

Commissioners take action to help stimulate local economy

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At Thursday's Santa Rosa County Commission Goal Setting Workshop commissioners voted to immediately:

- Suspend the collection of impact fees for calendar year 2009. Projects issued a building permit in 2009 will have impact fees waived and those paying installments will not be required to make payments in 2009, but will resume payments in 2010.
- Revision of the Santa Rosa County storm water collection standard from 100 year to 25 year to match with state requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- Submit for consideration the projects submitted for the federal stimulus package to representatives in Washington D.C. to seek support and other possible funding opportunities.
- Combine the plans review process of engineering and planning and zoning.

The meeting was a continuation of a goal setting workshop held on December 16. Additionally, staff was asked to report on options for lowering building permit fees and establishing an impact fee exemption for veterans at the next committee of the whole meeting scheduled for February 9. TEAM Santa Rosa will also bring specific, individual items to stimulate the economy as outlined in their economic development plan.

Other long-term goals discussed included:

- Review water and sewer capacity in the county industrial park
- A permanent facility in northeast Milton that could be used as a warehouse facility, equestrian center, staging area during emergencies and as a location for fairs
- New judicial center

During the workshop, TEAM Santa Rosa EDC, Inc. presented their economic development plan recommendations and staff gave reports and recommendations on reviewing regulatory impediments to development, transportation impact fees, state, federal, and local stimulus projects, the upcoming budget process and a review of use of overtime in public works capital projections.

PowerPoint presentations and the entire meeting can be viewed on the county's Web site at www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/meetings.html.