

PV Town Council reviews updated impact fee study

By BRIANA LONAS
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No members of the community provided comment during Thursday's public hearing meeting in which the [Prescott Valley Town Council](#) heard a presentation for the town's development impact fees (DIFs).

The town is required by law to retain the services of an outside consultant to complete an update of the town's DIFs associated with police, parks, library and streets.

Raftelis Financial Consultants recently completed an update of those fees effective Aug. 1. Arizona legislature requires the town to review its DIFs every five years.

During the meeting, Raftelis' Rick Giardina pointed out that the purpose of the evening's discussion was to provide an overview of the infrastructure improvement plan, not to talk about the updated fees involved with the plan. However, he did mention that the fees for the library would remain the same, as there are not any growth-related library additions planned for the 10-year infrastructure improvement plan that spans from 2013 to 2023.

The library consists of 36,000 square feet, not including the auditorium and college annex. The total construction cost for this building totaled \$19.6 million.

DIFs are collected by cities and towns to evenly and fairly distribute the burden of facility capacity to serve new development - to ensure growth pays for growth.

According to a town report, these one-time charges are assessed to new development as a way to recover costs, based on specific calculations. Therefore, each development project pays a proportionate share of the cost of new infrastructure or necessary public services needed to support the new development.

The first step in the process of assessing DIFs is the preparation of land use assumptions, used to estimate the changes projected to take place in population, employment, and land use for a specified service over a period of at least ten years, according to the report.

The complete Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Land Use Assumptions reports can be viewed on the town's website at www.pvaz.net.

The town council also approved a contract with the Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families to accept a grant award that extends services for the [Prescott Valley Police Department](#)'s Family Violence Unit to include additional personnel.

The funds will provide for the salary and benefits of one full-time detective, one full time community service officer, and one part time administrative specialist. The grant also will help towards travel and training expenses, equipment, program materials and supplies.

"We are taking a very proactive role," said Det. James Tobin said regarding the department's goal of reducing domestic violence.

The council also approved a construction contract from Timberline Concrete of Prescott Valley for more than \$21,650 to build a sidewalk at the Old Town Park off of Robert Road.

In 2007, the council authorized the use of town property for Old Town Park. In cooperation with the [Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce](#), the town was awarded a \$50,000 Arizona Office of Tourism grant and \$7,000 in contributions from the Old Town Committee that would provide for a portion of the site development and its associated park facilities, according to a town report.

Construction on the Old Town Park sidewalk will begin in March.

Briana Lonas is a reporter with the [Prescott Valley Tribune](#).