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Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Benson Board To Discuss New Fees

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The Benson Board of Commissioners will meet tonight to consider increasing the town's open space recreation fee by hundreds of dollars for town residents, and adding a residential utility impact fee for residential development.

The open space and recreation fee is designed to help the town provide open space for new subdivisions that a developer does not.

The fee is currently \$200 per lot and tonight, commissioners will consider changing the fee to \$700 based on average numbers from other towns and the average residential development in Benson over five years.

The fee would only be required if a new developer does not provide a recreational open space for residents.

The board will also consider a new residential utility impact fee, a fee designed to offset the impact of development on the town's water and sewer systems.

As new development comes into town and connects to these systems, it affects the amount of development that would have the same access in the future because the systems work on limited capacity.

The commissioners will consider enacting a fee of \$900 for every new residential lot.

In other business, commissioners will conduct two public hearings. During the first hearing, the board will consider rezoning two tracts of land, a total of 20.63 acres, near the intersection of Interstates 95 and 17 to industrial special use district to industrial.

This rezoning will allow the four billboards on this land to meet the N.C. Department of Transportation's requirements for billboards.

During the second public hearing, commissioners will consider an amendment to the Town of Benson Development Code Article 7 Administration concerning public hearing notification. The amendment will require the area of property owners notified by mail of public hearings to properties within 350 feet of property in a public hearing, not just to those immediately next to the subject property.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the board room of the Benson Conference Center.

- Leslie Parnell

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