



GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING AGENDA

LOCATION: METRO STATION 12

AGENDA—Tuesday – February 24, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – *Agenda stands approved unless there are any changes.*
5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *January 27 minutes stand approved unless there are any changes.*
7. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - a. Approval of cash transfers
 - b. Approval of Prepaid Expenditure List and ACH Transactions
8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS – **PREPAYS & REGULAR CLAIMS**
9. CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Cost Recovery Report
10. REPORTS
 - a. CHIEF
 - b. ASSISTANT CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
 - c. ASSISTANT CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL– FIRE PREVENTION & PUB ED
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Consideration of revised Cost Recovery Ordinance (attached online).
 - b. Consider Renewal of Fire Chief Employment Agreement
13. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:
14. PUBLIC COMMENT
15. ADJOURN

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 24 AT ACME TOWNSHIP HALL

EMERGENCY SERVICES CHARGES ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CHARGES FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 57 OF 1988, AS AMENDED (MCL 124.601 ET SEQ.) AND TO PROVIDE METHODS FOR THE COLLECTION OF SUCH CHARGES AND EXEMPTIONS THEREFROM.

THE GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY ORDAINS:

SECTION I. SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority Cost Recovery Ordinance.

SECTION II. PURPOSE

This Ordinance is adopted for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority by providing a method for cost recovery under certain circumstances from those receiving direct benefits from emergency services provided by the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA). Those emergency services include fire services and may include rescue services. It is also the intent of the GTMESSA to encourage mutual aid between fire departments during emergencies by adopting the charges for emergency services that have been set by the municipality that is assisting in the emergency. For purposes of this Ordinance, the services provided by the GTMESSA and similar services provided by another fire department within the jurisdiction of the GTMESSA pursuant to a request for mutual aid are called "emergency services."

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services jurisdiction" shall mean the physical boundaries of the Charter Township of Garfield, East Bay Charter Township, and Acme Township, and shall include the Board of the GTMESSA, and the Board of Trustees, supervisors, and officers of each of each of the townships referenced herein.

B. "Emergency response" shall mean the providing, sending, or utilizing, through any means, firefighting, emergency medical services, rescue services, or related services, and personnel by the GTMESSA, or by any other municipality, corporation, or individual operating at the request or direction of the GTMESSA, to an incident which actually threatens or is believed to threaten, directly or indirectly, the health, safety, or welfare of individuals or properties within the GTMESSA jurisdiction, or the public's health, safety, or welfare within the GTMESSA jurisdiction. Such incidents shall include, but are specifically not limited to the following: vehicular accidents and fires, vehicular extrication efforts, boating accidents, water rescues, or any accident involving any sort of vehicle or mode of transportation, medical rescue responses, or any hazardous condition which threatens the property or the life and liberty of individuals within the GTMESSA jurisdiction, and any investigation in connection with such fire, accident, or hazard condition.

C. "Expenses of an emergency response" shall mean all charges, costs, and fees incurred by the GTMESA and individuals operating at the request or direction of the GTMESA as a result of making an emergency response. These costs shall include reasonable charges for the use of fire equipment, vehicles, and wages of the GTMESA personnel responding to, investigating, preparing reports concerning the incident, and reasonably related costs. The expense of any emergency response shall also include reasonable attorney fees and any costs incurred in collecting those charges, costs, and fees authorized by this Ordinance.

D. "Alarm" is the giving, signaling, or transmitting to a public police station, fire station, or 911 central dispatch, or to an officer or employee thereof, whether by telephone, spoken word, or otherwise, information to the effect that a condition exists at or near the place indicated by the person giving, signaling, or transmitting such information, which is reasonably perceived to require an emergency response by the GTMESA.

E. "False alarm" shall mean the reporting of an alarm for which no emergency response is required.

F. "Run" shall mean a call generated by 911 central dispatch and/or by the GTMESA personnel pursuant to 911 central dispatch.

G. "Financial hardship" shall mean a documented inability to pay all or part of the billed charges without causing substantial financial distress. Factors to be considered in determining whether a person responsible is experiencing financial hardship include, but are not limited to:

- Household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Recent bankruptcy, foreclosure, or eviction.

Lack of insurance coverage alone shall not constitute financial hardship.

H. "Person(s) responsible" shall mean the owner, operator and/or person in charge of or person in possession of the structure, property, or vehicle to which the emergency response is directed.

