



**GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES
AUTHORITY
GRAND TRAVERSE METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

897 Parsons Road ~ Traverse City, MI 49686
Phone: (231) 947-3000 Fax: (231) 947-8728 ~ Website: www.gtmetrofire.org Email: Info@gtmetrofire.org

**FEDERAL STIMULUS GRANT PROVIDES
FUNDING FOR NEW FIRE STATION**

Station to be located in western side of Garfield Township

October 2, 2009

The Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESA) was successful in procuring an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant for construction of a fire station. GTMESA will receive \$2,813,034 for the construction of a new fire station to provide service to the west side of Garfield Township in Grand Traverse County.

The offices of US Senator Carl Levin, US Senator Debbie Stabenow, and US Representative Dave Camp confirmed today that the Metro Fire Department will be among four fire departments in the state to receive ARRA grants for fire station construction. All three legislators were instrumental in the grant by writing letters of support, along with State legislators Senator Allen and Representative Schmidt. The Grand Traverse County Board and the township supervisors of Acme, East Bay and Garfield also wrote letters of support.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with being one of the successful applicants for this grant,” said the Metro Fire Chief Patrick Parker. “This grant will allow us to build a badly needed station for the citizens on the west side of Garfield Township. We have been planning a station in this area for several years, but we have been holding back due to the bad economic conditions. Without the grant, we would have had to go to the voters for a tax increase to build the station and now is not the time to raise taxes. With this grant, we will be able to increase our services to the citizens by substantially reducing our response times.”

Garfield Township Supervisor Chuck Korn is thrilled! “I am happy for the citizens of our area who will all benefit from quicker emergency response and likely lower insurance rates. This is a great day for the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department!”

The fire station will be built on a 3 acre parcel located within the Silver Lake Recreation Park off East Silver Lake Road. The park is owned by Garfield Township and the Township is leasing the land to the Fire Authority on a long-term lease agreement. The station will be an approximately 10,400 square foot single story building designed by Jack Knol of Advantage Design in Traverse City.



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Chief Parker stated that the station is architecturally designed to fit into the park and the surrounding neighborhood with a residential design. The station is designed to meet LEED Gold Certification as an environmentally friendly building with an emphasis on low-impact design and high “GREEN” building standards. The station will recover and utilize the rainwater run-off from the roof to irrigate the landscaping, as well as utilizing porous concrete surfaces to reduce the amount of site water run-off. The landscaping plan was designed by R. Clark and Associates in conjunction with the site plan which was designed by Gourdie Fraser & Associates. The station will also use Renewable Energy Credits for 100% Green Power through a Cherryland Electric Cooperative program.

“The bidding process will begin once we receive official notification to proceed from the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” Chief Parker said. Assistance to the Fire Station Construction Grants program is allocated by FEMA.

The Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority provides Fire and Life Safety emergency response to the citizens of Acme, East Bay and Garfield Townships through the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department.