

**TOWN OF GRAND LAKE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION 21-2021**

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A WORKFORCE HOUSING CRISIS IN AND
FOR THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Town of Grand Lake, Colorado, pursuant to Colorado Statute is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Grand Lake, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to the local economy and sense of community of the Town of Grand Lake (the “Town”) that workers and their families live in Grand Lake, for without the workers the Town’s local businesses could not survive, much less thrive; and

WHEREAS, the dislocation of workers from Grand Lake creates stress on the workers, local businesses, and the environment due to long commutes over mountainous terrain; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it must increase the number of affordable workforce housing units in Grand Lake so that the Town’s medical workers, teachers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, service workers, and other critical members of the Grand Lake workforce can afford to live in the same community in which they serve; and

WHEREAS, mountain and resort communities such as Grand Lake face unique challenges regarding housing inventory such as a supply that is constrained by land shortages, labor shortages, high construction costs, the second homeowner market, and the increasing popularity of short-term rentals in residential units of all types; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last several years before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, housing for Grand Lake local workforce had become increasingly out of reach such that it was very difficult for workers and their families to stay in Grand Lake; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town is seeing business and societal shifts brought on from remote working options that allow many second home owners to move to Grand Lake on a full time basis and allow high-income remote workers to purchase homes and relocate to Grand Lake, which has also exacerbated the housing shortage; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 Grand County Study Area Housing Needs Assessment, Grand County needs, *inter alia*, “deed restrictions to ensure housing choices are preserved for year-round households” and an estimated 275 new houses by 2023, 52 of which would be in the Grand Lake area; and

WHEREAS, although the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been wide-spread, the economic and housing impact of the pandemic has fallen most severely on lower income households who are already more challenged than the general population to find adequate housing; and

WHEREAS, the federal government recognized the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on housing needs of vulnerable populations, households, and geographic areas and enacted the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in addressing housing issues; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses and public entities are struggling to attract and retain employees and the lack of affordable housing is a major contributor to this workforce shortage with the result that local businesses are closing or reducing their hours of operation; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Grand Lake and surrounding municipalities, working separately or in collaboration through various local housing authorities or other entities and instrumentalities, have acquired, constructed, or facilitated the construction of extremely limited numbers of units of deed-restricted workforce housing within the Town of Grand Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Grand Lake acknowledge that a solution to the affordable workforce housing shortage will require a multi-pronged approach, including the construction and acquisition of new workforce housing units, the modification of existing regulation, and creation of new incentive programs which will require substantial additional funding from not just local resources but also state and federal sources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO,

1. A workforce housing crisis exists in the Town of Grand Lake that warrants immediate action by local, state, and federal authorities. Inaction will result in irreversible changes to the fabric of the community and limit the ability of the community to serve visitors and residents alike.
2. Governments, businesses, and other employers in Grand Lake must thoroughly explore and implement all viable strategies to mitigate the current workforce housing crisis.
3. The representatives of the citizens and businesses of Grand Lake implore Governor Polis and the State of Colorado to recognize the nature of the housing emergency in Colorado's High County and to allocate funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or any other available sources, to assist the Town of Grand Lake.
4. These ongoing efforts to improve affordable workforce housing in Grand Lake will continue to allow local businesses and public service providers to keep a quality workforce in Grand Lake, resulting in a stronger economy and more robust community which will ultimately benefit the Grand County as well as the State of Colorado as a whole because our exceptional recreation amenities are cherished by the residents of Colorado as well as citizens across our nation who visit Grand Lake.

DULY MOVED, SECONDED, AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF GRAND LAKE, COLORADO THIS 12TH DAY OF JULY, 2021.

S E A L

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Votes approving: _____

Votes opposed: _____

Absent: _____

Abstained: _____

ATTEST:

Alayna Carrell, Town Clerk

Stephan Kudron, Mayor