

summary of operating department overviews and recommendation be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Allan Broad emphasized that the SEMCOG overviews and recommendations while highly complementary of the village department staffs felt that an area for improvement is more and better cross training of department staff, especially the administrative staff . Mark Wollenweber then commented that he agreed with SEMCOG and personally is focused on the joint position of Finance & Treasurer as one very important position that is vulnerable. He stated that one way to address this issue is to reassign the task of allocating medical expenses amongst the 5 Pointes in their joint insurance pool to Grosse Pointe Woods and to update and upgrade the Village finance and assessing software to interface with the software now used in the other four Pointes and by the Wayne County Assessor Office. Mark then stated that one of his greatest concerns is back up for the Finance Director/ Treasurer, for whom he has great respect, and improving on the separation of responsibilities required by standard audit good practice, which today is limited to a separation of cheque authorization and signing.

Allan also discussed a summary sheet which SEMCOG provided which compared each Village department full time positions per 1,000 residents to the average full time equivalent department staff size of all cities in S E Michigan , all Michigan cities, and all cities nationally. He explained that this sheet was not included in the distributed material because SEMCOG provided no details or special circumstances to make direct comparisons valid. He did, however, discuss a sheet of direct line item operating expenditure comparisons amongst the Shores, Orchard Lake, Franklin Village, City of Grosse Pointe, and Bloomfield Hills. He noted that there were substantial disparities amongst all five cities which begs for further investigation. Regarding department minimum staff size, he commented that the observation by SEMCOG that the Shores is operating with bare minimum departmental staffs currently, needs to be also viewed in the context of the general broad comparison of other city department averages which appear to indicate that the Shores has nearly twice the department full time employees per 1,000 resident as the average of Michigan or even SE Michigan cities...in all departments. The committee discussed this last point and concluded that here again the sub-committees need to drill down to understand the alternatives other cities use to provide resident services comparable to current Shores resident services. It also would appear obvious that this departmental staff size discrepancy is yet more evidence of the need for departmental collaboration amongst the five Pointe communities to better align the Village department costs with the best practices of today.

The committee noted the SEMCOG observation that the Village should prioritize resident services to better understand what services might be cut or reduced if revenue continue to decline. While everyone present agreed, the majority of those present did not support a recommendation for a new resident /service survey for several reasons: too soon after the last contested election, too expensive and not budgeted since any new survey on which the Village were to base management decisions would require the statistical reliability of a professional research firm for statistic reliability and a properly weighted questionnaire and the management time involved in drafting and vetting a list of questions.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS: ... none

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL BROCCOMMITTEE : ... Wednesday, October 10th @ 4:00PM in the Council Room of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building

ADJOURNMENT : ... There being no further business to come before this meeting, the full committee agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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