

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BLUE RIBBON OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013

A meeting of the full Blue Ribbon Operations Committee of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City (BROC) was held on Wednesday, March 27th, 2013 @ 8:00AM in the Council Room of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building.

PRESENT:

Chairperson : Alan Broad
Secretary : John L. Booth, II
Village Council Liaison : Dan Schulte
Members : Elizabeth Eldridge
Mary Anne LaHood
Cheryl Holm

ABSENT: John Renick, Dr. Quresh Khairullah, Connie Houin, Marlena Stah

The Chairperson, Alan Broad, called the meeting to order at 8:15AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to table the approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday, February 14th until the next meeting. It was also noted that the draft of the minutes which was circulated to the committee prior to this meeting should be amended to note that member Connie Houin, who was indicated in these draft minutes to be present, was in fact absent from this meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The Chairperson began the discussion announcing that City Manager Mark Wollenweber has completed the review and rewriting project for all of the job description for all full time employment positions with the Village. He said that a complete set of new job descriptions is available and will be distributed to all committee members by the Village administrative staff shortly. This, he said, completes the initial task of this committee assigned in 2012.

Chairperson Broad then set the initial task for the BROC for this year being the drafting of a summary, high level report to be presented to the Village Council which both cataloged all of the important operational information compiled by the committee regarding the present staffing and job assignments of all Village personnel and departments, and which would suggest areas for further study and / or recommendations for possible alternatives for the delivery of services to residents which could impact staffing levels within departments. Chairperson Broad said that he would use the draft minutes of the February meeting as presented and circulated as the basis for this report and asked for committee volunteers to assist on this assignment, promising to have a draft of such a report ready at the next meeting. He said that the focus of this report to Council would be to present the Village Council with an actionable summary of Village operations for the present and near future, and he agreed to include City Manager Wollenweber in the drafting and review of this report prior to Council presentation.

The Chairperson then asked the committee to discuss other new issues which the BROC should address this year which were not the subject of inquiry or discussion last year. Mr. Booth then requested that the committee take up the question of employee legacy costs, both pension and retiree health care current and long term liabilities, and the options available operationally to reduce those liabilities in the future by changing the way in which benefits were paid. Specifically, Mr.

Booth requested that the BROC begin with an examination of the recommendations by the former BROC , formed two years ago, which recommended a complete new plan and outlined shifting the delivery of future retiree health benefits away from the current defined benefit traditional plan to individual immediately vested employee health savings accounts with specific dollar contributions paid by the Village directly into these accounts annually. Further, Mr. Booth suggested that the BROC should expand on this summary to investigate ways to reduce future pension liability, through a plan of employee buy-outs of vested pensions and other means. He said that this inquiry would need to include and involve the close support and advise of the City Manager.

Chairperson Broad then recommended that the committee volunteers move ahead with the summary of its findings and operational change recommendations from 2012 while at the same time commencing its review of the earlier BROC summary report on retiree legacy health care liability reduction.

The next discussion was open to all committee members . There followed a wide ranging discussion involving all members regarding a variety of specific current resident service delivery issues on the following topics:

- * general village wide traffic signage and traffic flow control review,
- * the big looming issue of how to deal with the potential serious adverse effect on the Deeplands subdivision of commercial and other traffic soon to be generated from the new RIVERS complex now under construction on Cook Road, sited just across the village boundary in Grosse Pointe Woods.
- * how to ADJUST the current remote DISPATCH service for the PSO department to better serve resident concerns for altering police to potential problems in neighborhoods vs. actual emergencies,
COMMENT: The concern are many , such as the following 1) residents using 911 service to report suspicious neighborhood behavior being dismissed by 911 operators as a frivolous and a non-emergency 2) How to get the immediate attention of the police in a life threatening situation, 3) the lack of personnel within Village Hall after 5:00PM which effectively eliminates Village Hall as a safe haven to escape an unwanted pursuit or possible criminal victimization. >>> possible suggestion : offer a texting service to residents to text message the Village Admin staff or patrol cars regarding a problem then have a staff person assigned to monitor these texts and promptly communicate key information to the appropriate department for action (?),
- * the on-going discussion from last year of the efficacy of Village owned and operated ambulance service and whether it is effective in a majority of cases in speeding the delivery of health care to residents when two major hospitals are located such a short distance from the Village,
- * the possible need for formal budgeting and scheduling of the hiring and deployment of the legion of seasonal part time employees hired by the DPW to provide residential service from April to November each year.

THERE WAS NO FURTHER OLD OR NEW BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS MEETING

Chairperson Broad then asked for a discussion to set the date of the next meeting of the BROC. The committee then agreed that the date and time of the next meeting will be Wednesday, April 24th @ 8:00AM to be held in this same Council Room of the Village Municipal Building.

The Chairperson then called for a motion to adjourn which was made and seconded . The meeting was adjourned at 8:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John L.Booth, II
Secretary
Blue Ribbon Operations Committee
Village of Grosse Pointe Shores