



**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS**  
**20025 Mack Plaza Drive**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236-2397**

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA**

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2013**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**City Hall Conference Room**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes 03/25/13
4. Proposed FY 2013/14 Budget
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

PUBLIC INVITED: IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976 (OPEN MEETINGS ACT), ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SELECTED, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING MEETING.

CC:  
McConaghy – Chair  
Novitke

Koester  
Fincham  
Irby

Hathaway  
File  
Ahee

Submitted by: Todd McConaghy

Office Held: Chair

Telephone: 313 343-2440

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK PLAZA, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chair McConaghy.

In attendance: Chair McConaghy  
Members: Koester, Novitke

Absent: None

Also present: City Administrator Fincham  
City Treasurer/Comptroller Irby  
Director of Public Services Ahee  
Director of Public Safety Pazuchowski  
Deputy City Clerk Ryska

Also in attendance: Council Member Shetler

Motion by Koester, seconded by Novitke, that all items on tonight's agenda be received and placed on file.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: Koester, McConaghy, Novitke  
No: None  
Absent: None

Motion by Novitke, seconded by Koester, that the minutes of March 11, 2013, be approved as submitted.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: Koester, McConaghy, Novitke  
No: None  
Absent: None

The next item on the agenda was the **Fiscal Year 2012/13 Update**. Treasurer/Comptroller Irby informed the Committee that the city is currently on track with the current budget that is in place and that all departments are being diligent with their expenditures.

The Committee then discussed the **2013/14 Budget**. Administrator Fincham, at the previous request of the Committee, gave an overview of the effects of reducing staffing and outsourcing ambulance services. He first addressed the Department of Public Services stating that over the last four years staffing has been reduced by six full time

positions and two part time positions, with three resulting from layoffs. There is currently one pending retirement that, if not filled, will result in an approximate \$80,000 savings, inclusive of benefits, that would be realized in FY 2014/15. However, not replacing this staff member will result in a delay in projects that are already behind.

Director Ahee addressed the Committee outlining the many projects that would continue to be effected by the reduction of a staff member, such as sewer cleaning, catch basin cleaning, sign replacement, and state mandated gate valve testing, to name a few. Projects will continue to fall behind and the department will not be able to address many of the maintenance jobs to preserve aesthetics in the community if staff is reduced. The Committee discussed what essential services the Department of Public Services provides, noting that while some services may seem to only pertain to aesthetics, neglecting those jobs will create larger, more costly problems.

Administrator Fincham then addressed the pending retirement of a Public Safety Detective Sergeant. Over the last four years the Department of Public Safety has been reduced by ten full time employees, two part time employees, and has eliminated the mid-rank of Corporal, leaving 33 sworn personnel. Not replacing the Detective Sergeant, upon retirement, will result in an approximate \$120,000 savings, inclusive of benefits, that would be realized in FY 2014/15.

The Detective Sergeant oversees the detective bureau, serves as the EMS coordinator, as well as the auxiliary coordinator. An on duty Lieutenant would be tasked with supervision of the Detective Bureau and the remaining duties would be split up among the Detectives. The Committee expressed the importance of the Detective Bureau.

The Committee discussed the cost to replace both the Public Services and Public Safety positions with entry level positions. Treasurer/Comptroller Irby indicated that it would be approximately a \$45,000 savings overall if the two positions were replaced.

Administrator Fincham then reported on the privatization of ambulance services. The city currently has five paramedic fire specialists, which means they not only provide paramedic services, they also maintain fire equipment and run the fire apparatus during calls. These duties, as a result of outsourcing EMS, would have to be absorbed by stand-by officers, ultimately removing patrol officers from the road. One EMS company informed Administration that they would be willing to hire the five paramedics should the city move in this direction.

Based on preliminary discussions with two EMS companies, the savings to the city from privatizing is between \$200,000 to \$300,000; more precise numbers will not known until the city solicits proposals. City Administrator Fincham stated that the City of Grosse Pointe Farms and the City of Harper Woods outsource their ambulance services. The

Farms pays a flat fee of \$100,000/year and Harper Woods is not charged due to the amount of runs. We had nearly 1077 runs last year.

Motion by Koester, seconded by Novitke, that the Finance Committee refer each of the items discussed to the Committee of the Whole without a recommendation for the review and input of the entire Council.

Motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: Koester, McConaghy, Novitke  
No: None  
Absent: None

The following items were discussed under New Business:

- The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
  - Administration was asked to provide complete proposed budget binders by the end of the week.

Hearing no objections the following individuals addressed the Committee:

George McMullen  
1382 Hollywood

Chris Kaczanowski  
19888 William Ct.

Motion by Koester, seconded by Novitke, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.  
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.