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Frederick Impact Fees May Go Up

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Frederick's mayor and Board of Aldermen on Wednesday discussed a plan to nearly double the fees builders have to pay for new development.

The impact fees cover the costs of hooking up water, sewer and other public infrastructure to new buildings.

For residential development, the proposed change will increase the fee from \$4,830 to \$8,250 per house for water. The sewer impact fee would increase from \$4,950 to \$9,966 per house.

Commercial and industrial development is charged by what fixtures are added to a building including sinks, toilets and drains.

For water, those fees would increase from \$483 to \$825 per fixture unit. Sewer fees would increase from \$495 to \$997 per fixture unit.

Ten fixtures are equal to the fee of one residential house or dwelling.

Budget director Jon Angel said the city had not adjusted the fees since 2005.

"We need to keep up," he said.

The city based the increase on projected development within the city. In 2008, the water and sewer impact fees are expected to generate more than \$6 million in revenue.

Mayor Jeff Holtzinger said if the fees were not raised, residents would likely see a jump in their water and sewer bills.

"I do know it's a shocking increase," he said.

The fee increase will show up again on the board's consent agenda at its Dec. 20 meeting. None of the aldermen said they were opposed to the increase.

"We want new houses," said Alderwoman Donna Kuzemchak. "As long as we're not paying for it, I'm happy."

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