



# 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)

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January 16, 2019

The special study session of the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Jay Zollinger at East Bay Twp Hall, 1965 Three Mile Road, 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  
Steve Duell, Garfield

Also in attendance:

Pat Parker, Chief  
Steve Apostal, Asst. Chief-OPS  
Tracy Bartlett, East Bay Bd Trustee

Molly Agostinelli, Garfield Bd Trustee  
Jeane Blood-Law, Garfield Bd Trustee  
Jean Ackerman, Acme Bd Trustee

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**APPROVAL OF DEC 17, 2018 STUDY SESSION MINS:** **Motion** by Friend, supported by Korn, to approve the December 17, 2018, special study session minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Zollinger reported that there were 3 items that were left for discussion.

1. Capital Improvement – #XVIII - Financing Improvements & XIII-Property. (1) If the Townships were okay with this and (2) the Definition of Capital Improvements.
2. Voting - #VIII - Governing Board.
3. Opening up Funding Formula #XV – Financing the Authority.

4. **Distribution and Settlement Report #XV -Financing the Authority** (\*\*See below comment)

\*\*Friend said that the issue of the Distribution and Settlement Report (#XV-Financing the Authority) is still open. Discussion. This item was added to the 3 open issues above as #4.

**All Metro Board Members unanimously agreed that the above 4 items were left for discussion.**



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- 1. Capital Improvement – #XVIII (Financing Improvements). Definition of Capital Improvements.** Zollinger passed out a document that identifies “Maintenance and Normal Repairs”/” Capital Improvements”, and “Other Needs.” After discussion the Board was all okay with the definitions but wanted the following sentence (worn out by longevity, overuse, life expectancy, not damage) added after the words “garage doors” under the heading “Capital Improvements – Major repair and/or replacement.” After the last special board meeting, Korn took this issue of capital improvement back to the Garfield Board. Korn said that there wasn’t anything that they disagreed with, just clarifying damage vs. worn out. Friend said that East Bay feels the value of all capital improvements should all go through Metro as it improves the uniformity at all Stations. However, they are willing to do what the majority of the jurisdictions want to do. But in the leases, they need to set a value to it. Discussion on the process to do capital improvements. Chairman Zollinger said they need to change the leases to reflect the change that the Townships will take care of capital items for the building they own, and Metro Chief is to let the Townships know the items to put in their budgets. **All Metro Board members were in agreement on this issue.** This change will be effective in 2020. East Bay and Garfield’s budgets start January 1<sup>st</sup> and Acme’s budget starts July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2. Voting - #VIII (Governing Board).** Korn said that the Garfield Board wanted one affirmative vote on all issues. Chairman Zollinger said at the last special board meeting the discussion was left at movement on an affirmative on certain things as follows: electing the Board Chairs; what level to give Parker authority (\$20,000 was discussed); a % of budget - discussed the % of budget as a material deviation at 1%. Korn said that his Board may be willing to go there, but all three Townships were to take this back for discussion. Korn said at the last Garfield Township meeting the Garfield Board still wanted one affirmative vote on all issues. Chairman Zollinger brought up the idea of mediation. Nelson asked to continue to see if they could resolve this issue. Friend and Nelson said that Acme and East Bay were not comfortable with an affirmative on all issues. Discussion. Zollinger decided to move on since the Board came to an impasse and said it is an issue to go to mediation.
- 3. Distribution and Settlement Report #XV -Financing the Authority.** Zollinger said there is an issue regarding SEV and the settlement date. See Zollinger’s PowerPoint flow chart to show critical dates for budgeting. Friend had a small presentation showing the discussion she had with the GT County Equalization Director. She said that we should use the L4046 official report not the Distribution and Settlement Report. Discussion on what report Metro should use for budgeting. Since there was no agreement, Friend suggested that this topic go to mediation.



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- 4. Funding Formula #XV – Financing the Authority.** This issue was added to the items of ongoing Board discussion as a result of the comment made from Friend at the last Metro study session (December 17, 2018). Chairman Zollinger asked Friend if what she meant was to use a different funding mechanism than we use today. Friend referred to the East Bay Township Resolution 2019-2. Chairman Zollinger asked her to clarify what their intent was to open up the funding formula of the Authority. There was some disagreement on what was said at the last meeting regarding opening up #XV regarding the funding formula. Friend stated that East Bay was not interested in any changes of the Articles of Incorporation (as stated in East Bay Township's Resolution. Acme is comfortable with the funding right now. Not interested in any changes. Discussion.

Friend said before we go to mediation, lets change the leases to pay for the capital improvements and the one change to the Articles which include the Tribal contract and not do anything else, and move forward with normal business.

Nelson suggested using material deviation of 1% of the budget with any changes to the budget requiring 1 affirmative vote from each Township and adding in the Board Officers (Chair/Vice Chair/Bd Secretary) that also require one affirmative vote from each Township. He asked if Garfield Township would be willing to agree to this? Korn and Duell said that they would have to go back to the Garfield Township Board. Duell said that it was unanimous about the affirmative vote but what the affirmative vote would cover was different among the Garfield Board members. Discussion. Zollinger said if they go to mediation, it still needs to go back to the Township Boards. He also stated that mediation is not binding, and they need to work to get this done as soon as possible. Zollinger passed out the Mediation Worksheet and went over the process. The first step was each Township needs to make a list and prioritize 5 mediators and return to Schwind by 1/22/19. He also passed out a sample Resolution on Mediation Members for Metro Open Issues. A mediation team needs to be selected from each Township. Nelson said if they saw something that might work, to get together and talk before going to mediation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The following people spoke to the Board: Daren Mansfield, Metro Firefighter; Matt Courtade, East Bay; Jeane Blood-Law, Garfield; Jean Ackerman, Acme; and Chief Parker.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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Chairman Jay Zollinger

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Assistant Secretary Marcia Schwind