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Article published Dec 11, 2008

## **Kittery impact fees approved for new construction**

KITTERY, Maine — The Town Council voted into ordinance a public safety impact fee, which will go into effect 30 days from Nov. 24.

The purpose of the ordinance is to capture revenue on construction that impacts public safety in the town, and put that revenue into a dedicated account for public safety needs such as facilities and equipment.

"It's meant to protect the community in growth by charging those people who develop with the future expansion of public safety equipment. What we are trying to do is ensure there is proper public safety equipment to manage the growth in the community," Town Manager Jon Carter said.

The fee is \$5 on every \$1,000 in excess of a \$100,000 construction.

For example, Carter said, if a development worth \$200,000 is to be built, the building permit will be paid and \$5 on every \$1,000 of the second \$100,000 would be the impact fee.

Renovations to an existing structure, as long as the volume, square footage and footprint are not changed, are not subject to the impact fee. An example of this exemption is if a house is destroyed due to a fire, it may be rebuilt with the same footprint, square footage and volume.

If one were to build, for example, a \$150,000 addition to a home, which changes the footprint, square footage and/or volume, the impact fee would be \$250.

Carter said each case is reviewed by the code enforcement officer.

The town is exempt from the fee.

Under the "Waiver of Impact Fee" portion of the ordinance, it stated the fee could be waived in the case of affordable housing being built as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Maine State Housing Authority.

Councilor Frank Dennett made a motion to remove this waiver from the ordinance.

"Why should we have any exclusions?" he queried.

Councilor Gary Beers seconded the motion, and it passed.

The ordinance, as amended, passed with a unanimous vote.

