

OFR82003

TYPE OF RECORD: PERMANENT

CATEGORY OF RECORD: MINUTES

CITY DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

YEAR: 1982

FIRE PENSION BOARD

A meeting of the Fire Pension Board was held on March 25, 1982 in the Personnel Director's office. Members present were: Claudia Hazelhurst, Louis Brach, John Tasker, Mike Petersen, Gary Tharp and Ed Billings. Also present was Jeanne Herring.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at which time the Chairman asked for the minutes of the last meeting to be read. After reading the minutes, a motion was made to approve same as read. All were in favor.

Gary Tharp introduced Ed Billings who replaces Fred Knowles as a member of the Fire Pension Board.

Claudia Hazelhurst stated that the amounts on the list of Fire Pension recipients had been amended due to a change in the master salary schedule. There was a motion made by Mike Petersen that the corrected amounts be accepted by the Board; this motion was seconded by Ed Billings and all Board members were in favor.

Gary Tharp stated that his term as Chairman had expired and the Board needed to elect a new chairman. Ed Billings nominated Mike Petersen. There were no other nominations; a motion was made by Ed Billings to close the nominations. This was seconded by John Tasker and all were in favor. New Chairman: Mike Petersen.

Mike Petersen asked if all Board members had read the letter from Dale Dean requesting retirement. After much discussion, Claudia Hazelhurst stated she had referred his request to John who, in turn, referred the letter to City Attorney Gerald Ashby for response. Mr. Ashby determined that Mr. Dean was not eligible for retirement at a lesser age than mandated by the Plan although he had enough years of service.

At this point, Gary Tharp stated he would like to have a letter sent to the Attorney General for a formal determination on this matter. Gary then made a motion that the aforementioned take place for ruling by the Attorney General. The motion was seconded by Ed Billings and all were in favor. Mr. Tharp said he would like to have Claudia prepare the letter for the Attorney General. John Tasker stated he thought the letter should be prepared by Gerald Ashby at which time he made the statement in the form of a motion which was seconded by Gary Tharp. All Board members were in favor. Mr. Tharp felt the letter should be reviewed by the Board prior to being sent out.

Mike Petersen stated the Board had received letters from Greg Hazelhurst's doctor and Jerrel Capps' doctor with regard to their continued disability status. John Tasker moved that both Mr. Hazelhurst and Mr. Capps be extended an additional year on disability status at which time both would again be required to submit medical proof of their continued disability. This motion was seconded by Louis Brach. With the exception of Claudia Hazelhurst who abstained, all other Board members were in favor.

Gary Tharp mentioned that he was still not totally satisfied with regard to Jack Brandhorst's disability status. After much discussion, Mr. Tharp made a motion that Mr. Brandhorst be located and then be required to submit medical statements regarding his medical status for the Board's review. The motion was seconded by John Tasker and all were in favor.

Claudia Hazelhurst submitted a bill from Jerrel Capps for the medical examination required by the Board. John Tasker made a motion that the bill be sent to FPPA for payment. This was seconded by Louis Brach and all were in favor.

Mike Petersen then asked John Tasker why members of the Fire Department who were covered under the local plan were required to pay 10% pension payments on their entire salary when they were only granted retirement monies based upon their base salary. There was much discussion regarding this subject. John Tasker stated it was to the benefit of the firemen to continue paying on their gross salary for future purposes (i.e. rank escalation).

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Fire Pension Board meeting

3-25-82

Mr. Petersen also asked when an actuarial study was going to be conducted. John Tasker stated this was mandated by the State and the local Pension Board would not have to concern themselves.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Herring
Secretary

/jh

Dale Dean
345 30-Road
Grand Junction, CO 81501

March 5, 1982

Re: Interpretation of Pension Eligibility

Gentlemen:

I wish to receive a written ruling from the proper authorities as to whether or not I can voluntarily leave my employment after twenty-two years of service but prior to reaching fifty years of age and still be entitled to full pension benefits when I reach fifty years of age.

