



Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 3/24/2025

Agenda Item No: F	Department: Manager	Presenter: Kudron
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ITEM:

Request to consider compensation for Planning Commission members

Background

Currently, members of the Planning Commission do not receive any compensation for the time that they put into the governance of Grand Lake. As the Town takes on more and more projects and sees greater economic growth, the time required of the Commissioners has increased substantially. The time commitments have become a barrier for many of our citizens who may be interested in holding a six-year appointed office. As the Town government it is important to encourage as many of our citizens to participate in the decisions made by our Town as we can.

Service on the Planning Commission creates more than just a drain on people's time, it can also prove to be a financial burden. For example, many young parents often need to pay for day care just to attend meetings.

Many towns have addressed the problem of attracting candidates by providing some level of compensation for the members' services. These include the towns of Granby, Fraser and Winter Park. The rate of pay in those jurisdictions is:

Granby -	Commissioners - \$50/ meeting
Fraser -	Commissioners - \$100/ meeting
Winter Park -	Commissioners - \$300/ meeting

In general, these payments do not come close to providing a reasonable compensation for the actual work put in; however, the payments do allow commissioners to cover the incidental costs associated with their service. Several communities require attendance at scheduled meetings as a prerequisite to receiving compensation for that meeting (or time period).

Commissioner pay is subject to both state statutes and local code. Our Town of Grand Lake code 12-1-3 states that Commissioners shall serve as such without compensation. As such any Commissioner pay must be approved by ordinance.

After considering the options, the Board should discuss and decide whether or not to provide compensation for the Planning Commission. In addition to compensation, the Board may offer as a measure of compensation reduced or free membership to Town activities such as recreation memberships. These benefits would be allocated as compensation to the Commission compensation line item.

Staff recommends the Board consider the item. An ordinance is provided for your reference.