



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 Email: info@gtmetrofire.org

February 26, 2019

The regular meeting of the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Jay Zollinger at Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – recited

Roll call – 6 members, a quorum

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

Glen Lile, East Bay
Darryl Nelson, Acme
Steve Duell, Garfield

ATTENDANCE:

Pat Parker, Chief
Tracey Bartlett, East Bay
Molly Agostinelli, Garfield
Lanie McManus, Garfield

Robin Ehardt, Accountant
Sue Courtade, East Bay
Jeane Blood-Law, Garfield

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – DR. STALSONBURG: Parker presented Dr. Larry Stalsonburg with a plaque for his 8 years of service as the Medical Director for Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16 & January 22, 2019, minutes stand approved unless there are any changes: The January 16 & January 22, 2019 minutes stand approved as presented with no changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Financial report as presented.

Approval of Prepaid Expenditure List: **Motion** by Friend, supported by Korn, to approve the Prepaid Expenditure Approval List for 2019. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Friend, supported by Nelson, to approve Exhibit A with the additions to the Section 7.0 Policy for Automated Clearing House (ACH) Arrangement. All ayes. Motion carried.



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Budget Adjustment Starting Wage Study: Parker reported on the Starting Wage Analysis (see Fire Department Starting Wage Analysis dated 2/26/19). Back in 2010, the Board approved the wage step process for the firefighters to be more in line with their peers, which increases with any board approved yearly increases. The environment has changed around here and there are so many more fire departments now hiring. Our firefighters are a welcomed commodity for these other fire departments in this area. On the first page of the document it shows where we stand on starting wages compared to some of our peers. It also shows the wage that our part-time firefighter starts at and the decrease the firefighter takes if he/she becomes a full-time firefighter. Currently it takes the full-time firefighters 60 months to reach the top of their scale. Staff is proposing to eliminate one of the steps so a firefighter would reach the top of the scale in 48 months instead of 60 months. Due to the starting of many new township fire departments, it has made it very competitive to hire and maintain good firefighters. Parker reported that we have five firefighters that are in the step process and are in various stages of being pursued by other fire departments right now. This created the urgency of adopting this increased starting wage. Discussion on benefit packages of other fire departments and the rate of pay from part-time to full-time at Metro. The Board would like to see Metro's benefit package compared to the other fire departments' benefit packages. **Motion** by Lile, supported by Korn, to table to the next board meeting with a total benefits package. 5 yes, Nelson no. Motion carried.

CLAIMS: **Motion** by Nelson, supported by Korn, to approve the prepays in the amount of \$126,658.46 (check #16045-16082 with no voided checks); and regular claims distributed with the Board packet in the amount of \$47,288.28 (check #16083-16132 with no voided checks) and the claims added after the packet distribution of \$17,851.06 (check #16133-16149); Engine 11 loan from PIF Fund in the amount of \$8,333.33 (check #1120); and the Payroll ACH's in the amount of \$240,160.19 for a Grand Total Claims in the amount of \$440,291.32. Roll call: Korn, yes; Friend, yes; Nelson, yes; Lile, yes; Duell, yes; Zollinger, yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

See Rehmann's Understanding of Services letter dated February 12, 2019. Ehardt obtained Chairman Zollinger's signature on the original copy.

See the Cost Recovery Report for January 2019.

R E P O R T S

CHIEF: See Chief Report.

ASST. CHIEF/OPS-TRAINING: See Asst. Chief/OPS report. Asst. Chief Apostol is at training this week.



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ASST. CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL: See Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal- Fire Prevention Bureau Report and Fire & Life Safety Report. Asst. Chief Belcher is in Lansing at a training class.

OLD BUSINESS:

Study Session/Mediation Status: Zollinger reported that the mediator that was selected is Richard Wilson. They are in the process of working with everyone's schedules and calendars in order to pick a date for mediation. The Township Attorneys have said that in the mediation, we are not allowed to have any more than three Metro board members present due to Open Meetings Act regulations. Each Township is to pick their one member from the board and an alternate who is not either a board member or an alternate. The Board discussed having to do another resolution to announce the new alternate.

Korn stated that he would like this to be settled outside of mediation. Garfield has defined what they feel their Board is comfortable with in terms of the affirmative vote. Zollinger asked if this was approved by the Garfield Board, and if he wanted to discuss this today or set up a special work session. Korn said that this has been approved by the Garfield Board. Korn said if the Metro Board thought this was a workable solution, they could set up a study session to achieve a result they could all live with. If not, they go to mediation, but Garfield would be interested in reaching an equitable solution as quickly as possible. The Board said for Schwind to contact the Supervisors to see if they want to set up a study session before mediation or just go to mediation after they review the list. Friend asked for clarification on the status as there were other issues than voting. Discussion. Zollinger passed out the current excel spreadsheet that shows what items were still outstanding which need to be addressed at a study session or mediation. If the response from the Board to Schwind is workable to have a study session, Schwind to send out a "Doodle" for this Friday, or next week. Korn passed out the Affirmative Vote List to the Metro Board members for their review.

Board Orientation: Zollinger recommended anyone from the Metro Board or the Township Boards that have not been to an orientation to attend this one. There is a lot of good information that is presented. Friend will check with their trustees to see if anyone will be attending. All Townships to let Schwind know by next week who will be attending.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parker passed out the Annual Report. This is a preliminary report and still needs to be proofread. He will go over the report at the March board meeting and will present the report to all the Townships at a later date.



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Any Suggested Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sue Courtade, East Bay Twp Clerk, addressed the Board.

There being no objections, meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Zollinger at 10:02 a.m.

Chairman Jay Zollinger

Assistant Secretary Marcia Schwind