In other words, I am currently forty-four years of age and have been employed by the Grand Junction Fire Department for approximately twenty-two years, and I would like a definitive ruling regarding my ability to draw full pension benefits if I voluntarily leave my employment between now and age fifty. My specific questions stem from the situation wherein an individual commences employment at age thirty and yet receives the same pension benefits at fifty years of age as does the individual who began employment at age twenty-one.

I would greatly appreciate a written answer to my questions at your earliest possible convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

DALE DEAN

M. LARRY COPELAND, D. O., P.C.
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON
1060 ORCHARD AVENUE
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501
TELEPHONE (303) 245-0484

March 12, 1982

Fire Pension Board
City of Grand Junction
250 North 5th St.
Grand Junction, CO 81501

RE: GREGORY R. HAZELHURST
SC78-55851

Dear Sirs:

Greg Hazelhurst was seen back in this office on January 8, 1982 for evaluation of his continued back problem.

He continues to have pain in the lower dorsal and upper lumbar area. Physical examination reveals no neurological deficits in the extremities. On palpation of his back, I find excessive widening between the spinous processes of T11 and T12, possibly L2 and L1. No definite abnormality is noted in flexion. I feel he has lost the adequate normal restrictions for motion between the posterior structures of the vertebrae at these segments. Because of this, he has pain from altered strain and sprain and with motion, will develop an impingement with a temporary locking and release with popping sensation.

Mr. Hazelhurst remains disabled as a result of this injury. I feel that in time this will either gradually tighten or will progress on to full blown degenerative arthritic changes.

I have recommended he stay active with an aerobic type exercise, fast walking, bicycling or swimming. Along with stretching exercises, avoiding excessive weight, non-narcotic simple analgesia or anti-arthritic medications are my recommended treatment. His condition has stabilized, but remains the same and I feel he still has a permanent disability which does not allow him to return to his previous position of Paramedic/Firefighter.

If further information is needed, please contact this office.

Sincerely yours,



M. Larry Copeland, D.O.

MLC/pbg

Kenneth E. Nelson, M.D.

19 January 1982

To Whom It May Concern:

re: Jerrel Capps

Mr. Capps was seen in this office today for follow-up of his basal skull fracture and subsequent loss of taste and smell. Examination today is unremarkable, except for his loss of taste and smell, which I presume will be a permanent disability.

Respectfully yours,



Kenneth E. Nelson, M. D.

KEN/bjc

(303) 245-1558
MEDICAL ARTS CENTER
2232 NORTH 7th STREET
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501



City of Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
200 West 4th St.

March 26, 1982

Fire and Police Pension Association
1410 Grant Street, Suite B-105
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Members of the Association:

The Fire Pension Board of the City of Grand Junction has requested that I submit to your opinion the following question:

May a member of the Grand Junction Fire Department who has attained the age of forty-four years with twenty years of service with the Department retire from the Department and, at the age of fifty, begin drawing his fire pension?

Thank you for your response.

Very truly yours,

Gerald J. Ashby
City Attorney

GJA:jc

c.c. Claudia Hazelhurst, Personnel Director ✓



City of Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

250 North Fifth St.,

March 26, 1982

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Denver, Colorado 80203

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Very truly yours,

Gerald J. Ashby
City Attorney

GJA:jc

c.c. Claudia Hazelhurst, Personnel Director ✓



City of Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
250 North Fifth St.,

May 25, 1982

Mr. Jack Brandhorst
1340 W. 3rd Street, Space #125
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Jack:

At a recent meeting of the Fire Pension Board it was decided that it is necessary for you to submit to the Board medical statements regarding your current medical status as it relates to being a Fire Pension recipient.

I am requesting this information be sent to my attention at the earliest possible date for the Board's review.

Should you have any questions with regard to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Claudia Hazelhurst
Personnel Director

CH:bj