

Staff Report

Subject: Proposed increase to Board of Equalization compensation
Author: Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director
Department: Clerk of Courts, prepared by Finance Department
Meeting Date: 1/16/24
Item Description: Consideration to approve an increase in the daily compensation and lunch pay of members of the Board of Equalization.

Summary Recommendation:

The Grand Jury convened in December, and through the Clerk of Courts and per Georgia code § 48-5-311 (2022), the Grand Jury requests and recommends that ECBOC approves increasing Board of Equalization compensation from \$50 per day to \$90 per day and increasing the lunch pay from \$10 per day to \$15 per day.

Executive Summary:

Georgia code § 48-5-311 (2022) states that BoE compensation shall be at least \$25 per day and shall be determined by the county governing authority. No specific allowance for meals is made, although the County elected to provide compensation for meals some years ago. With meals included, the County currently pays a total of \$60 per day to BoE members. The proposed increase would bring that total to \$105 per day.

The current combined total of \$60 per day has been in effect since at least 2008. Using the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis's inflation calculator, this rate in 2008 would be \$84.42 in 2023 dollars.

In busy years, the County has spent approximately \$3,500 annually on BoE compensation. With this proposed increase, that annual figure would be about \$6,125.

Bulloch County currently pays their BoE members \$50 per day, while Chatham pays \$100 per day.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve increasing the daily jury duty pay to \$90, and the daily per diem to \$15.
2. Do not approve any increase.
3. Approve a different increase.
4. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative:

The Grand Jury recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve increasing the Board of Equalization daily pay to \$90, and the lunch pay to \$15.

Other Alternatives:

N/A

Department Review: *(list departments)*

Clerk of Courts, Finance

Funding Source:

General Fund

Attachments:

N/A