

OF380001

TYPE OF RECORD: PERMANENT

CATEGORY OF RECORD: MINUTES

CITY DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

YEAR: 1980

FIRE PENSION BOARD

A meeting of the Fire Pension Board was called to order at 9:45 a.m. in the Personnel Director office on January 28, 1980. Members present were: Gary Tharp, Fred Knowles, Mike Petersen, John Tasker, Jane Quimby and Claudia Smith. Also present was Jeanne Herring.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

With regard to Jack Brandhorst, Chairman Gary Tharp told other Board members that Gerald Ashby had written to his attorney requesting medical information which the Board requested at the last meeting. Claudia Smith stated that Mr. Brandhorst's attorney had not been notified that the hearing date had been scheduled for February 4, 1980 and that the letter Mr. Ashby had written was mailed on the 24th of January. After some discussion, it was decided that the hearing would be scheduled for February 12, 1980 at 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Brandhorst's attorney would be notified of same.

Gary Tharp re-opened Gregory Hazelhurst's disability request case. At this time, Fred Knowles stated that he felt the Board should set some standards in regards to how many members must be present to constitute a quorum and who should vote. After much discussion, Fred Knowles made a motion that in order to constitute a quorum four members must be present; two of whom shall be employees of the Fire Department and two of whom shall be from administration. John Tasker seconded this motion and all were in favor. John Tasker then made a motion that the Chairman should abstain from voting except in the case of a tie; this was seconded by Fred Knowles. With the exception of Mike Petersen, all were in favor. Fred Knowles made a motion that a simple majority of members present will be required to pass a motion; this was seconded by John Tasker. All were in favor.

There was then some discussion regarding the term of office for Chairman of the Board. John Tasker made a motion that the Chairman of the Board be a one year term. This was seconded by Jane Quimby and all were in favor. After discussion, a motion was made by Fred Knowles that Gary Tharp be Chairman of the Board for the year 1980; this was seconded by Mike Petersen. John Tasker then moved the nominations be closed. The motion was passed unanimously.

Gary Tharp then brought up the matter of Gregory Hazelhurst and stated that a second letter from R.T. Mantlo had been received by the Board; said letter was outlined as to content. Jane Quimby asked Board members about the procedure for holding a hearing, and specifically, whether the Board could hold a hearing prior to their making a decision. There was some discussion regarding this subject. Gary Tharp reminded Board members that there were three doctor's opinions that should be kept in mind before making a decision. After more discussion, R.T. Mantlo was asked to come into the meeting to clarify a portion of his letter for Fred Knowles. Fred Knowles asked R.T. Mantlo about a portion of his memorandum regarding reassignment of Greg Hazelhurst to a sub-station. R.T. stated that if the Board decided not to give Greg a disability retirement, he would assign him to a sub-station in order to lessen the possibility of further injury. He also stated that he would not create a new position for persons in the Inspection Bureau in lieu of a disability retirement. Claudia Smith asked R.T. if said re-assignment would be made with due regard to the known medical restrictions. After more discussion, Claudia Smith, in reference to holding a hearing prior to making a decision, asked Board members what a hearing would produce that was not already at hand. John Tasker stated that a hearing was an informal situation where Board members could hear doctors and gain more insight into a problem.

Jane Quimby then made a motion that Greg Hazelhurst's request for disability retirement be denied. This was seconded by Fred Knowles. Upon recommendation of Chairman Gary Tharp, a secret ballot was taken. The motion was carried unanimously. It should be noted that Claudia Smith did abstain from voting in this matter.

John Tasker stated that he would be sending a list to the FPPA of persons hired after April 7, 1978. John also mentioned the fact that John Patterson's application had been returned to him because it did not have a signature on it. After discussion regarding this

matter, Gary Tharp stated he would again talk to John Patterson in hopes of getting him to sign his application. John Tasker pointed out that this application was only for death and disability and, in order to protect his beneficiary, Mr. Patterson should sign the application.

Fred Knowles asked Board members if anyone had seen Prime Time Sunday a couple of weeks ago during which the status of police and fire pension plans was discussed; no one had. Fred went on to explain that the program showed how police and fire pensions were being abused. Fred then asked Board members if they would have any objections to his contacting Tom Snyder (host of Prime Time Sunday) in the event a Grand Junction case ever went to court. Fred felt it would be important for the public to place blame for pension fund abuse on the appropriate party (i.e. courts as opposed to pension boards). Other members went on to state they did not feel it was the time to take such an action.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Herring
Secretary

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