

Committee Discussion Points for Recommendations on Building Inspection Fee Increase.

- 1) Building Inspection is a special revenue program and is 100% user fee supported receiving no general revenue funds.
- 2) Current Building Inspection fees have remained unchanged since 1995.
- 3) In FY 02 a contracted consulting firm, Maximus, recommended a fee increase to industry leaders and the County Commission. The fee increase was rejected by both industry and staff due to the large fund balance in the Building Inspection Fund. At the time the fee study was presented to the building industry, it was acknowledged that fees would need to be increased at some point in the future as the fund balance was drawn down to support building inspection expenditures.
- 4) During FY 06 overall permits were up 1% from the previous year, residential permits were down 27%, commercial permits were up 6%, renovation permits were up 39% and automated permits were up 13%.
- 5) During FY 06 building inspectors performed 31,902 inspections. Average driving distance between inspections was 5.82 miles, assuming an average speed of 30 MPH, driving time was 11.64 minutes, subtracting driving time from the overall inspection time leaves 15.14 minutes to perform the actual inspection once the inspector arrives at the construction site.
- 6) 1995 Standard Building Code; the required inspections totaled 15
- 7) 2001 Florida Building Code; the required inspections increased to 21
- 8) 2004 Florida Building Code (with '05 and '06 supplements); the required inspections increased to 22.
- 9) 1995 Standard Building Code; no minimum plan review criteria was mandated by code.
- 10) 2001 & 2004 Florida Building Code (with '05 and '06 supplements); 65 plan review criteria added to and required by code.
- 11) 1995 Standard Building Code & 2001 Florida Building Code; one code for all residential, commercial and industrial buildings.
- 12) 2004 Florida Building Code (with '05 and '06 supplements); separate codes for residential, commercial and existing buildings.

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- 13) While the enhanced plan review and inspection requirements of the Florida Building Code are making structures more disaster resistant, it is also straining local government's ability to provide the service.
- 14) During FY 06 residential plan review time from application until approval was 23 days, 5 days were staff review times and 18 days were weekends and waiting for applicant to provide additional information to correct plan deficiencies.
- 15) During FY 06 commercial plan review time from application until approval was 76 days, 23 days were staff review times and 53 days were weekends and waiting for applicant to provide additional information to correct plan deficiencies.
- 16) FY 95 to FY 06; number of permits increased from 2,986 to 3,191. (6.4%).
- 17) FY 95 to FY 06; The number of inspections increased from 29,060 to 31,902. (8.9%).
- 18) FY 95 to FY 06; total expenses increased from \$927,108 to \$1,561,466. (68.4%)
- 19) Revenues generated from permitting remained essentially unchanged from FY 95 to FY 06.
- 20) The fund balance has been in a steady decline since FY 00 as it is appropriated to support the operation of the Building Inspection Division.
- 21) Regarding future building inspection workload indicators, as of January 5, 2007, there were 1462 residential lots and 698,064 square feet of commercial projects in the development review process.
- 22) Develop budget strategies for subsequent fiscal years.