

# Rio budget study reaches deadend

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The Rio del Mar Improvement Association seems to have run into an impasse in its quest to find out if the neighborhood is getting its fair share of county services from the taxes it pays.

Buzz Haines, who has been investigating county revenues and expenditures for the association, said at an association meeting last Tuesday that it may be impossible to find out how county expenditures are divvied up because so many items go to countywide services, such as the courts, the jail and social services.

As for revenues, Haines said, the amount of property taxes generated by an area could be determined through the county's computer, but such a request for use of the computer could cost the association about \$400.

"Is it worth the time and money to do this," Haines asked, "because after you got it, what do you have? I don't know if there's any way to convert what we put in with taxes, to what comes out."

The Rio group decided to review the county's budgetary process after the county proposed to assess each property owner in Rio del Mar \$200 to improve Rio del Mar Boulevard and Clubhouse Drive.

When the county made the recommendation for the assessment district, many residents in the area felt the county should improve the streets with funds from their property taxes.

The investigation, however, has paid off in some respects, Haines said.

Much has been learned, he said, about the budgetary process.

"If you want something to get through, it's mandatory that you have the full support of your supervisor, which means Robley Levy for us. That's because there's an unwritten rule with the supervisors that if your supervisor doesn't support it, the others won't even consider it."

Then, he said, the group must be willing "to sit through 10 days of hearings until your item is called" even if "you get bunions on your buns."