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Date Page 3-A.

# St. Petersburg Times

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## Court filing fees doubled to finance law libraries

Pasco Times Bureau

DADE CITY

The Pasco County Commission Tuesday approved unanimously the creation of two independent law libraries in the county, one in Dade City the other in New Port Richey.

Both will be operated with independent boards of trustees and financed through fees collected from all persons filing civil actions in either circuit or county courts.

The commission approved doubling of the fees to finance the two operations. Circuit court filing fees will go from \$5 to \$10 a case with county court filing fees going from \$2.50 to \$5 a case.

Andrer Gibbs, East Pasco attorney, and Dan Martin, spokesman for West Pasco attorneys, told the commission that two separate facilities properly maintained and equipped will better serve not only the judiciary and attorneys but the general public as well.

Both said they eventually hope to see a staff for each library so that the general public as well as legal profession-

als may make maximum possible use of the facility.

The county has one law library and a single board of trustees. But the lack of sufficient storage space and coordination have made it almost useless, Gibbs and Martin said.

Gibbs said approval of the proposal Tuesday also will solve another problem, scheduling of trustees meetings.

The new measure calls for three attorneys on each board, dropping the requirement that a circuit judge be a member. Gibbs said the work load faced by the circuit judges makes it almost impossible for them to devote time to assist in operations on a law library.

Circuit Clerk Miller Newton estimated that the new fee system will produce about \$40,000 annually for operation of the two libraries.

The fees are to be split on the basis of cases filed in each area with funds from cases filed in the Dade City Courthouse going to finance East Pasco library and fees from cases filed at the New Port Richey annex being used for the support of the West Pasco library.

## Commissioners decide they don't need verbatim minutes

Pasco Times Bureau

DADE CITY

Pasco County Circuit Clerk Miller Newton will not have to worry about hiring additional staff members and Commissioner Robert K. Rees will no longer have to worry about overexerting himself.

Both problems were solved Tuesday when the Pasco County Commission unanimously reversed itself and voted that the clerk need not provide commissioners with verbatim minutes of each commission meeting as it had ordered last week.

Rees said he voted for the verbatim

records last week "not realizing what a task this was going to be."

"I question the waste since it costs about 4.5 cents to produce one page of copy and I don't think anyone will have time to read it," Rees said.

Shortly after his election last November, Rees began a one-man campaign to cut down on the amount of paperwork commissioners were required to handle on a weekly basis.

He said he feared that with the then existing volume, he might hurt himself carrying the load of paperwork.

When the commission ordered the verbatim transcripts last week, New-

ton said it would require that he hire at least one more fulltime staffer in the County Commission section of his office to meet the demand.

The commission's action last week was seen as a slap at the clerk for his treatment of a controversial county administrator ordinance. That ordinance shifted some of the clerk's powers to the administrator.

While Newton normally provided commissioners with a summary of discussions and gave only the exact wording of motions and recorded the vote, he had included the verbatim transcript of the administrator ordinance in the minutes dealing with approval of the document.

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<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=IbZQAAAAIBAJ&sjid=VF8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=3835,3767839&dq=miller-newton+election&hl=en>