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County attorney gives go-ahead to cutting impact fee

BY CHRISTOPHER CURRY
Star-Banner

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OCALA - Marion County Attorney Tom Wright told the County Commission Wednesday that it was his legal opinion the county could immediately start charging the reduced road impact fees commissioners approved Tuesday.

Wright told commissioners that he didn't find any case law on the subject, but concluded that state law only requires a 90-day notice if impact fees were going up.

Wright described it as a "common sense interpretation, which in some cases may not be the legal interpretation, but in this case I think it is appropriate."

On Tuesday, the commission voted to reduce transportation impact fees to one-third for 90 days to kick-start the construction industry. The fee on a single-family house will be less than \$2,100. After 90 days, the fee will go back to almost \$6,100, which is still well below the \$10,588 a consultant recommended last July. The road impact fees for commercial development - which vary by square footage - will drop even more after the 90-day period is up.

Christopher Curry may be reached at chris.curry@starbanner.com or 867-4115.

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