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Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2005

OPINION / EDITORIAL**FENCE POST****Letters****SUBMIT LETTERS**

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OUR VIEW

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to the Editor**Big Hollow district skipped over for fees**

The Round Lake village board has again voted to annex land at Route 120 and Wilson Road for the Ryland/Emerald Bay development.

In the village's haste, Big Hollow School District will not receive impact fees covering the effects of this or any transition fees.

The school district has been blamed for unproductive negotiations with the developer.

Annexation agreements/fees are between a village and a developer, with the schools only being an "interested party." What leverage do they have negotiating more than the bare minimum?

During the recent election, candidates were asked: Will you require developers and all school districts affected to come to agreement on impact fee schedules before approving annexation agreements? Will you require that transition/lag fees be negotiated as part of the annexation agreement?

Public responses from those elected included: "I believe the developers need to foot the bill for the schools and will insist that there will be an agreement."

"I will continue to make sure those agreements are worked out, and I will not vote for an approval until they have an agreement that supports the schools. We should include lag fees as part of the impact fee agreement."

"Absolutely I support lag fees, I would also observe that Round Lake has always insisted on the highest impact fees for undeveloped land in the county."

Although the commercial property is not within Big Hollow's district lines, this development is important to village expansion.

Can't village officials live up to their word and give schools educating their community's children the best chance possible?

Tim Latta

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Big Hollow Citizens

Advisory Committee

Round Lake

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