



# GT METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

FIRE OFFICE 897 Parsons Road ~ Traverse City, MI 49686

Phone: (231) 947-3000 Fax: (231) 947-8728 ~ Website: [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org) Email: [Info@gtmetrofire.org](mailto:Info@gtmetrofire.org)

December 4, 2018

The special study session of the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Jay Zollinger at Metro Station 12, 2025 E. Silver Lake Road N, Traverse City, MI.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** recited

The following Board members were in attendance:

Beth Friend, East Bay  
Jay Zollinger, Acme  
Chuck Korn, Garfield

Glen Lile, East Bay  
Darryl Nelson, Acme  
Dan Walters, Garfield

Also in attendance:

Pat Parker, Chief  
Sue Courtade, East Bay  
Tracey Bartlett, East Bay  
Matt Courtade, East Bay

Jeane Blood-Law, Garfield  
Lanie McManus, Garfield  
Molly Agostinelli, Garfield  
Haider Kazim, Metro Atty.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Korn, supported by Lile, to approve the agenda as emailed. All ayes. Motion carried.

This special board meeting was held for continued review of the Articles of Incorporation.

The issues from the last Metro study session went back to the Garfield Twp Board for discussion. Korn reported on the outcome of that meeting on the following open issues: 1) How we vote, 2) Capital Improvement/Township owned buildings, and 3) Tax Tribunals.

Korn reported on the following:

**Article VIII – Governing Board.** The Garfield Twp Board, after lengthy discussion, wants an affirmative vote from each township on all votes. If there is a voice vote and there are no “nays”, then it is done. If there is a “nay” or pair of “nays”, then a roll call vote would be appropriate.

Length of time served as Chairperson: The chairperson of maximum of two years they agree on. This is ok with all three townships.

Selection of Treasurer: Garfield Twp is fine with the way it is.

**Article X-Vacancy.** Garfield Twp Board is ok with two alternates. They do not want a 7<sup>th</sup> member.

**Article XI-Meetings.** Garfield Twp Board had no objection to having the Secretary signing the minutes with the Chair.



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**Article XII- Board and Officer Duties.** Garfield Twp Board said we should define capital purchases. There are several different definitions and we need to adopt one for our use.  
Check signing: Discussion. This is ok with all three twps.

**Article XIII-Property.** Acme Twp wrote: “Townships are responsible for Capital Improvements on leased properties. Some special Fire needs may be negotiable.” Korn said they were not sure what Acme meant by that. Zollinger explained. Korn said it made sense.  
Acme Twp wrote: “New buildings should be built and owned by Metro Authority.” Garfield Township recognized that Metro built a building in East Bay Township and a building in Garfield Township with the help of a federal grant. If we want to retain our current funding system and tax collection policies, it might be prudent to look at the Acme building as a necessity.  
East Bay Twp wrote: “All capital improvements should be done by the Metro Authority to include an amortization schedule for capital improvements to township-owned properties.” Garfield Township’s stance is the opposite which is addressed in Article XVIII-Financing Improvements where they think capital improvements should be borne by the township members on leased buildings. Capital improvements need to be defined. The Metro Board will come back to this issue for discussion.

**Article XIV-Contracts for Emergency Services.** Garfield is ok with this.

**Article XV-Financing the Authority.** Garfield Twp questioned the term “material deviation” in the Articles of Incorporation which is very vague. Garfield Twp would like to define it as a percentage of the budget. The Metro budget is based off the assessed amount that comes out in the County Equalization Report every April. Garfield would like to use the settlement amount instead of the assessed amount. The Metro Board will come back to this issue for discussion.

**Article XVII-Cooperative Agreements.** All ok with this.

**Article XVIII-Financing Improvements.** Garfield Twp said capital improvements shall be borne by the Township members on leased buildings.

**XXX-Miscellaneous.** Reduction in Taxable value-Michigan Tax Tribunal. Korn reported that the typical tax tribunal is a three-year event. Garfield would like to switch to a final settlement amount instead of assessed amount as it would eliminate one of those years from their costs.

**New issue:** One of the Garfield residents asked if there was any way that a resident member from each township could sit on the Metro Board; to be able to speak, but not be a voting member.

**NOTE: The Metro Board would like the board packets to go to all the members of the Township Boards as well as anyone on the subscription list.**



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Discussion continued on the following open issues:

- #XIII-Capital Improvements
- #VIII-Voting/Governance/Citizen-non-voting member
- #XV-Financing
- XXX-Tax Tribunal (what schedule do we use)

**OUTCOME:** The two issues that will be taken back to the Township Boards for further discussion: 1) Board voting, and 2) who pays for capital improvement and the defining capital improvement.

The Board will be looking for what the definition of:

- 1) Capital Expenditure
- 2) Material Deviation in relation to budget

Schwind to send out a "Doodle" for another Metro study session to be held after December 11<sup>th</sup> and before December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jeane Blood-Law, Garfield Twp Treasurer, addressed the Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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Chairman Jay Zollinger

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Assistant Secretary Marcia Schwind