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Impact fee subject of hearing

By LINDA TRIMBLE, Education writer 

DELAND -- Recommended changes to Volusia County's school impact fee will be the subject of an administrative hearing today requested by the Volusia Building Industry Association.

The fee currently stands at \$6,066 for each new housing unit in Volusia County, including a 3 percent county administrative fee for collecting it. The association, formerly known as the Volusia Home Builders Association, has a pending lawsuit challenging the existing fee.

Today's hearing will deal with a consultant's report released last November recommending changes in the impact fee.

A summary of that report, which recommended a fee of \$6,020 if the School Board sticks with the same fee for all housing types, will be presented at the hearing.

The consultant recommended an impact fee of \$8,010 for each single-family home, \$2,323 per multifamily unit and \$905 per unit in mobile home parks if the board decides to charge separate rates based on how many schoolchildren each type of housing is expected to generate.

The hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the School Administrative Complex, 200 N. Clara Ave. Time is set aside for the association's attorney, C. Allen Watts, to speak and public comments.

The School Board will make the final decision on the impact fee. A majority of members indicated in November they were willing to consider reducing the current fee or suspending it temporarily to help the troubled housing market recover.

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