

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 10, 2020 (Virtual)**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Portmann called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY CHAIR

Present: Chairman Ryan Portmann, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Adam G. Rosenlund, Commissioner Gina Blanchard-Reed, Commissioner Robert Homan, Fire Chief Pat Dale, Deputy Chief Oscar Espinosa, District Secretary Brenda Barker and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed moved to approve the Agenda as written. Commissioner Rosenlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2020

Financial Documentation:

General Fund:

Payables: Checks #28278 through #28319 =	\$90,365.56
TOTAL:	<u>\$90,365.56</u>

Commissioner Homan moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Dale welcomed the Board and citizens to the virtual meeting.

Situation Status Update

COVID-19:

We continue to see normal call volume, our work force is healthy and staffing levels are robust. Last week we experienced a suspected but unconfirmed COVID-19 exposure. Our contact tracing measures led us to place 12 career members and one resident in quarantine for more than 24 hours. The test result was negative, so our members were released from quarantine. Chief Dale issued a District-wide directive to all members to remain vigilant and warning against caution fatigue.

State Mobilization Resource Request due to Demonstrations in Seattle:

On the evening of May 30th, Seattle Fire Department Fire Chief Harold Scoggins requested one strike team of Type 1 engines and a Strike Team Leader from Pierce County. We met the request by sending Engine 95 and Battalion 94 along with resources from Central Pierce and East Pierce. They were cancelled en route and returned home.

Standing Committees

Budget, Finance and Audit – No report
Policy and Procedure – No report
Mergers/Consolidations – No report
Joint Labor/Management – No report
Strategic Leadership Plan – No report
Legislative Affairs – No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Benefit Charge Briefing

Chief Dale expanded upon his Benefit Charge Timeline document provided to the Board and outlined below:

NOVEMBER VS. FEBRUARY BALLOT

- Economic implications of COVID-19 and the ongoing civil unrest may be felt greater in early 2021.
- Larger voter turnout in November may allow for broader voter reach.
- Prior to complications with the budget cycle.

IMPORTANT DATES

- WSRB rating announced to the community – **June 10**
- Ordered WSRB “Check Your Insurance Rates” Postcard (District-wide Mailer) – **June 10**
 - Will be mailed on June 29.
- Hire Consultants – **June 11**
 - Will operate at a strategic level providing guidance on the project timeline and key messaging.
 - Experience working with Fire Departments.
 - Experience working on successful Benefit Charge information campaigns.
- Board Resolution – **July 8**
- Filing Deadline – **August 4**
- Explanatory Statement – **August 4**
- Community Outreach – **Mid-July – November 3**
 - Social Media
 - Virtual Open House
 - Virtual Tender Ceremony
 - Info graphics
 - Informational Videos
 - Virtual Presentations with GBA, HOAs, Rotary and other stakeholder groups
 - Electronic Newsletter
 - Quarterly Newsletter (two more before November)

IMPORTANT DATES POST NOVEMBER 3 BALLOT MEASURE

- Define our role in consortium as a full participant (**after the BC passes**) – this may or may not require funds.
- Have our website on Fireinfo.com activated. (ready to go – just need to flip switch)
- Resolution of charges and formula. (This will likely be done much sooner for public hearing prior to election.)
- Resolution to establish the Benefit Board (likely just naming the GFR Board of Commissioners as the Benefit Board).
- File resolution and benefit charges with the county prior to **11/30**.

Chairman Portmann requested Board discussion and reminded them that Attorney Joseph Quinn and Battalion Chief Todd Jensen are both participants in this virtual meeting and are available to answer questions on the benefit charge. Discussion ensued.

At the conclusion of discussion, Chairman Portmann surmised there is a consensus of the Board to have staff move forward and continue to explore this. The Board members concurred. He requested staff prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the next Board Meeting on June 24th to further explain the benefit charge and address the Board members' questions and concerns. He also suggested a Special Board Meeting may need to be called between June 24th and the first regular meeting in July to address any additional questions and fine tune the resolution. He requested Attorney Quinn be in attendance at the June 24th meeting to address any legal questions the Board may have.

Commissioner Gustafson requested staff provide a copy of the pertinent RCW to all Board members.

Chief Dale requested clarification of exactly what information the Board was seeking to be covered in the presentation. He proposed the following: An overview of the benefit charge in areas of percentage of budget, what it replaces, how it matches up to our projections of revenues and how it affects residential properties and commercial properties. Chairman Portmann responded affirmatively and expressed his concern for the Board to be well-educated on this matter in order to respond to questions from citizens.

Resolution No. 931 Extension

Human Resources Director Annie Vandenkooy requested the Board consider extending the Resolution No. 931 Firefighter eligibility list which is set to expire this June 30th. Due to Covid-19 and social distancing measures, we are unable to run a recruitment assessment center. She asked the Board to extend the current list to December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve extending the expiration date for the Resolution 931 Firefighter eligibility list to December 31, 2020. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Robert Benum commented there is a lot going on, and it is really important we make sure the people are being considered. To get the information to the people, the newsletter is the best way. He strongly encourages the Chief to do it this way.

Citizen Carolyn Benum stated she would like a copy of this evening's minutes when they are available. District Secretary Barker responded affirmatively. Mrs. Benum asked Chief Dale if he

would be willing to speak to their small HOA, ten homeowners, on the benefit charge. She also inquired if the benefit charge is related to a lowering of homeowners' insurance rates because of better coverage by the fire department. Chief Dale responded he plans to reach out to HOAs, none are too small, so she can submit a request. The reduction in homeowners' insurance premiums is not related to the benefit charge, but is a result of the passage of the M&O levy and the resulting improved service level. The rest of the story is our research of an alternate and more stable funding source, the benefit charge.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Homan thanked staff for responding to his questions regarding material in the Board Meeting packet earlier today. He also complimented Chief Dale on his presentation on Facebook today addressing WSRB.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of June 10, 2020, was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Ryan Portmann, Board Chairman

Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary