

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 24, 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 Robert Homan, Fire Chief Pat Dale, Deputy Chief Oscar Espinosa, District Secretary Brenda Barker and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

Chairman Portmann stated he received a text message from Commissioner Gina Blanchard-Reed stating she would arrive shortly. She arrived at 6:41 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Robert Benum commented that last week he left the meeting as frustrated as he has ever been. However, thanks to Chief Dale and the time he spent explaining the Benefit Charge to him, he has a much better handle on it. He is comfortable he will be able to support the measure in the future. He thanked Chief Dale and the Board.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Homan moved to approve the Agenda as written. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2020

Financial Documentation:

General Fund:

Payables: Checks #28345 through #28398 =	\$85,820.71
Payables (Payroll): Checks #28327 through #28344 =	\$670,935.90
Payroll: Checks #28320 through #28326 =	\$11,868.00
Payroll Transfers (EFTs) =	<u>\$798,581.09</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$1,567,205.70</u>

Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Gustafson 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.

He stated he had nothing new to report since the last meeting.

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

Benefit Charge Presentation

Chairman Portmann explained Chief Dale will now present his Benefit Charge PowerPoint presentation and requested the Board members save all questions until the end.

Chief Dale proceeded with his presentation which included the following: an overview of the District, current funding sources, WSRB rating, future funding source – the Benefit Charge, voter approval requirements, collection limits, impact on Fire and EMS taxes, categorization of risk by structure type, method of collection, appeal process, result if Benefit Charge not approved, other local agencies with Benefit Charges, and a timeline of next steps. Chief Dale concluded his presentation.

Chairman Portmann requested the Board ask questions at this time. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Rosenlund moved to schedule a public hearing (virtual) on July 14th at 6:00 p.m. to review and comment upon a proposal to adopt a benefit charge in the District. Commissioner Homan seconded the motion.

Discussion was held on the motion.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Rosenlund addressed Chairman Portmann, as a point of order, and requested Board members cease using the antiquated term “firemen,” and refer to the responders as “firefighters.”

Chief Dale thanked all of the staff members who collaborated with him on this presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Robert Benum asked Chief Dale if the (Benefit Charge) fee will be required to be paid annually, or if it can be paid quarterly or semi-annually. Chief Dale responded annually, and he did not know if other arrangements could be made. He said he would find out and let Mr. Benum know. Mr. Benum stated he agrees with those who said this is going to be a challenging time for a vote, but, if the benefit charge will be cost effective for the citizens, it is important to get it through now.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Rosenlund thanked the Benums. He expressed he appreciates their time and commitment to these matters. Their level of understanding and open-mindedness of the big picture is to be commended. Thank you!

Commissioner Homan stated he agrees wholeheartedly with Commissioner Rosenlund. He said even in his 14 years serving on the school board, he has not seen citizens more dedicated than the Benums. Their dedication is awesome and amazing.

Chairman Portmann thanked staff for putting this presentation together. The information provided was exactly what the Board requested, and it was provided in a very clear, succinct fashion. He reiterated he would like to schedule time to sit down with Chief Dale, and Commissioner Gustafson was welcome to join them, to analyze specific Benefit Charge calculations. Chief Dale responded affirmatively.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of June 24, 2020, was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ryan Portmann, Board Chairman

Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary