

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ethics Committee
Wednesday, October 13, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jan Pemberton, Brian Geraghty, Rob Squiers, John Clark, Joe Ghanem
Committee Members not present: Scott Houghton, Matt Seely (see below)
Guests Present: Laurel Kraus, Dan Pullen, Tom Collins, Thomas Duke, Harry Kurtz

Unanimously approved the Minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting.

Secretary distributed an updated, "DRAFT Preliminary List of Subjects and Ideas to be Addressed by the Prospective GPS Ethics Ordinance." This is a list of broad topics, most of which were followed by brief statements concerning the subject matter or excerpts from other ordinances, in order to provide some preliminary guidance on what could be covered by that topic. Following discussion, the Members selected topics for further study and suggestion:

- Pemberton: Purpose/Intent of the Ethics Ordinance
- Clark: Solicitation/Personal Gain/Enrichment, Conflicts of Interest/Disclosures
- Geraghty: Civility/Decorum, Social/Print Media
- Ghanem: Confidentiality, Abuse of Power
- Squiers: Board of Ethics, Forms (Disclosure, Complaints)

Agreed to table assignment of Sanctions/Enforcement until later in the drafting process.

Agreed to use, as a starting point, the definitions set forth in both the Michigan Attorney General's Model Ethics Ordinance and the Michigan Municipal League's Ethics Handbook for Michigan Municipalities.

Discussed the prospective title of the Ordinance to follow Code protocol but likely containing the following, "Standards of Ethical Conduct for City Officials, Employees, Appointees, Representatives and Candidates for Office." This is subject to change as the prospective draft ordinance develops.

Name of Committee amended to "Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee" in order to reflect the purpose of the Committee as distinguished from a possible future Ethics Commission, which would be tasked with addressing ethical matters.

Geraghty proposed rules and procedures for the Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee, based on the Grosse Pointe Shores Charter Commission Rules and Procedures for Charter Commission Meetings (dated June 5, 2008) as well as excerpts from the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores Council Rules and Procedures. Discussed and adopted proposal. Rules and procedures to be effective beginning with next meeting.

Pemberton reported on her follow-up with Mayor Kedzierski concerning the Committee membership status of Councilman Matt Seely. Media statements attributed to Councilman Seely indicate Seely has

not and will not resign. It remains Mayor Kedzierski's desire that the committee should be citizen's-only and that he would discuss same with Councilman Seely. Issue remains unresolved.

Clark raised the issue of the possibility that the Committee members' personal emails could be subjected to FOIA disclosure. Clark recommended inquiring whether Committee members could be assigned Grosse Pointe Shores email addresses for the purpose of conducting communications related to its work.

Comments were received from retired Grosse Pointe Shores employees Dan Pullen, Tom Collins and Thomas Duke regarding the manner in which changes were made to retiree healthcare benefits and costs. The retirees requested that the Committee include language in the prospective Ordinance that would require notice, transparency and interaction before changes to retiree benefits are made. The Committee invited the retirees to offer suggested language for consideration.

Comments were received from resident Harry Kurtz concerning private social media content giving the impression of official Village business and publication.

Next meeting: Friday, October 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.