

County suspends transportation impact fees another year

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Marion County Commissioner Stan McClain received quick and total support from his colleagues after calling for suspending transportation impact fees for another year.

Impact fees are paid by developers to cover the cost of new infrastructure needs created by their projects. The issue came up on Tuesday as commissioners were considering a request from the School Board to halt collection of the impact fee it applies.

The County Commission charges those fees for road improvements and fire protection.

The commission had ended the collection of such fees in 2010 and in January 2011 extended the ban through the end of this year. Commissioners hoped that would spur the local economy.

McClain said he wanted to bring the issue up now instead of waiting until the board is scheduled to go through the annual exercise of trying to index the fees for the coming fiscal year.

With little discussion, the board backed his proposal to suspend collection of all the fees through the end of 2013.

As of the end of April, according to a report offered last month by Rick Michael, the county economic development director, the county has left \$11.3 million for road projects on the table since the suspension of the fees in January 2010.

In other action Tuesday:

- Supervisor of Elections Dee Brown announced that voters would soon receive news about the location of their polling places for the August and November elections, as well as updated information on which state and congressional districts voters now fall in.

After this year's redistricting, Brown said, all state and federal legislative districts in Marion County had been renumbered, except for one congressional district.

- Andy Kesselring, president of the Silver Springs Alliance and a former county commissioner, invited the County Commission to attend the annual springs festival.

This year's event will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 23 at the Silver River Museum inside Silver River State Park.

Kesselring said the festival was intended to highlight a broad-based discussion about water policies throughout Central Florida. Featured speakers would include former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham and former state Sen. Lee Constantine.

For more information, visit <http://silverspringsalliance.org>.

