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Kane board members question waiving fees to draw development

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June 29, 2009

By **KARRI E. CHRISTIANSEN** For The Sun-Times News Group

If Kane County officials want residents to be able to maintain the standard of living they're used to here, something needs to be done -- quickly.

County Economic Development Director Chris Aiston again urged county board members last week to consider using funds from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Foundation to encourage economic development.

He said about \$1 million is available in grant money there, and if the county couples that with federal stimulus money, Kane could experience the kind of renewed development being seen in neighboring states including Indiana and Wisconsin.

Aiston recommended that the county consider waiving transportation impact fees and stormwater detention fees in order to provide extra incentives for developers to bring their business here.

Board member Bonnie Lee Kunkel, D-Aurora, was not convinced that waiving fees is in the county's best interest, considering the budget crunch Kane is facing. Fellow board member Deborah Allen, R-Elgin, expressed similar concern.

"If we waive impact fees in this economy, we would lose money," Allen said.

Aiston said that without incentives such as waived impact fees, developers likely will look outside Kane County to build their businesses. Luring developers by offering to waive those fees could lead to an increase in building permit fees, which in turn could help stimulate the economy and bring jobs to Kane, he said.

Richard Young, Sugar Grove's community development director, told board members that his village is awash in vacant storefronts, empty businesses and office buildings.

"This program might be something that would help (developers) choose our area," Young said.

Officials from the village of Carpentersville echoed Young's remarks.

"We need help when we can get it," said Carpentersville Village President Ed Ritter. "Hopefully, you'll see fit to help us."

Members of the county's executive committee are expected to discuss the proposed economic stimulus plan at their next meeting, July 8.

[The FSA accepts AMI's argument over fees](#)

From Real Estate Blog - OffPlanPropertyExchange

[County Uses Economic Development Money To Bail Out Newspapers](#)

From Say Anything

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Sun-Times News Group.

sgmom wrote:

It is about time that the county board wake up and realize that there is a need to boost economic development. Waiving some of these fees is key to moving forward. there has to be a reason for developers to

choose this area over another.

6/29/2009 7:47 AM CDT on suburbanchicagonews.com

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