

## Rogersville Board of Aldermen considering extending impact fee reduction

By Karen Bliss karenb@southcountymail.com | Posted: Wednesday, August 8, 2012 11:00 am

The Rogersville Board of Aldermen is considering extending the 75 percent reduction for impact fees that was scheduled to end on July 31.

Mayor Jack Cole brought the idea to the Aldermen during their meeting on Monday.

“Housing seems to be coming back up a little in our area,” he said. “I believe it would be to our advantage to extend that fee reduction for a few more months as an incentive for builders.”

Impact fees for Rogersville included a \$900 sewer impact fee, a \$600 water impact fee and a \$1,100 connection fee for one particular area of town.

Cole said the fees should not be reduced forever, as receiving the funds is a benefit for the city, but he suggested extending the reduction for a little while longer than the board originally planned.

Alderman Jon Hill said that the reduction should probably be set just until the end of the year.

“I suggest we go through the end of the year and review at that time,” he said.

City Administrator Nancy Edson said the city is collecting \$500 per house on impact fees instead of the \$1,500 they would be asking for without the reduction.

Impact fees on water and sewer systems for new buildings help pay for improvements to the city that effects the members of the community, including water and the sewer treatment plant, that was built a couple of years ago, which cost approximately \$4 million.

Cole said the city might lose money on impact fees, but that the city is gaining funds other ways when someone decides to build.

“You have to consider that on each home we are receiving the property tax and the utilities to help pay for our water treatment plant,” he said.

Edson said the reduction comes directly from the water and sewer fund and not the general fund.

Cole asked Edson at the end of the board’s discussion to prepare an ordinance for the next open meeting on Monday, August 20.

Alderman Terry Thompson said she agrees with the idea of extending the reduction.

“I think we need to do it,” she said. “The economy is in bad enough shape and we should be willing to do all we can to help.”