

A meeting of the full Blue Ribbon Operations Committee of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores (BROC) was held on Wednesday, October 10th, in the Council Room of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Mary Anne LaHood at 4:05PM.

PRESENT : Chairperson : Mary Anne LaHood
 Secretary : John L. Booth, II
 Village Council Liaison : Dan Schulte
 Members : Elizabeth Eldridge
 John Renick
 Allan Broad
 Dr. Quresh Khairullah
 Cheryl Holm

ABSENT : Members : Connie Houin
 Marlena Stahl

ALSO PRESENT Village Counsel Members: Kay Felt
 Robert Gesell

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES :
Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the full BROC, having been distributed in advance of this meeting, upon motion to accept were seconded and approved.

DISCUSSION :
Chairperson LaHood began the meeting with an open discussion of the facts discovered by the committee relating to the use of independent ambulance and paramedic contractors that currently supply Grosse Pointe Farms, MedStar Service, Inc. which is based locally at Henry Ford Hospital's Cottage Hospital, and the City of Grosse Pointe , Beaumont Ambulance which is based locally out of Beaumont Grosse Pointe being the former Bon Secours Hospital.

John Booth summarized his phone conversation with Shane Reeside, the Grosse Pointe Farms city manager, regarding that city's decision to switch from a community operated paramedic ambulance service to MedStar as a decision by the Farms Council to save the capital expense of replacing their ambulance, coupled with a choice to have their public safety officers dedicated 100% to police and fire protection vs. being pulled off patrol to answer an ambulance run. In addition, he said that with MedStar based at Cottage Hospital the Farms ambulance service is as centrally located as the former service was based at the Farms municipal building so that response time to a medical emergency in the Farms is virtually the same. John said that by comparison an independent paramedic ambulance service based at any of the three local hospitals would entail adding a few minutes to response times for Shores residents and that the Shores ambulance is approximately five years old with the previous ambulance which it replaced having had a useful life of 17 years. He also stated that in his opinion the slightly longer response time for an independent ambulance service would be compensated by making up time during the hospital run as services which are fully integrated with hospitals often have shorter admission time for arriving patients than community paramedic ambulances. Regarding cost comparisons for contract vs community operated service, John stated that the cost for the ambulance service for the Farms was a base annual fee of \$100,000 to offset the cost of the local basing of the service. The operating expense offset is lower operating cost with savings in capital expenditures for not having to purchase a new ambulance and equipment plus savings from maintenance and repair cost and ultimately , though not initially, a lower PSD labor cost by eliminating the requirement that PSD officers have and maintain an advanced life support (paramedic) certificate which adds between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to each officers annual salary with additional costs for benefits/retirement on this extra compensation. He stated that the Shores currently has 12 PSD officers who are certified paramedics out of a total PSD staff of 17.

John concluded his ambulance service report by stating that the Farms city manager Reeside said that the Farms residents are very satisfied with their MedStar service.

Mary Anne then commented that one option for saving money for the Shores general fund to pay for the operation of the existing community paramedic/ambulance service would be to bill residents for the gap in cost recovery that the Shores incurs on virtually every ambulance run between standard medical insurance coverage and the actual cost. This gap she said typically ran about \$300 per run (Total average run cost \$760 - \$460 being an average medical insurance recovery/reimbursement to the Shores per run, leaving the \$300 gap) . As reported by John Booth, the Shores, along with all the other Grosse Pointe communities, has chosen NOT to direct bill its residents for this cost gap.

Regarding the request of the BROCC to Chief Schulte to provide the total number of ambulance runs in the Shores for the past five years, Mary Anne then stated that the five year average of total ambulance runs is _____ .

The committee agreed at the end of this discussion to further research the ambulance service issue before making any recommendations to the Village Council.

Chairperson then asked that the discussion follow the meeting agenda for the balance of the meeting with the next issue the applicability to BROCC meetings of the "Open Meeting Act" and its requirements for advance published notice, written and published minutes, open meetings , transparency, etc. Allan Broad stated that he could see some benefit in arguing that the committee and the sub-committees are exempt on the basis that neither the full nor the sub committees has any authority to directly change city policy or make city operating decisions with all such power and control vested in the Village Council to which the BROCC simply advises and consults on a variety of matters. Nevertheless, it was the opinion of the committee that while it might be worth arguing an exemption in the future to facilitate a quick, informal "at home" meeting to discuss some sensitive operating or personnel issue, that in the interest of maximum transparency and full disclosure, the committee will for the time being and until further notice abide by the rules of the open meeting act for each of its regular full and sub committee meetings.

The next topic of meeting discussion was the SEMCOG report on guidelines for public safety staffing and asset/officer deployment. While the SEMCOG report found that the staffing of the department with 17 full time PSD officers (one chief, two lieutenants, one detective/ sgt., four sgt.'s, and ten patrol officers...>>>>>>.... TWO Platoons of approximately 7 men with one patrol officer in reserve to cover for medical/vacation absences(not including the Chief and Dectective/Sgt. who are on duty during the day), dividing into shifts of 4 officers during the day and 3 at night on twelve hour rotating shifts.... as adequate but also minimum staffing.

* Allan Broad requested that Chief Schulte consider updating the most recent Village average daily traffic flow & speed study together with plotted crime locations on a seasonal basis to see if the current deployment of patrols and officers is adequate and or needs to be adjusted for greater efficiency and improved coverage.

** Regarding the SEMCOG recommendation for increased use of software to facilitate and speed service data, the committee agreed to request that city manager Wollenweber update the committee on his progress on several front to update the Village's operations software, eg. wireless water meters, property assessing software, and other software, to free up time for the administrative staff and city Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts in particular to take on additional duties and tasks.

**** Concerning the SEMCOG recommendations and comments for improvements to the DPW, the committee agreed that before it could go further into its study of this department that DPW Director Smith be requested to provide the committee with the same time and task summary which he provide for full time staff for the part time seasonal staff, analyzing this past summer season for the study. In particular, the committee expressed its interest in working with the city manager and Director Smith to develop guidelines for the Council's review of part time hourly pay, the impact of turn over, total staff performance review post season, right sizing this large seasonal staff, forward budgeting for the seasonal staff, etc..

** Finally, Allan Broad requested that city manager Wollenweber be asked to query SEMCOG and "drill down" on the differences amongst the communities with which SEMCOG compared the general and departmental operating costs of

the Shores to explain the reasons why the Shores costs are higher than virtually any of these communities across the board for delivery of resident services. The committee expressed its belief that there may be very good and logical reasons for this disparity, but in any event the disparity begs an answer which at the moment is not apparent.

[NOTE: Asterisks.....denote person to whom a request for information by the BROCC is directed as follows:

* Chief Schulte

** City Manager Wollenweber

*** DPW Director Smith]

OLD & NEW BUSINESS : none

DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL BROCC COMMITTEE :... to be determined

ADJOURNMENT : There being no further business to come before this meeting, the full committee agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

by John L. Booth, II

Secretary,

Blue Ribbon Operating Committee

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores