brent Hardin

PLATTSMOUTH – The city of Plattsouth has asked the Plattsouth Board of Education to pay an impact fee of more than \$40,000 in order for the school to connect the new P.A.C.E. Complex to the city’s sewer system.

The city inspector’s office recently sent an e-mail to Plattsouth Superintendent Dr. Richard Hasty notifying him of the bill. The e-mail stated that the city would be charging the school its regular sewer impact fee for commercial property within city limits. The impact fee is \$5,250 per acre.

The school recently purchased the P.A.C.E. Complex and 7.63 acres of land south of the building. The city said the \$5,250-per-acre price applied to the entire property, resulting in a total impact fee of \$40,057.50. The city is also charging the school a \$300 sewer connection fee.

“We were surprised at the total amount of the impact fee,” operations committee member Ken Winters said during remarks to other board members during their monthly workshop Monday night. “It was neither expected nor explained.”

Hasty declined comment except to say he would be meeting with Plattsouth City Administrator Erv Portis this week to discuss the matter.

The fee is significant because the school would have to pay it before it could hook the building up to the city sewer system. The building, which is located west of Plattsouth High School, will house industrial technology and other vocational education programs for Plattsouth students. The district is also planning to use it for GED education classes, parking for school vehicles and storage for paper and other district supplies.

Board of Education members had set aside some money for a sewer connection fee when they approved a Build America Bonds resolution in November. That resolution included \$10,000 for sewer connection costs. It also included \$10,000 for fire safety improvements to the former A&M Green Power building.