

**ORDINANCE NO.: 24-25-014**

**AN ORDINANCE OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, confers upon a local government, the authority to adopt ordinances and regulations which are designed to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, from time to time it is necessary for Highlands County to update and/or amend its codes and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, provides for the imposition of impact fees to accommodate the cost of future growth necessitated capital improvements to the County's infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 16, 2009, the County adopted Ordinance 08-09-80, which suspended the imposition of impact fees effective July 1, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2009, the County has consistently adopted ordinances to renew the suspension on the imposition of impact fees; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 20, 2024, the County adopted Ordinance No.: 23-24-36, which further extended the suspension on the imposition of impact fees through and including June 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2025, the County considered a Statement of Legislative Intent related to the further suspension of impact fees and directed an extension of the suspension; and

**WHEREAS**, the County hereby deems it necessary, appropriate and in the best interest of the public health, safety, comfort, good order, appearance, convenience and general welfare to amend Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Impact Fees, Article II, Imposition of Impact Fees, Section 13-29, Schedule as set forth in this Ordinance.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

**SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.** Highlands County has complied with all requirements and procedures of the Florida law in processing this Ordinance. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

**SECTION 2. AMENDING CHAPTER 13, IMPACT FEES, ARTICLE II, IMPOSITION OF IMPACT FEES, SECTION 13-29, SCHEDULE.** Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Impact Fees, Article II, Imposition of Impact Fees, Section 13-29, Schedule, is hereby amended as follows:

**Note: Underlined words constitute additions to existing text, ~~strikethrough~~ words constitute deletions to existing text, and asterisks (\*\*\*) indicate omitted parts which are intended to remain unchanged.**

**Sec. 13-29. – Schedule.**

The impact fees imposed under this article shall become effective at the following times and in the following rates:

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- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, all impact fees imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein are suspended and shall not be imposed through and including June 30, 2026, and the County is not required to adopt an annual impact fee index resolution during calendar year 2025 for an impact fee to be imposed pursuant to sections 13-21 through 13-28 herein.

**SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.** The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Ordinance. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

**SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.** All prior actions of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County pertaining to the revisions to Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13, Impact Fees, as set forth herein are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.** The divisions, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, section, or divisions of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a

court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, sections, and divisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS.**

A. Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be codified in the Highlands County Code of Ordinances and the sections, divisions and provisions of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered as deemed appropriate by the codifier of the Highlands County Code of Ordinances.

B. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Ordinance, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected with the endorsement of the County Manager, or designee, without the need for a public hearing.

**SECTION 7. CONFLICT.** Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.

**DONE AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlene Tuck, Chairperson

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk