

OF273008

TYPE OF RECORD: PERMANENT

CATEGORY OF RECORD: MINUTES

CITY DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

YEAR: 1973

MINUTES
FIREMENS' PENSION BOARD
August 22, 1973

The Pension Board of the Grand Junction Fire Department met at 8:30 a.m. August 22, 1973 in the office of City Manager Harvey M. Rose at City Hall. Members present were Firemen Cecil (Jack) Campbell, and Clarence Cooper, City Manager Harvey M. Rose, and Finance Director Victor A. Vance. Members City Clerk Neva Lockhart and Fireman Eldon Avery were absent.

The meeting was called to order by City Manager Harvey M. Rose. He stated that one item of business was the matter of a disability pension for Fireman Ed. Billings. Mr. Rose stated that all members of the Board had received and had time to review the report of Doctors Wubben and Smith and are aware of the options. Fireman Ed. Billings was present together with his attorney, Richard W. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold stated that Mr. Billings is very concerned about his health. The Doctors' report shows that he is a very sick man. Mr. Billings is not contending that his disability has been caused by tremendous exertion fighting fires. It has not been caused solely from alcohol and it has not been self-inflicting, wilful or wanton by him intentionally to qualify him for a pension. In the opinion of Doctors Smith and Wubben he is physically unable to perform his job as a fireman. He has 13 years of service; has been contributing to the pension fund and is qualified to receive a disability pension. Mr. Billings has started on a rehabilitation program of exercise and diet.

Mr. Campbell stated that it is true the doctors' report is not very favorable and does not state that his disability is caused solely from the habitual use of alcohol.

Mr. Rose stated there were two options open to the Board: because of job incurred injury, it grants a pension of 5% of one-half of his monthly salary times the number of years service, or a maximum of one-half of his monthly salary, or the Board can deny him a pension which would be stating that his disability is caused by habitual use of intoxicants. The Board is not concerned with whether Ed. returns to work, but is only concerned with whether he receives a pension or not.

It was moved by Victor Vance and seconded by Cecil Campbell that Mr. Edward Billings be granted a disability pension with the stipulation of 5% of one-half of his monthly salary times the number of years of service, the maximum not to exceed one-half of his salary, with the condition that the Board pay for a physical examination at the end of one year. All members present voted AYE.

Mr. Vance told Mr. Billings that he would like to impress upon him and recommend highly that he go into a program of physical training and alcohol treatment so he could get back on the job.

Mr. Billings asked if in one year he could take the physical and pass it, would he go back to work as a rookie? Mr. Rose said he would go back as a fireman with the same status he now has. Mr. Rose told Mr. Billings that he has a few more days of sick leave left and he will be on sick leave until it is used up and will then go on pension. The Board will contact Mr. Billings and arrange for a physical examination at the end of one year. Mr. Billings and Mr. Arnold, left the meeting.


A bill from Mesa Laboratories in the amount of \$13.00 was presented. The bill was for laboratory tests ordered by Dr. G. P. Smith in connection with the examination of Ed. Billings. It was moved by Cecil Campbell and seconded by Victor Vance that payment of the bill be authorized. All members present voted AYE.

Mr. Campbell brought up a question in regard to payment of widow's pensions to Mrs. Cerney and Mrs. Bennett. Payments will be made in compliance with The Act passed effective July 1, 1973 in which widows' pensions have been designated as one-third of the monthly salary of the fireman or other officer plus one-third of any increase in salary at the time of the original grant. The widow must accept the pension under these regulations, or may refuse to accept it.

Mr. Campbell stated there were fire department employees drawing extra money over base pay for college credit hours and asked if credit for the extra pay was applied to their pensions. Mr. Rose stated that educational benefits equal to three more steps were given and that deductions for pension fund were made. College credit is to encourage firemen to go back to school.

Mr. Campbell also asked about call backs and if deductions were made for pension fund. Since pensions are figured on the last month's pay, the number of call backs included would make a difference in the pension amount. Mr. Rose stated that pensions are figured on base pay. Nothing is withheld for pension fund on call backs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.a.m.


Victor A. Vance
Secretary

copies to: Harvey Rose
8-23-73 Neva Lockhart
Jack Campbell, Clarence Cooper, Eldon Avery
Ed. Billings & Richard W. Arnold
Ashby