

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY  
MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019**

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am, by Chairman Bisballe.

Present: Council Member Bisballe, Chair  
Council Member Robert Gesell  
Council Member Tina Ellis  
Committee Member Chuck Ruifrok

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Mark Wollenweber  
Finance Officer Rhonda Ricketts  
DPW Director Brett Smith  
Public Safety Director John Schulte

All items pertinent to this meeting are either attached or placed on file.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Motion by Council Member Gesell to approve, seconded by Committee Member Ruifrok  
Passed 4-0.

ITEM 4 OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM 4a-. Budget.

Chairperson Bisballe went over the timetable for budget which is as follows: He will update Council at next Tuesdays Council meeting and there is a Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the rest of Council to go through their input on the budget. The official budget notice publication would then be published in the newspaper May 2, 2019.

It was the consensus of the Committee to present a balanced budget with the same overall total tax rate as the current year and staff was requested to revise the budget numbers to reflect the above total millage. Staff discussed that the budget included the contractual agreed upon adjustments and other than several issues under review, that no personnel reductions were anticipated which was agreed upon by the Committee. Rhonda indicated as reflected in the cover memo that between purchasing the vehicles

from the Capital Improvement Fund and the Police equipment from the 911 Fund that would allow us to keep the millage rate the same.

The Committee then reviewed the list of cuts suggested to or put in by staff and approved all but suggested that \$2,000 be kept in the calendar account and that staff look at changing the paper stock, print a smaller number and not distribute it to all households but require residents who wish one, to pick it up a city hall. It was the consensus to not eliminate the overnight desk clerk and consider further moving the Court to sit in the Farms and then consider whether or not it is possible to cut back a daytime desk clerk. They felt a strategic review of the municipal court was a good idea to proceed with. The Committee also agreed that the manager firm up the clerical retirement date for 12-20. Since there were no savings to closing on Friday it was recommended to not consider this further. They also agreed with looking at moving radio service if it turned out to be a savings.

The Committee discussed that the Chair go over a historical summary of many of the changes made in the last several years which was agreed to by the Chair.

The Chair then turned discussion to the OPEB issue and a copy of Rhonda's calculation was handed out (See attached). It was pointed out that the State is requiring a future funding plan and that in a couple or few years Grosse Pointe Shores could be considered in non-compliance like other neighboring cities that had to submit a funding plan that would be approved by the State Treasury Department. There was considerable discussion and the entire Finance Committee agreed that it would be inappropriate to not address the OPEB funding at this time. The Committee discussed various options and felt identifying a separate millage on the tax bill residents receive is the only practical way of proceeding. They discussed the methods used by nearby cities to comply and agreed that a ½ mill would be their unanimous recommendation to Council to proceed to include it in the 2019-2020 Budget and that they would be prepared to fully explain the state funding requirement and the logic behind the proposed ½ mill levy. The total of the rest of the millage is being kept the same as in the current year.

The Chair mentioned that in Florida he had seen several communities that have adopted resolutions to become a Purple Heart City and asked staff to place on the next agenda a resolution to participate in that program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**ITEM 6 OTHER**

None

**ITEM 7 PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING:

The next Finance Committee meeting will be a Joint meeting with City Council on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. It was suggested that the next regular meeting be held Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Staff will provide updated drafts of the proposed budget for those meetings and the usual schedule for adoption would be at the May City Council meeting as in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

---

Mark Wollenweber  
City Manager