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Final report on impact fees delayed

By Pete Gawda, Okeechobee News

The Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners will have to wait until their next meeting to receive the long delayed final report on impact fees.

Consultant Walter Keller was scheduled to present his final report at the Thursday, Feb. 22, commission meeting. However, there were still some unanswered question which Mr. Keller promised to clear up by the March 8 meeting.

"I apologize; this has taken longer than all of us want," Mr. Keller said.

Mr. Keller has been looking at impact fees for roads, corrections, fire and EMS for the county. Impact fees are imposed upon a builder to cover the costs to the infrastructure that his development would cause. These fees would be paid at the time a building permit is issued.

Residential and nonresidential structures would be assessed impact fees for roads, EMS and fire. Corrections impact fees were based solely on residential dwellings.

While roads, corrections and EMS impact fees would be imposed county wide, fire assessment would only be in the unincorporated areas.

The City of Okeechobee has its own fire impact fee.

According to Mr. Keller's proposed figures, builders of new single-family houses in the county would pay a total of \$2,432 in impact fees for roads, corrections, fire and EMS. Residents of the city would pay \$336 less in county impact fees, but would pay a separate city fire assessment. This figure would be in addition to impact fees imposed by residents of the City of Okeechobee. The school board impact fee would be paid by all county residents.

There was lengthy discussion as to whether mobile homes should be treated as any other single family dwelling, unless they were in a trailer park.

In other action, the board:

* tabled action on abandoning a portion of the N.W. 16th Boulevard right of way;

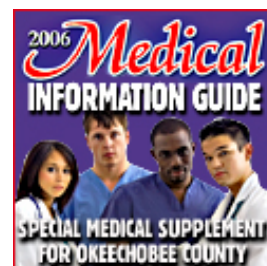
* contracted with MuniFinancial to provide Fire/Rescue assessment



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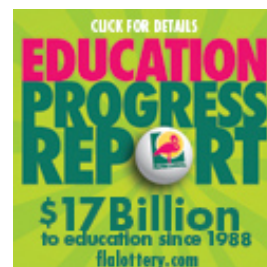
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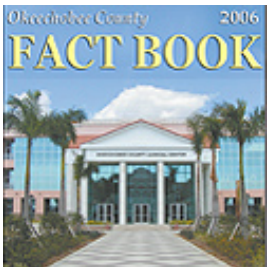
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services for \$41,750 and with Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. to provide related legal services at a cost of \$13,500;

* awarded a contract for fuel, motor oil and lubricants to Palmdale Oil Company and awarded a contract to Craig A. Smith & Associates to provide surveying and platting services for the industrial park for \$37,690;

* appointed Carl Leonard as a regular member of the Okeechobee Utility Authority (OUA) board of directors with a term to end March 1, 2011;

* appointed Eddie Trent as an alternate member of the OUA board of directors with a term to end March 1, 2009;

* appointed Melody Hodges and Suzanne Rucks as members of the agri-civic center advisory committee with terms to expire March 1, 2011;

* appointed Carl Shumate, Joey Hoover and Carl Ferrero to the planning board/board of adjustments and appeals with terms to end March 1, 2010; and,

* appointed Sandra Jones to the construction industry licensing board with a term to end March 21, 2010.

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