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County, city officials need joint talks on impact fees

Editorial

It's past time for Coweta County and Newnan officials to sit down at the same table and discuss impact fees.

Impact fees are a necessity in our community because of the massive growth we have experienced in the past two decades. As more people come, impact fees are needed to help pay the bills for infrastructure and service improvements.

Both Newnan and Coweta County have impact fees. The problem is the fees are very different in the county and in the city. Newnan impact fees are lower. That means when a developer plans a project -- to avoid the higher county impact fees -- the developer may seek annexation into Newnan to get the lower fees.

The county believes its impact fees are fair; however fair or not fair, developers are balking at the amount of the fees. County commissioners talked about the fees in a visioning session last week. Much of the talk was defending the county position.

During the conversations the commissioners agreed to bring back consultants to reevaluate the fees.

In addition, we would like for county and Newnan officials get together and talk about the issue. Wouldn't it be more workable for all parties involved if the two governing bodies could agree to have the same impact fee structure?

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