

[Back](#)

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## **Lake City considers new fees**

### **Costs associated with development would be recovered**

The city is moving closer toward establishing impact fees that would be charged to developers for the burdens their projects place upon municipal infrastructure and services.

A final draft of the proposed fee structure will be available in two to three weeks, said City Planner Shanna Saunders. The City Council could adopt it sometime this fall following a review and public hearing by the Laconia Planning Board.

The planning board also would hold a work session "to run numbers through for the public and developers," said Saunders who, with several other city department heads, sat down recently with consultant Bruce Mayberry to take a look at the preliminary language for an impact fee schedule.

Although Mayberry hails from Maine, Saunders said, he has helped more than two dozen New Hampshire communities learn how to enact impact fees.

An impact fee, Saunders explained, "allows the city to charge a developer on a per-unit basis for the cost of the impact on the capital expenditures of the city."

"Probably the most popular impact fee is for schools, so, for every family unit, there will be a presumed impact upon the school system and, rather than that increase being absorbed by the entire community, it's paid by the developer," she said.

In addition to the impact upon a school system, a developer can be charged for the cost of his or her development upon a municipality's police, fire, public works, library and recreation departments. The impact fee regulation would contain waivers and exemptions for various circumstances.

To date, almost 80 New Hampshire cities and towns have adopted the state law that allows them to set up their own impact fees, and of that number about 60, including Concord, Milford, Rochester and Dover, actually are charging the fees, Saunders said.

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