



Rabbit Ears

12°

Partly Cloudy

Hi 16° Lo -3°

Filters

33 Rentals • Steamboat Springs

\$83

Downtown Butcherknife Creek Re...  
Private room - 2 guests - ★★★★★ - 56 reviews

\$119

private room with full bathroom.  
Private room - 2 guests - ★★★★★ - 45 reviews

\$269

Historic Cottage by The Creek, do...  
Entire home/apt - 4 guests

\$89

Comfy Space in Old Town w/ Hot ...  
Private room - 4 guests - ★★★★★ - 88 reviews

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Courtesy  
Airbnb estimates more than 1,300 people have used their site to rent property in Steamboat Springs in recent years.

Possible city tax on Airbnb, short-term rentals tempered in Steamboat Springs by legal realities

By Scott Franz

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

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AVIS

Steamboat Springs — The city’s elected officials have learned that pursuing taxes or fees on short-term rentals to help fund community housing would be complicated, expensive and perhaps even unfeasible.

“The squeeze might not be worth the juice,” Councilman Scott Ford said after the council received a briefing on the legal implications of the idea.

City Attorney Dan Foote said the pursuit of an impact fee on the rentals would require

that the city conduct an expensive impact study to justify the added expense on only a certain portion of the rental market.

The study would have to address some questions.

“Is it taking housing stock away? Is it creating the need for more housing?” Foote asked. “Those are the kinds of questions we would have to get into with an impact study. It would be difficult to get a study to

support a fee just on Airbnb and VRBO, but who knows until we do it.”

## IN OTHER NEWS:

Professor Emeritus George Tolles talks about Yamp Valley College's early years.

Ford said he thinks if the city does pursue any fee on rentals, it would have to be in the form of an additional lodging tax that is placed not only on Airbnb and short-term rentals but also on hotel accommodations and other rentals of 30 days or less.

Council President Walter Magill said he thinks short-term rentals are impacting the availability of market housing. But the total impact, he said, is hard to put a finger on.

Councilman Jason Lacy said the revenue from a tax or fee on the short-term rentals may not be big enough to help the city reach its housing goals.

The fee on short-term rentals was one of five suggestions from a steering committee that spent months studying the region's housing woes and shortfalls.

The city late last year did make some progress in ensuring that it was receiving all of the tax revenue from short-term rentals.

Airbnb this month started collecting and remitting the required city sales and lodging taxes for all hosts in the city.

Before that arrangement, it was up to the hosts to obtain the required sales tax permit and collect and remit the proper amount of taxes.

But city officials said they don't think all of the hosts were collecting and remitting the required taxes, and the city found it difficult or impossible to go after any hosts who weren't in compliance.

To reach Scott Franz, call 970-871-4210, email [scottfranz@SteamboatToday.com](mailto:scottfranz@SteamboatToday.com) or follow him on Twitter [@ScottFranz10](https://twitter.com/ScottFranz10)



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## Comments



**Harvey Lyon** 22 hours, 4 minutes ago

0

What? Good liberal socialists living in Steamboat Springs can not be trusted to collect the very taxes that support their liberal agendas? Oh the Horror!!!! LOL

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**Eric Morris** 4 hours, 17 minutes ago

0

I should dump my Steamboat dump so I can live freely here in Hoosierland.

Oh wait, all these government apparatchiks are seeking the same ends, just by slightly different means.

<http://currentincarmel.com/letter-support-for-house-bill-1133>

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**steve randall** 4 hours, 12 minutes ago

0

Seems lot of cities collect the taxes. I use VRBO all over the world....most seem to be collecting the tax. My rental manager in RI collects the local city taxes and provides me with a w-9 at the end of the year. Not like Steamboat re-inventing the wheel. Can't say I like the tax....but it happens.

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**Debbie Milstead** 3 hours, 58 minutes ago

0

Eric- What happened to your luxury condo? Was that just BS? Sell it and live in "hoosierland" where you belong.

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**Scott Wedel** 3 hours, 24 minutes ago

0

Steve,

Other cities collect their standard lodging taxes for VRBO. City Council was considering a special additional lodging tax for VRBO that wouldn't apply to other nightly rentals. So the additional tax wouldn't apply to the Sheraton, but would apply to VRBO properties.

And Eric, if your sell out price is \$200K then you might want to list it. There are just a couple of Shadow Run condos for less than \$200K And you know that Trump's spending and tax cut is going to send interest rates up which kills resort housing first.

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**Debbie Milstead** 2 hours, 23 minutes ago

0

Scott- Eric has stated he believes his luxury condo is worth \$240,000.00.

It would be silly to list it for \$200K

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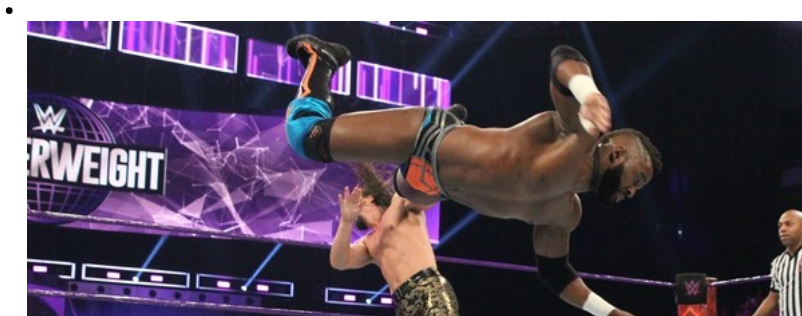
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