



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Pete Kampa, General Manager

DATE: January 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6E. Consideration of Interest in a Policy Amendment Clarifying the Process Regarding Board Members Attending and Receiving Compensation for Meetings Outside of District Meetings but Related to District Business

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

Board President to appoint and Board to Ratify an Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss and establish a proposed structure and process for a Board protocol or policy amendment to be presented for Board consideration at the February 2021 Regular meeting

BACKGROUND:

In November and December of 2020, the County and its Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the Terra Vi and Under Canvas lodging projects, each spanning between 3-5 hours in length. The District was engaged in the process of approval of these project due to the impact they will have on Groveland Fire Department services. Interested GCSB staff tuned in, and management prepared and delivered comments regarding the provision of fire services on behalf of the Board and District. Board President Janice Kwiatkowski and potentially other Board members also attended the virtual hearings.

Our current policy as listed below does not specifically address remuneration of Board members for attendance at county hearings. For hearings and other events, local or statewide where the District has a vested interest in the outcome, it can be extremely beneficial for a Board member or members, or the Board President to attend as an elected official and testify on behalf of the District. The voice of counterpart elected officials can carry much more weight on behalf of a community in some cases than does the “hired gun” General Manager. Staff seeks direction from the Board to determine if there is interested in establishing a more formal and predictable process regarding Board member compensation for attendance at local and state hearings and legislative activities.

For obvious reasons, the District’s position and related testimony on an issue must come from direction of the Board and cannot ever include the personal beliefs or opinion of the individual unless supported by Board action. The testifying Board member or members must carefully

represent the Board in such venues, and have to step away from personal opinions and reflect the position of the board majority, even if they disagree. This requires careful consideration of the Board member(s) capable of and interested in preparing for and delivering testimony on behalf of the Board, even on an issue-by-issue basis.

Not all hearings or similar venues require Board member testimony, and the details should be worked out with the General Manager. Another complicating factor is meeting schedules; for example the County Board considered the Under Canvas appeal within days, and the Terra Vi project within two weeks with very little time for preparation or conducting special board meetings to cover board member assignments and testimony. It is therefore recommended that we employ a more flexible process to approve Board member attendance.

For reference, the Board's current policy is as follows:

In addition to Board meetings, Directors may be compensated for the following: (1) Regular Board meetings; (2) Special Board meetings; (3) advisory or committee body meetings; (4) training and educational seminars or conferences; (5) negotiation sessions; (6) depositions; (7) meetings with District consultants, engineers, or other professionals for the purpose of conducting District business or potential business; (8) Any other activity the Board requests in writing that a member attend in advance of attendance. Several meetings may be attended on the same day, but will be considered as only one meeting day.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Should the Board approve the creation of a committee to document this matter, each Board meeting on the committee will receive the meeting stipend of \$75 for each day's service on such committee. Also, assuming the process results in promoting Board member attendance at such hearings, the per meeting stipend will be paid for each.