

Collier not ready to change impact fees

By I.M. STACKEL

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

NAPLES — Collier County leaders put on hold a plan to roll back transportation impact fees.

From physicians to builders, scores of business leaders from the Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce turned out to support the county Productivity Committee's suggestion to freeze impact fees for two years.

Commissioners agreed at their Tuesday meeting, ultimately continuing the issue until staffers can bring back a full budget picture.

Impact fees are attached to new development, and pay for stresses placed on the neighborhood, such as roads, water, electricity and schools.

Donna Fiala, who was unanimously elected commission chairwoman, succeeding Tom Henning, said she wants to know how the analysis requested by other commissioners will "affect Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer."

County Manager Jim Mudd said he will try to push county staff members to have those figures within two weeks.

In another matter, Golden Gate Fire Chief Bob Metzger asked the commission to take another look at a proposed Emergency Medical Services Advisory Policy Advisory Board, and make sure that a working firefighter sit on the new board, not an elected official.

While Commissioner Jim Coletta said he'd feel more comfortable with an elected official, Commission Fred Coyle said the commission is looking for "technical expertise, not political expertise."

Applications are being sent directly to the Collier County Medical Society, then passed on to Collier County. The Medical Society is scheduled to recommend the

appointments of an emergency room physician, emergency room nurse, pharmacist, fire district worker and a representative from Emergency Medical Services.

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