

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Chanski, City Administrator/Clerk

RE: Council & Committees Wages Discussion

DATE: August 5, 2024



Background

During the 2024 Budget development process, the City Council discussed taking a look at amending their wages as they were last amended in 2020. The discussion was tabled to the 2025 Budget development process as State Statute states that, while elected officials may amend their wages, any change to the wages of elected officials cannot be implemented until after the next scheduled general election.

Wages Survey

City Administrator Chanski surveyed neighboring communities for their council wages as well as any compensation they provide to their citizen committees. Responses were received from 9 communities:

- Baxter
- Brainerd
- Crosby
- Crosslake
- Jenkins
- Little Falls
- Nisswa
- Pequot Lakes
- Walker

A summary of the compensation these cities provide to their councilmembers is below. For reference, monthly wages from the City of Breezy Point are currently \$350 for the Mayor and \$300 for Councilmembers. The Council is provided no additional benefits.

City	Mayor	Councilmembers	Additional Benefits
Crosslake	\$ 530.00	\$ 430.00	\$30/special meeting
Brainerd	\$ 650.00	\$ 550.00	Life & Health Insurance
Nisswa	\$ 350.00	\$ 300.00	\$50/special meeting
Little Falls	\$ 900.00	\$ 800.00	None
Crosby	\$ 600.00	\$ 550.00	None
Pequot	\$ 350.00	\$ 325.00	\$15/special meeting
Jenkins	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00	None
Baxter	\$ 650.00	\$ 550.00	None
Walker	\$ 800.00	\$ 600.00	Payments for Training

When it comes to compensating the members of citizen committees, each city had different approaches. While most cities compensate their planning commission (with the exception of Brainerd and Walker), there was little consistency beyond that.

Below is a summary of the compensation the surveyed cities provide to their citizen committees. For reference, the City of Breezy Point currently only compensates the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment at a rate of \$40 per meeting from commission members and \$50 per meeting for the commission chair. This has not changed since 1994.

City	Committee	Compensation					
Crosslake	Planning Commission	\$35/meeting					
Brainerd	Public Utilities Commission	\$175/mo for commissioners, \$200/mo for chair, life & health insurance					
Nisswa	Planning Commission	\$80/meeting					
Nisswa	Public Works Committee	\$25/meeting					
Nisswa	Parks & Rec Advisory Commission	\$25/meeting					
Little Falls	Parks, Airport, Planning, EDA, HRA	\$40/meeting					
Crosby	Planning Commission	\$50/meeting					
Pequot	Planning Commission	\$75/month					
Pequot	HRA	\$20/month					
Jenkins	Planning Commission	\$65/month for commissioners, \$85/month for chair					
Baxter	All Commissions	\$20/regular meeting & \$10/special meeting					

Council Action

Staff is requesting that the City Council discuss whether they would like to take further action to amend the compensation provided to the City Council and the City's committee members. While no definitive action is necessary at this time, direction is appreciated in preparation for the discussion of the Preliminary 2025 Budget.