SECTION IV. CHARGES

A. The GTMESA Board, by resolution, shall set revised charges for emergency services that are provided by the GTMESA. Those charges are due and payable to the GTMESA from a person responsible who receives any of the listed emergency services within the GTMESA jurisdiction. The charge constitutes a debt of the person(s) responsible and shall be collectible by the GTMESA in the same manner as an obligation under a contract.

B. If a fire department other than the GTMESA provides emergency services within the GTMESA jurisdiction pursuant to a mutual aid agreement, or as the result of a request for assistance from the GTMESA, then the charges established by the assisting municipality for the services which have been provided by its fire department shall be paid in the same manner as if those charges had been incorporated into this Ordinance. All charges of another fire department shall be due and payable and administratively handled as charges for emergency services that have been provided by the GTMESA.

SECTION V. EXEMPTIONS

The following properties and services shall be exempt from any charges:

A. False alarms; however, if the GTMESA responds to a false alarm at any location that has at least three (3) false alarms in the same calendar year, there shall be a charge as determined by the GTMESA as described in Section IV A for each response which is made in the same calendar year as the three (3) false alarms.

B. Fires involving buildings, grounds, or other property of the GTMESA, the Charter Township of Garfield, East Bay Charter Township, and Acme Township.

C. Emergency services performed outside the jurisdiction of the GTMESA under a mutual aid contract, unless charges for such services are permitted by state or local ordinance.

D. Emergency services caused to be performed by the act or omission of an unknown third party.

SECTION VI. TIME FOR PAYMENT

The charges imposed by the Ordinance shall be due and payable to the GTMESA within ninety (90) days from the date the service is rendered.

SECTION VII. COLLECTION OF CHARGES

The GTMESA shall be responsible for all billings for the charges that are imposed by this Ordinance. The GTMESA may contract with a third party to handle the administrative actions related to invoicing and sending bills, receiving payment, and collection proceedings. The GTMESA, or a third party acting pursuant to a contract with the GTMESA, is authorized to take such legal action as may be necessary to collect any unpaid charges. The GTMESA, or the third party with whom it has contracted, shall be responsible for all costs and attorney fees associated with any such legal action except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance. All charges that are imposed pursuant to this Ordinance shall be deemed assigned to the GTMESA for purposes of collection and use of all payments of the charges.

SECTION VIII. USE OF PAYMENTS

All proceeds from payment for charges after expenses of collection shall be retained by the GTMESA and shall be used for all purposes as authorized in its Articles of Organization, or pursuant to Public Act 57 of 1988.

SECTION IX. NONEXCLUSIVE FUNDING

Charges provided for in this Ordinance shall not be exclusive of the charges that may be made by the GTMESA for the cost and expense of maintaining a fire department and emergency services authority, but shall only be supplemental thereto.

SECTIONX. MULTIPLE PROPERTY PROTECTION

When an emergency service rendered by the GTMESA directly benefits more than one person or property, the owner of each property so benefited and each person so benefited where property protection is not involved shall be the persons responsible for the payment of the full charge for such

service. The interpretation and application of this Section is delegated to the GTMESA Fire Chief subject only to appeal, within the time limits for payment as described in Section VI of this Ordinance, to the GTMESA Board.

SECTION XI. APPEAL

Any party aggrieved by a charge authorized in this Ordinance may appeal the charges as follows:

A. Within the time period for which a bill is payable, such a party shall file a written request with the GTMESA Fire Chief setting forth specific reasons why the charge is improper. The charge appealed from may be adjusted and/or waived based upon financial hardship. The GTMESA Board shall require evidence supporting the basis for adjustment and/or waiver as it deems necessary.

B. The Fire Chief shall notify the aggrieved party, in writing, of the time, place, and date that the GTMESA Board will hold a hearing on the appeal.

C. The GTMESA Board may grant relief on appeal if it finds good cause and sufficient proof to satisfy the GTMESA Board.

D. The GTMESA Board may extend the time for payment for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed one (1) year.

SECTION XII. SEVERABILITY

If any section, provision, or clause of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION XIII. PUBLICATION

Publication shall be made within thirty (30) days after passage of this Ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation within the GTMESA jurisdiction. The Ordinance in full, or a summary of the Ordinance, may be published. The Ordinance shall be effective the day following the date of publication.

GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

By: _____

Its: Chair

By: _____

Its: Secretary