

By Stephanie Harbaugh/The Record Herald

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Impact fee lowered original level of \$2,714 in Washington Township

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WAYNE HEIGHTS — Traffic impact fees in Washington Township were lowered to the original rate of \$2,714 Monday in order to stimulate economic growth.

Supervisors Stephen Kulla, William Conrad, Dick McCracken and Elaine Gladhill approved an ordinance to amend the rate — paid by developers — to \$2,714 with little discussion. Chairman Jeff Geesaman was absent from Monday's meeting.

In 2008, the impact fee was raised to \$3,147, from the original rate established in 2005.

This fee paid by developers is based on a calculation that estimates the number of vehicles their project adds to the road during peak travel time between 4 and 6 p.m.

Initially, it was anticipated funds generated by the impact fees could be used to complete Washington Township Boulevard, a relief route designed to run from Route 16 in Rouzerville to Route 16 west of Waynesboro.

However, the economic downturn a few years ago slowed development — and impact fee revenue — and the boulevard has not been completed.

In addition to lowering the impact fee, supervisors tabled a request from Ronnie Martin on behalf of Long-Mar LLC for a refund on the impact fees paid for Auto Zone.

Michael Christopher, Washington Township manager, noted it takes five days for the ordinance to go into effect so requests for refunds could not be decided on at this time.